**AGENDA – 5th UNBSU Council Meeting** 

UNB Student Union 2018/19

*October 28, 2018; 7:00 in SUB 103*

*Regrets: Ali Balcom, Sam Crete, and Jharana Luitel.*

*Tea Fazio not in attendance.*

1. **Call to Order**
	1. **Roll Call**

*Chair Lutes performs roll call.*

 *Chair Lutes calls the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.*

1. **Approval of Agenda**

*President Richard Du will be speaking on Ali Balcom’s behalf for point 6.3.*

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: Wilson

*Vote passes unanimously.*

1. **Chair’s Remarks**

*Council Chair, Lutes, made his remarks by saying “Hi guys, this is our last meeting for a couple of weeks. I am glad to see you all here and could make it!”*

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Mover: Qureshi

Seconder: McMillan

*Vote passes unanimously.*

1. **Substantive Business**
	1. **Richard Du: Review and Approval of revised Committee Policy**

*President Richard Du states what the Policy Committee is focused on and where to find the information regarding that. The Policy Committee has looked at many policies to find which need to be reviewed and amended. The Policy Committee has come to an agreement that their committee policy was a policy that “stood out” and needed to be looked at. The amendments made were to update positions and to make the policy itself clearer and more concise.*

 *Motion to approve the new policy for the Policy Committee.*

 Mover: Du

 Seconder: Zundel

 *Vote passes unanimously.*

* 1. **Ben Palmer: Data Use Policy**

*VP Student Life, Benjamin Palmer, introduces the data use policy by stating that “we are gathering more data from students in order to be more effective.” In order to be proactive, a data use policy is being created to make ensure that students know what the data is being used for and what is being gathered.*

Poirier: “What would the process be for developing the policy? It is important to have a data use

policy. It does have to be done carefully because of legal concerns. Will there be a

committee for this?”

Palmer: “I would motion that the Policy Committee be tasked with analyzing if the data use policy should be created and if so, creating the data use policy.”

 *Motion to bring this to the Policy Committee.*

Mover: Palmer

Seconder: Zundel

*Vote passes unanimously.*

* 1. **Emily Meagher: Amendments to the revised budget concerning the Resident Grant line**

*VP Finance & Operations, Emily Meagher, makes note of the amendments made to the revised budget. She states that “the residence grant line right now is $5500 which is $500 per residence on an application basis. We find this grant being very underused. We would like to relocate this money to under the clubs and societies funding line and have residences apply for money in the same manner as clubs and societies, this would allow them the chance to receive more than $500. This would be a very specific process, but we would be able to market it to anyone who is considered a student group.” Meagher gave the statistics on how much money from the residence grant was being used in previous years to provide context to council.*

Fernandez: “Living in residence for three years, I feel that they may just be unaware. Is there a process for communicating the grant right now? Do you know if they know?”

Meagher: “It is not underused as a product from not trying to communicate that message, which is where my frustration lies. Last year I was Residence Representative and I brought together all of the house presidents before Homecoming to get them excited about the cheer off and also to inform them on the services that Student Union provides to them – including the $500 of funding – and even then only three houses had applied. We could do individual marketing just to residences but where my focus is on is clubs and societies and residences just do not exist as its own portfolio to me specifically. I think it makes sense to unify the process and have a funding request form and distribute that to residences. This will level the playing field for all residences and get them to think about their own budget needs and then applying through a simple request form.”

Wilson: “I was Residence Representative as well and all the house presidents just did not apply. The application process for that funding is lengthy and not user-friendly, whereas the application for funding for clubs and societies is. I think that if we were to unify the process this would allow residences to have a better access to that money.

*Motion to move $5500 of funding from the residence grant line to the residence, clubs and societies line.*

Mover: Meagher

 Seconder: Wilson

 *Vote passes unanimously.*

* 1. **Emily Meagher: Recognition Status of Lifewise UNB**

*VP Finance & Operations, Emily Meagher, stated that this is a “Christian domination club that was looking for ratification. In previous meetings, we had addressed some concerns regarding the rigidity of their constitution and the exclusive nature of their executive decisions.” Meagher emailed the president of the club regarding the concerns and they responded – weeks later – stating that they did not want to make the amendments and they would like to seek recognition status opposed to ratification status. Recognition status entails that the University recognizes that they exist, but the University does not provide explicit funding or support. A club or society that is of recognition status may book spaces and promote on their own.*

Zundel: “I am still concerned about the language being used. The constitution is still very problematic.”

Meagher: “I understand that. We can definitely decide to not approve their request for recognition status. In terms of recognition it does mean we support their constitution it just means we acknowledge their existence. If we do find that this crosses the line of being too problematic, then we do not need to approve their request for recognition status.”

Cormier: “Would you be able to give some examples on groups that are recognized not ratified just to provide a scope to see if they familiar?”

Meagher: “We do not keep a list of recognized groups, we only keep a list of ratified groups. I am not aware of any groups on campus that have recognition status opposed to ratification status. My thought is that the religious and political groups are under recognition status because they are allowed to book spaces, but we do not provide any support or prominent advertising.”

Zundel: “Just for clarification, in order to book spaces, they need to have recognition status?”

Meagher: “Yes. Any student group that is looking to book a space is notified through the amend and approval process. When they go to book at the SUB the employees notify us if they do not recognize the group because the Student Union signs off if they are recognized.”

Poirier: “If they need to be recognized to book a space and we do not maintain a list of clubs and societies that are recognized, how do we know what clubs and societies are recognized?”

Meagher: “I believe that this is done on a year-by-year basis. This is not a great process at all and we recognize that. I believe that this is done with contact each year with the Student Union.”

Poirier: “There are other groups that are recognized and not ratified that are similarly exclusive. There is the Jehovah’s Witness group, this presumably, is of recognition status opposed to ratification and they are similarly exclusive compared to Lifewise UNB, that being the case, I do not see this as a huge issue in terms of exclusivity. Given that there are other groups that are similarly exclusive and if the issue is that the exclusivity not their practices then I do see a huge issue.”

Meagher: “We did not choose ratification because they did not align with the Student Union views, values or beliefs. We just want to ensure this group does not distribute any hateful content on campus.”

Fernandez: “I agree that they should be allowed to gain recognition status if they are not going to distribute any hateful content on campus because there are other groups that are ideologically inclined groups on campus.”

Meagher: “Also there is a university-wide regulation that states that they are not allowed to overly solicit students. Groups have to book their space and they are allowed to promote that they are there, but they cannot recruit students to come with them.”

Cormier: “We could give them recognition status with the agreement that they do not solicit any hateful content.”

Mangusso: “Did they say why they did not want to make the amendments?”

Meagher: “I think it is just for religious reasons because they are United Pentecostal. I believe it comes from a religious perspective that they want to maintain this section of their Executive Officers and follow those doctorands.”

Palmer: “There is a lot to say but if they are not breaking any policies or distributing hateful content then I believe it is okay. One section that I do have a problem with is section two about their Executive Officers. The section states the Executive Officers have to meet all of these criteria but do not have to be elected, so anyone that meets that criteria is an Executive Officer.”

*Palmer read the criteria that is stated in section 2 of their constitution.*

Slayter: “If we go with recognition status do we need to consider their constitution?”

Meagher: “One of the pieces that goes along with recognition status is that they have to submit a list of their Executive Officers along with their constitution.”

Fernandez: “The format is a bit confusing. In section three it says that they will be elected and then section two outlines the responsibilities.”

 *Motion to table the recognition Lifewise UNB until the amendments are made to their constitution and that they agree to not distributing hateful content.*

Mover: Cormier

Seconder: Poirier

 *Nine voted yes to the motion, six voted no to the motion, and two abstained. Vote passes.*

* 1. **Emily Meagher: Club Ratifications**

*VP Finance & Operations, Emily Meagher, introduces each club and gives a brief description of their intentions.*

* + 1. **Girls UNITED**

*This club was received by Finance and Clubs & Societies Committee two weeks ago in which the committee told Girls UNITED to fix the grammatical and spelling errors within the constitution. Meagher read a part of the Girls UNITED constitution stating that this is a club that will “discuss and help resolve issues a woman may endure through their university and post-secondary life.” Meagher then questions what this club accomplishes differently than the Women’s Centre.*

Jardine: “It says they vote via email. How do they know who to email in terms of this?”

Meagher: “They are allowed to do voting electronically. I assuming that the President sends a mass email.”

Jardine: “There should be some clarity on the voting section.”

Mackenzie: “There are women empowering clubs that already exist. For a club to ratified must they accomplish something different than the clubs that already exist? If so, does Girls UNITED accomplish something different?”

Meagher: “Yes and this is an issue that has arisen many times because of duplication of service. If the service they provide really benefits the University community we usually overlook that there is a little bit of overlap, especially when it comes to wellness groups.”

Mackenzie: “That is great. I guess I am just confused because I really admire their objective it is just that it is very broad. I would like to know more on how they will accomplish their objective.”

Qureshi: “I know in the past there were multiple mental health groups seeking ratification. What we did to ensure they all have different objectives and accomplishments, is that we brought them together to discuss what they each do differently.”

McMillan: “I was going say something similar to what Simal said. Have we asked them what they are doing differently than the Women’s Center?”

Meagher: “No, not yet. Because there are a multitude of issues with the constitution, I wanted to discuss the issues before responding to them with our concerns.”

McMillan: “That makes sense. It would just be a weird thing to deny, having too much women empowerment groups. So, I think we should explore the avenue of them working alongside each other and see how they can create a diverse community for women.”

Mackenzie: “I agree, it is not that having more of these groups is the issue. We just do not want to duplicate service to the extent that there is conflict. I would like to see them work alongside the Women’s Centre. We should also ask for more detail on their object and ask them how they provide a different service than other groups.”

 *Motion to bring this back to the Finance and Clubs & Societies Committee and not ratify.*

Mover: Meagher

Seconder: Mackenzie

*Vote passes unanimously.*

* + 1. **Vietnamese Student Association**

*Meagher introduces the Vietnamese Student Association by stating that “is it a cultural group looking for ratification, they are looking to hold events and socialize, they have a well-written constitution.” Meagher addresses a concern in the constitution being that it says “membership is granted to any student who is of Vietnamese descent and is enrolled in post-secondary.”*

Le: “All students can be a member but anyone who is of Vietnamese decent is automatically a member.”

Palmer: “Under ballots and voting, it says members can run up to a maximum of two positions at one time and under another point is states that members elected for both positions will be asked to renounce from one position. I was just curious if that those who were elected for two positions absolutely had to renounce from a position or if it was a choice?”

Zundel: “I think they do have to just because of the line under that, where it states that runner-up candidates can run for renounced positions.”

Le: “People can run for two positions, but if they are elected for both they must renounce one and those that were not elected, the runner-up can fill the positions that were renounced.”

Lazarev: “I think the point is to maximize the chance of getting on the board.”

Jardine: “If you are the only person running for both positions what happens? Do you have to drop one if no one else ran?”

Le: “We have not thought of that.”

Poirier: “There is a footnote on the front page and I disagree with putting footnotes on this kind of document as it is an important note. I just do not know why it is not in the main section. Also, the voting just seems odd.”

Zundel: “This voting style is actually quite familiar at least with the clubs that I am in. I get that this is a concern, but I am unsure if this is large enough to not ratify.”

 *Motion to ratify Vietnamese Student Association.*

Mover: Meagher

Seconder: Zundel

*Vote passes unanimously.*

1. **Reports to Council**
	1. **Vice President – Student Life**
* It has been a quiet week. There have been a few meetings with the Alumni Council in Saint John.
* Reorganized and built new shelving in the storage area.
* Few tweaks on the food bag order form. No food bags for November as it falls within reading week. The food bags are filled by an outside provider and is out of our control. All orders placed for November will be filled in December.
	1. **Vice President – Finance & Operations**
* Sorting through insurance concerns – in terms of Global Brigades and where it lies.
* Sorting out EUS ski trip.
* Sat on Fredericton Budget Advisory Committee and University-wide Budget Advisory Committee last week.
* Drafting smoking policy alongside Benjamin – if anyone has concerns or opinions in terms of smoking please contact Emily or Benjamin.
* On a podcast with Benjamin for Sidebar regarding Cannabis in the province.
	1. **Vice President – Internal**

*Presented by President Richard Du on behalf of Ali.*

* Library hours have been extended to 3am every day of the week, besides Friday and Saturday, for the Harriet Irving Library!
* Been in attendance of many Presidential Search Committee meetings – nature of those meetings are very confidential.
* Been on the Strategic Planning Committee and will engage council in an activity that will allow the council to contribute to the University’s new strategic plan.
* Councillor of the month will be announced next council meetings.
	1. **Vice President – Advocacy**
* Working hard on wellness week! Starts on November 12th
* All councillors must be in attendance on November 18th at 12:30pm to 3:30pm to a Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness and Support training.

Zundel: “To those that have undergone similar training, is it mandatory?”

Qureshi: “Imma sit on it” \*click \*click

* Had a meeting with Matt Maclean.
	1. **President**
* Attended the NBSA post-election conference.
* Will be going to Mount Allison University to attend a panel on Cannabis.
* Meeting with committees and people on a day to day basis.
* Will be announcing the new strategic plan on social media.
1. **Announcements**
2. **Question Period**
3. **Other business**
4. **Adjournment**

Mover: Mackenzie

Seconder: Poirier

*Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.*