

AGENDA – 8th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2019/20

December 1, 2019; 19:00 in SUB 103

Regrets: Kelsi Evans, Mick Jefferies, Emma Huestis, Camryn Smith



1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Gill performs roll call.

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Craig Fernandez adds “CRO & DCRO: Bylaw Updates” as section 5.1 and “Ad Hoc Working Group Selection” as section 5.2.

Motion to approve the amended agenda.

Mover: Lutes

Second: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

3. Chair’s Remarks

Council Chair, Gill, makes her remarks by welcoming council.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mover: Brimicombe

Second: S Mackenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 CRO & DCRO: Bylaw Updates

CRO, Ella Wiggins, and DCRO, Krista O’Brien, update council on the issues that they faced with the by-elections of November 2019. Voting was supposed to close at 11:59pm on Friday, November 29th, however, it closed at 11:59am, leaving 12 hours where students could not vote. They also received

multiple complaints, including a formal complaint addressed to the CRO and DCRO, from graduate students who could not access voting for the Board of Governors position. Those that reached out were manually added to the registry, but there were unfortunately others who were not able to vote. They have requested a meeting with ITS, the GSA, the secretariat, Craig Fernandez, and Grace Mangusso, to discuss issues regarding the by-election and to implement a plan so that these issues will not be faced again in future elections as well as discuss possible options for the Board of Governors election. They are also looking at possibly reopening voting for a week for the general faculty positions.

Lutes: “What is the nature of the ITS errors and how did this happen?”

Wiggins: “We submitted a form with all the dates and times. For the Board of Governors, we did specifically say that both graduate and undergraduate students would be able to vote. Some issues arose, and we dealt with them as they came in, by adding them to the registry.”

Arseneau: “You mentioned looking for different paths to go forward with the Board of Governors voting and you also mentioned opening voting in general. I was wondering if you could clarify what you mean by that.”

Wiggins: “The formal complaint that has been put forward to both of us requests that the Board of Governors election be redone because of the issues that graduate students faced. The meeting tomorrow is going to clarify that point and see if the entire election needs to be redone or if voting just needs to be reopened with the assurance that graduate students are able to vote. The meeting tomorrow will be confirming that fact and candidates will be notified as well.”

Zundel: “Can you expand on reopening voting for a week? Would everyone have to vote again or is it just reopening it so that people who did not have the chance to vote, can vote?”

Wiggins: “Redoing the entirety of the voting, so all votes would go back to zero and people would have to vote again so that there would be no double voting. We would also like to point out that this has happened, when the polls also closed early in the previous year. Fortunately, they were reopened, unfortunately we did not do that this time because we were unaware, and we also had timing issues as I was at work. The DCRO was also not allowed access, by ITS, to reopen the polls.”

Fazio: “Do you have any information in terms of the amount of people who voted for this election? Do you find that it was potentially lacking?”

Wiggins: “Only 6% of the UNB student population voted. This includes the graduate students that we added to the registry. We did alienate a large portion of the graduates in the Board of Governors election, due to technical errors, not on the fault of us through submitted forms. We also believe that the reading week, when the campaigning was done, limited the outreach of messages and campaign platforms.”

Lutes: “On the Board of Governors election, are graduate students the only people who were excluded from voting?”

Wiggins: “I received a couple emails from undergraduates, who were mainly international students, that could not vote on the referenda, but I assume that they could vote on the Board of Governors. We added them to the registry as the emails came to us. Whenever people had issues on the voting page, my email was right there.”

Arseneau: “Say the votes do go back to zero and the voting period restarts, would there also be a short campaigning period? All promotional materials would be out of date and taken down before that time.”

Wiggins: “For the Board of Governors, that is something we are going to be discussing tomorrow. I think if we are going to be redoing elections for the faculty representatives, there needs to be some deliberation amongst ourselves to see if there would be maybe a three-day campaigning or no campaigning. It depends on the correlation of bylaws as well as what you, as representatives, would want.”

Fazio: “In terms of a timeline, do you have any ideas as to when this potential new election period would happen?”

Wiggins: “My hope would be to redo voting starting Wednesday and ending next Wednesday.”

Fazio: “If we did consider implementing another campaigning period, would it be a two-day situation, before the Wednesday when voting opened?”

Wiggins: “It depends on when ITS is able to get back to us and able to put forward the ballot. They have to redo stuff on their end and I am not sure what the timeline would be for that.”

Fazio: “I meant in terms of giving candidates the opportunity to campaign again, would you recommend Monday and Tuesday and then start the election on the Wednesday?”

Wiggins: “I think campaigning would be important, but we would be more focused on promoting the times when elections would be reopening. Saying what happened and moving forward with a fair voting process for everyone on campus, because every vote matters and every voice matters.”

Bouvier: “I am quite skeptical of restarting voting from zero. I think it is important to recognize that a lot of people already voted and to have those votes counted to avoid confusion of re-voting. I know things are more complicated with the graduate student situation, but in terms of undergraduate students who have already voted, I think those votes should stand.”

Fernandez: “The issue is that we do not know who has voted. The system does not say who voted, it just says how many people voted. I do not think that the election could be opened again because we cannot control who will double vote. I also have some concerns with allowing another campaigning period, as campaigning is clearly defined and was clearly adhered too. There were no issues with campaigning, so if you were going to vote, you should have had your mind made up anyway. Campaigning again does not make sense to me and I would also struggle to ratify the election as it stands because I am assuming that a lot of people were planning on voting on Friday night and they did not get the chance.”

McMillan: “I understand that in order to allow everybody to vote and have a proper voting system, we have to cancel and reset to zero. However, I find it a little sketchy because the official election results are already out. People can see where votes are now and that could sway their votes.”

Zundel: “The only issue that came up for the undergraduate voting, discounting the Board of Governors, was it closed early?”

Wiggins: “Voting closed at 11:59am instead of 11:59pm, as it was supposed to. We only found this out at 7:50pm due to prior commitments that we had.”

O'Brien: "From the previous year's report that we got, it is something that has happened before but the CRO knew that he could open it back up, whereas we did not know that. Now that we know, if it happens in the next election, which we hope it does not, we will be able to open the elections again."

Zundel: "Have we validated election results that have had problems with the timing before?"

Fernandez: "Last year, there was an hour and a half period where voting was closed on the final day. The CRO noticed that it had been closed and knew enough about the back end of the system to open it up himself. Council voted to ratify those votes anyway. It is the decision of council to ratify these results, but I would have issues knowing that they were closed for that long, as well as the issues with the Board of Governors."

S Mackenzie: "I wanted to thank you because I did run into issues and you were very quick to respond and fix those issues. Also, if we decide to go ahead with another voting period, is it possible to immediately take down the previous results so they will not sway any of the votes?"

Wiggins: "That is something that I personally do not know because that would be ITS' department. I do not know enough about technology to know if they could just take it down and put it back up for the new ballot. That is something that we can address in tomorrow's meeting."

Lutes: "I wanted to echo what Craig was saying about it not being a good idea to have another campaign period. Understanding that exams are coming up the week after next, it would be unfair to expect the candidates to go through that all again. I want to thank you guys as well for all your effort as this is not your fault. In terms of ITS, this is not the first time they have made a mistake like this and they jeopardized the legitimacy of our institution. It makes us look bad as a union because the average student would think that we are responsible for this. I feel like there has got to be some way to address this moving forward. I know they are not partial to meeting with students but there must be something that we can do, as a union, to make sure this does not happen again."

Fernandez: "When I got this news, I was super distraught because I know this happened last year as well. Ella, myself and Krista tried to set up a meeting with ITS and they refused to meet with us and would only contact us through email, which was often very late and only providing half answered emails."

I plan on getting in front of them as soon as possible and being very stern. This is a democratic process and they are delegitimizing our institution, and I want on paper who is going to be looking after the elections moving forward and how they are going to be doing so. If they cannot provide that, then we will find another way to do the elections with people who are not incompetent. The same mistakes cannot happen year after year with something this simple.”

Fazio: “Right now, the decision we have to make as a council is what is the best way to move forward, given that we are not in a great situation. I know there are potential complications given that the results are already out but given that we lost twelve hours plus other complications, that is less significant than the amount of voices that we lost.”

Zundel: “Looking at the election results that we have, not a lot of people voted, and turnout was low, but besides the Board of Governors, no election was particularly close and there is the additional stress on students of having to vote again. With exams coming up, I do not know the values of opening the election again. I get that twelve hours is an important time but, given the pressure that this time of year brings, there is an argument to make for not opening the voting, besides the Board of Governors given the additional circumstances.”

Wiggins: “I do think we should be treating the Board of Governors and the general faculty representation elections separately, because of the issues that the Board of Governors faced. They were both closed early but they still faced different problems, so we should view them differently.”

Fernandez: “I struggle with accepting the results because twelve hours in a seven-day voting period is pretty substantial, especially on the last day. We definitely have to redo the Board of Governors because I know the GSA would be very upset if they do not get a chance to vote. We can put it to a vote if we want to accept these results or not, but I would recommend that we do not. I also want to thank Ella and Krista because I know this is really hard, especially at the end of a very long month of looking after elections. You have done so well and have been very diligent at getting back to people and you were both super awesome to work with!”

Wiggins: “We can send the formal report at your request.”

Fernandez: "I sent the full report to Gyan so she can put it in the drive."

Bouvier: "I do think that care should be taken in explaining the reasons why the election may be reopened, especially considering that one of the closest elections did involve one of the executives, who was defeated in the election. I think it is important to recognize a bit of a conflict that could be perceived by students."

Wysote: "What if the voting was just open to the graduate students? From my understanding, it was the graduate students who had issues with it, so they did not have a fair time to vote and they had the most issues."

S Mackenzie: "Every undergraduate student did run into the issue with the period where they were not able to vote, and people may not have had the chance to vote. Everyone deserves the full allotted time to vote because sometimes that is the only time period they have."

Zundel: "On the technical aspect of that, they do not have data on who voted already, because there was a period of time where some graduate students were able to access the voting."

Wiggins: "The only graduates that I am aware of, who were able to access voting, were the ones that I manually registered."

O'Brien: "There were one or two graduate students that I spoke to, who were able to vote as far as I know."

Wiggins: "We do not know if these people were the ones who contacted me, so we do not know the overlap because it was more of an offhanded comment."

Zundel: "So if it was to be reopened to just the graduate students, there is potential for double voting?"

Wiggins: "That is another issue."

Fernandez: "We have to decide if we accept these votes or not and decide on a process moving forward. We do not really know what the process moving forward can be until we talk to ITS. I can take recommendations on what to do moving forward and I will be as transparent as possible with what ITS is able to do."

Arseneau: “Are we accepting the entire election or everything excluding the Board of Governors, since it had separate issues?”

Wiggins: “I would put forward that you only currently look at the representative councillors and disregard the Board of Governors because of the complaint that has come forward.”

Fernandez: “I would see strong backlash from the GSA and from graduate students in general, if we decided to move forward without speaking to them about the Board of Governors.”

Motion to accept the results of the general councillor positions in the 2019 by-election.

Motion: Fernandez

Secunder: Zundel

Seven votes to accept the motion with the remainder voting against. Vote fails.

Motion to accept the results of the Board of Governors 2019 by-election.

Motion: Fernandez

Secunder: Lutes

Vote fails. Sam Arseneau abstains.

Fernandez: “The next step will be to meet with ITS and be very stern about our disappointment and then discuss the possibilities moving forward. It will either be opening voting from scratch for a week or opening voting for a week but keeping the votes that are already there and then letting anyone else vote. I would also like to get something in writing from ITS about how the general election will go and how those issues will be addressed.”

Zundel: “We discussed elections possibly happening using a different software.”

Fernandez: “There was a summer student hired by ITS, who was very passionate about developing a software. Unfortunately, that student was not able to finish that before the term ended and he passed it along to someone else, who seems less excited and has not been developing it.”

5.2 Craig Fernandez: Ad Hoc Working Group Selection

President, Craig Fernandez, presents that the current structure of orientation by-laws states that either the Orientation Chair or the Orientation Vice Chair is paid by the Student Union and the other is

paid by administration. The position that is subject to the Student Union by-laws has their allowance for vacation time in writing, whereas the position paid by administration does not have any guidelines. Need to decide vacation time for orientation staff and put it in writing. The Ad Hoc committee must be struck during council meeting.

Zundel: “What is the timeline of this over the Christmas break?”

Fernandez: “It will depend on the people involved. I do not expect people to work through exams or over the Christmas break. We can start conversations about how we want to approach it and then meet in January.”

Motion to strike an Ad Hoc Committee to amend the orientation by-law.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Zundel

Vote passes unanimously.

5.3 Sam Arseneau: Club Recognition

***Just Church** – seeking recognized status. There have previously been issues with a faculty member bringing forward an article that was posted on their Facebook page that was not anti LGBTQ+ but was from a magazine that had other anti LGBTQ+ articles. They met with Sam, Mark Walma, the faculty member, and the human rights officer to discuss how to move forward as they had no negative intentions and are welcoming of everyone.*

Zundel: “Was there another dimension that one of their staff was associated with a church that also had anti LGBTQ+ issues?”

Arseneau: “I do not remember their official title but kind of a pastor that is associated with Just Church came from a Wesleyan Church in Fredericton. At that time, he was the Youth Pastor, so he was working specifically with kids and that church made the decision to remove someone, from the church group, who was anti LGBTQ+. He was not directly involved in that decision making, but he was with the church at that time. It was another dimension to it and we did have that conversation but me and Mark came to the agreement that he did not share those views, but he was a part of that church at the time.”

Lutes: “Is he still part of the church now?”

Arseneau: “He is not.”

Motion to recognize the group Just Church.

Mover: Arseneau

Secunder: Wilson

Seven votes against the motion with the remainder voting to accept. Vote passes.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Finished posting about wellness week and the by-election.
- Will be posting about the extended library hours.
- Getting Townhouse rolling on social media.
- Book Bananza.
- End of term social with Paul Mazerolle.
- The multicultural fest occurred last week.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- SafeRide secured a partnership with NBCC starting in January.
- Herself and Anthony Gatto had a meeting about the AUS basketball tournament in Halifax, which will be the last weekend in February. Promotions will be in December/January.
- Multicultural fest was great!
- Focusing the rest of the semester on UNBSU Food. Meeting tomorrow with the General Manager of Sodexo to talk about new initiatives at meal hall.

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Met with Policy Committee this week.
- The University Budget Advisory Committee met to discuss cuts to nursing.
- Met with Mike from sustainability to discuss the applications for the sustainability fund.
- Involved with hiring the Orientation Chair and Vice Chair, which have now been decided.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Book Bananza - any novels or books can be donated at the Welcome Centre, HIL, the science library, or the computer science and engineering library. There is an event page on Facebook. On Thursday and Friday all the donated books will be in the SUB lobby for students to take.
- Met with the Academic Planning Committee last week for the management and law faculties.
- The Internal Affairs Committee met to discuss undergraduate scholarship regulations. Decided to make a proposal to have undergraduate scholarship regulations align with the full-time student definition.
- Promoting the extended library hours.
- Attending Dean's Council to talk about the exam bank – not anticipated it to be fully functional for this exam period but hoping to get more faculty participation.
- Involved with the hiring committee for the Associate Vice President (Academic) Learning Environment, which is currently Kathy Wilson.
- End of term social with Paul Mazerolle is on Tuesday.
- Putting together a council feedback form for this semester so that it can be implemented next semester.

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy – Presented by Craig Fernandez

- Mick is currently in Spain as the Canadian delegate at COP25.
- Wellness week went great - thanks to everyone for volunteering!
- CASA Policy and Strategy was fantastic – very proud of the Indigenous student leaders who stood up for one another and pushed CASA's interpretation of Roberts Rules.

Wysote: “At the conference, me and another Indigenous delegate were chosen to speak on behalf of the Indigenous Advisory Group that was formed out of the MSP conference in Ottawa. On Tuesday, we delivered a presentation on our thoughts and feedback of the MSP conference. It was an hour and a half discussion about colonialism and how colonial structures affect Indigenous people. We had a meeting at the end of the day on Wednesday and there was an in-camera session where they gave me the rights to

state, so I did, and someone posted a question about whether or not the MSP program and the Indigenous Advisory Group was sustainable for CASA. I raised my hand to speak and there was another girl who raised her placard to pose a question and the person that was chairing the meeting disregarded me and disregarded that I wanted to speak and continued to try and do the motion for that question. It was a huge thing because of the conversations that we had the day before, so it was kind of a step back. That was a real-life example as to how those colonial structures, like Roberts Rules, affects us as Indigenous people. That was the first time that an Indigenous voice sat at the table with CASA. We had just had a conversation about what these student leaders can do to realize how colonial structures like that affect Indigenous students and how that affects their relationship with the Indigenous students in particular. It was unfortunate that it had to happen, although I think it needed to happen for all those leaders to see first-hand as to how things like that affect Indigenous people.”

- Mick is happy to announce that he is now on the National Advocacy Committee and is assigned a section of the National Advocacy Guidebook.

6.6 President

- Working with the election staff to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible. Ella and Krista did an awesome job!
- Townhouse executive is moving smoothly – having an event tomorrow writing holiday cards for local senior homes.
- Faith had a multicultural festival with music, dancing, and food - 70 people came so it was a huge success!
- CASA’s Policy and Strategy Conference – deciding the asks for the year and writing policies so that they will be ready to meet the new MPs in Ottawa in February. Mick and Craig arrived on Friday and the conference started on Sunday. They used their own money to pay for accommodations, food, and any other expenses on Friday and Saturday, before the conference started on Sunday afternoon. Mick was assigned to the National Advocacy Committee and Craig was assigned to the Federal Policy Committee. Federal priorities for the year are Indigenous students, international students, and student

financial aid. Craig will be writing a full written report on what happened during the conference, including Mick and Nadia's feedback.

- CASA's current Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is the president of the Mount Alison Student Union and she has offered to come speak to our council.

7. Announcements

Wilson: "About thirty years ago, fourteen women lost their lives to gender-based violence at the École Polytechnique massacre. This Friday, Diversity in Engineering is having a ceremony in the Dineen Auditorium."

Mangusso: "Reminder that we are all going to the Cellar and you are all invited. Appetizers will be provided, and we will be celebrating all your hard work this semester."

8. Question Period

Bouvier: "I asked Sam last week about a rough figure on the costs associated with the CASA conference."

Arseneau: "The whole cost for Mick and Craig to attend was \$2,604. It was \$1,344 for flights, \$400 for food, \$36 for transportation, and the hotel was \$824 for four nights."

Zundel: "For the vote on the Board of Governor election, did you abstain?"

Arseneau: "I did."

9. Other business

Arseneau: "Regarding the Alcohol Policy, I apologize again for last week. If anyone has any more questions or concerns, please send them to myself or Grace by Tuesday night."

Mangusso: "For council merchandise, thank you all for voting! I will be putting together some ideas over the next couple of weeks for quarter zips. They will be ready when you come back after the break."

10. Adjournment

Mover: Lutes

Secunder: Brimicombe

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.