

AGENDA – 10th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2019/20

February 2, 2020; 7:00 in SUB 103

Regrets: Nadia Wysote, Chloe Jardine



1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Gill performs roll call.

Chair Gill calls the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to add “5.1 Ella Wiggins: CRO Presentation on Elections” and “5.4 Craig Fernandez:

Discussion on Committee Policy”.

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: Evans

Vote passes unanimously.

Motion to approve amended agenda.

Mover: S Mackenzie

Seconder: Lutes

Vote passes unanimously.

3. Chair’s Remarks

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

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mover: Brimicombe

Seconder: Evans

Vote passes unanimously.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Ella Wiggins: CRO Presentation on Elections

Motion to extend speaking rights to CRO Ella Wiggins.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Lutes

Vote passes unanimously.

CRO, Ella Wiggins, presents the outcome of the second by-election period. December 1st – results not affirmed by council. December 2nd – met with ITS to discuss issues and to set up another voting session. December 4th – email was sent to take down the results. December 5th – 11th – new voting period. December 12th – results posted at 12:01am, which were the same as the previous voting election. Voter turnout was 3.9% of student population.

Motion to accept the results of the by-election from December 5th-11th 2019.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Brimicombe

Lutes: “Where are things with ITS and has it been explored to run future votes on a platform that is not at the mercy of ITS?”

Wiggins: “I am hopefully going to have an in-house meeting for the actual voting period. That needs to be done after the nomination period. As an aside, for anyone seeking re-election, nomination forms are open at the Welcome Centre, and it closes at noon on Friday February 7th.”

Fernandez: “Grace, Sean, and I had a meeting last week. Within ITS, the person that just got the job is Chris Miller, who has formally been the student services IT person, and by extension, the Student Union IT person for ten years. He knows the SU and wants to make it one of his missions to figure out this voting problem because he has seen the issues. He is also pretty active in his own union and sees the issues with poor integrity of union elections. We had a productive meeting with him and he seems to know what he is doing and has looked at a few different “off the shelf” software that he could get to run the election, and has narrowed it down to three that he thinks could work well. Moving forward, we need to look at pricing because they are very pricey, and who would hold responsibility for payment. Those are

more technical conversations that need to be had, and if all goes well, he is hoping to have a pilot for the by-election in the fall.”

Vote passes unanimously. Sam Arseneau abstains.

5.2 Marilee Sulewski: Presentation on Retail Services Review

Grace Mangusso extends her speaking rights to Marilee Sulewski.

Marilee Sulewski was hired to review all retail services on the UNB Fredericton campus. In September, she came to council to introduce the initiative and had a discussion about challenges and opportunities. Since then, she hosted two pop up events in five different locations around campus, two online surveys, and a series of questions through the UNB portal. With the feedback from students, faculty, and tenant owners, Marilee has developed recommendations for the university, who can choose how and if they will be implemented. Her main recommendations are streamline retail services, improve the stud/ collaboration spaces, improve campus accessibility, improve the food services, develop a student communication strategy, and alignment of retail tenants with student needs.

Lutes: “Did you look at CHSR, the campus radio station?”

Sulewski: “I toured their space but did not speak with them because they are not a retail tenant. I would suggest that they be included in the agreement for all organizations on campus that are using space within the SUB.”

Mangusso: “You said that these are recommendations and the university will decide how/if they implement them. Do you have an idea on how they will make that decision and how that will be communicated to you or the general UNB community?”

Sulewski: “I do not know. I suspect that will be a large part of the conversation on Thursday. I should also note that those recommendations are not listed in any particular order, they do not have to happen in that order, and a lot of them could run concurrently or consecutively. I do not know how they are going to make that decision, but I suspect there will be a formal issuing of the report to the SU and other groups around campus to get feedback before looking at next steps based on the responses.”

Mangusso: “Who from administration are you meeting with?”

Sulewski: “Associate VP Capital Planning & Operations, Mary Jane Adams, Assistant VP Student Services, Mark Walma, Administrative Assistant Student Services, Sherrie Lynch, Senior Director Finance & Operations, Ruth Buckingham, and Director Student Union Building Student Services – Finance & Operations, Becky Sullivan. They will all be in attendance on Thursday.”

Fazio: “Thank you so much for keeping the student perspective in mind. We appreciate that you have done a lot of consultation and reaching out to students. A lot of these points resonate with myself, as a student representative, and I hope that they will resonate with everyone.”

Sulewski: “Thank you. I will have more information early next week, once we have had a chance to review this. Hopefully I will be able to give you a better timeline of when you will see a formal report coming out. Once the report is issued, that wraps up my scope of work, but I will find out later on whether there are any more steps that they will ask me to undertake.”

Lutes: “This is beyond the scope of the report but for the people who are going to be here when Sodexo’s lease is being renegotiated, think about pushing for maybe going with another company. The food waiver thing is ridiculous where you have to apply to Sodexo if you want to bring any sort of international food for any event. They also run a bunch of for-profit prisons all over the world. Also, the food is not very good.”

5.3 Non- Faculty Councillor Updates

LGBTQ Councillor, Eric Zundel, has attended board meetings for the 203 – going to be giving input for a new conversion therapy ban legislation. Met with the new tri-campus LGBTQ+ Wellness Coordinator. Participated in the puck drop at the “You Can Play” game with the UNB Women’s hockey team, which aims to promote LGBTQ+ people in sports.

Inclusion Councillor, Kelsi Evans, has been working on her initiative for people looking for apartments or housing off campus. Started a blog series “Moving Up and Moving Out” about housing, budgets, food prep, etc. Filmed the first episode this weekend and will hopefully continue through the semester.

Accessibility Councillor, Brandon Archibald, is looking to do a video campaign for individuals with physical, mental, cognitive, and learning disabilities to raise awareness and advocacy.

Unfortunately, he can no longer attend the SVN meetings but is still working on providing sexual violence training for athletes.

Residence Councillor, Maddie Thibodeau, met with the food representatives to discuss positive feedback, critiques, and ideas for food on campus. Will be meeting with the managers of Sodexo to discuss how to move forward and what to prioritize. Currently networking with students to see what they want to see implemented and would like to create a stronger community for students in residence.

First Year Councillor, Adarshna Chhetri, has been working with Marcel to host an event for first year and international students.

Inclusion Councillor, Emily MacKenzie, organized a pilot for the dispensers in the female washroom in the SUB to get information on consumption and usage. Collecting data for a formal proposal and will hopefully be implemented across campus. Helping with sex week events and reaching out to people.

Off-Campus Councillor, Camryn Smith, is planning a cooking workshop for off campus students. Has been meeting with the campus dietitian and UNBSU food to create a workshop about cost, sustainable food, meal plans, etc. Tentatively scheduled for end of February/early March in Marshall D'Avary.

International Students Councillor, Marcel Pefang, has been working with Adarshna to plan an event for first year and international students. Dry event at the social club or in the SUB, where music from all around the world is played.

Women's Councillor, Sarah Albert-Belanger, has been talking to the Women's Centre to discuss their initiatives for the semester. Working on something for Women's Day in March to promote influential and inspirational women from the area and what they are doing.

5.4 Craig Fernandez: Discussion on Committee Policy

Policy Committee is still working on the by-laws. They noticed a broad section covering committees of the union, which was not in accordance with the current committee policy nor with current practice.

Motion that Policy Committee review the committee policy.

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: Zundel

Vote passes unanimously.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Promoting sex week, red awards, NBSA, nominations, town house, black shirts, student sustainability fund, and “You Can Play” women’s hockey game.
- Councillor project - tonight is the deadline to send photo and write up. Anyone running in UNBSU general election should not use the same headshot that they will be using for their campaign.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Attended Safetalk training for suicide prevention and helping identify people who are struggling with thoughts of suicide and connecting them to the right resources. Funded by student services and looking to do it again in March.
- Will be attending the UNB Associated Alumni Council meeting in Saint John. Will be talking for fifteen minutes about the priorities of the UNBSU and common student struggles.

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Hired the Red Awards Chair and currently working on hiring Red Awards team and Black Shirt team.
- Attending Policy Committee.
- Has taken on the role of Treasurer for Townhouse.
- Has been working with a lot of clubs in regard to HR matters.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Council sweaters are \$34 – pay at the Welcome Center.

- Meeting with Mark Walma about smudging on campus, scholarship regulation proposal, and an initiative that is similar to the academic concern directory.
- Academic proposals about the W drop date and the course repeat policy. The registrar is doing consultation and discussing with Grace and the GSA to move forward.
- Scholarship proposal – also looking at AGPA assessment and Dean’s List assessment. Will go ahead with the scholarship proposal and submit a second proposal about the AGPA and Dean’s List.
- Looking into a potential feedback system for the UNB Student Health Centre.
- Breaking Stereotypes Advisory Committee had their first meeting. Looking for Indigenous students and allies to be involved. Planning to launch their trailer on March 12th and the full video on March 19th.

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

-Updates from Nadia Wysote: Collaboration with the Women’s Centre and Indigenous Student Committee has begun. Project proposal for the Indigenous Student Mural has been finalized and will be sent to VP Academic, George MacLean, this week. Started planning the Breaking Stereotypes Campaign. Has also been involved in several meetings for CASA’s AGM and advocacy week combined.

Federally:

- Working with CASA National Advocacy Committee to look into meetings and training times for CASA members before meeting politicians. Has also been working with the chair to create a toolkit for incoming board members so that everyone has access to a crash course of tips and tricks in the world of politics.

Provincially:

- The initial discussion of the NBSA fee cap did not go over very well with the other board members. Will be preparing research based on their conversations and putting together a proposal as well as consultation with other CASA members.
- Has been attending meetings for the provincial mental health system. Looking at a program that will benefit all public institutions, not just universities. Hoping to get a final draft in March.

Locally:

- Working on the We Can Challenge Abuse social media campaign.
- The Wellness Committee and UNBSU Food will be collaborating for the breakfast program (\$70/week). 8am-10am every Monday in the think tank -accessibility is not great so they are looking to problem solve.
- Breaking Stereotypes Campaign had their first meeting and created a survey that will be shared with council.
- Attended the Indigenous Student Committee meeting.

6.6 President

-NBSA board call – Mount Alison University executives are very concerned with labor negotiations between the faculty and administration. All classes are cancelled tomorrow as the faculty is going on strike. UNB faculty will soon be negotiating their contracts.

-Universities Advancement Committee for the Board of Governors - tackling issues related to marketing and enrollment.

-SU's Advancement Committee will be meeting this week to discuss the formal governance review of the union as well as discussing absorbing ALPS.

-Policy Committee is still slugging it out with the by-laws.

-Discussing if UNB should offer gendered scholarships and, if so, under what parameters. Putting together a proposal for Senate who will make the decision.

-Red Awards Chair is doing an amazing job! Looking at gaining nominations for people interested in applying for the positions. Nominations for awards will open tomorrow on the website.

-Went to the women's hockey game to watch Eric drop the puck.

7. Announcements

Lutes: "Tomorrow, the NB film co-op is streaming the film Parasite at 7:30pm in Tilley. It is a really good movie and it is important to support international cinema."

8. Question Period

Zundel: “For Mick and Craig, why exactly are you looking at capping our contribution to the NBSA? It seems it would be handicapping an important organization.”

Jefferies: “We are looking at following the same structure as CASA. We currently fund half of NBSA’s budget. We recognize that the work NBSA does is super important, however, they have not handled their financials well in the past couple years. They did not pay for their credit cards or rent, they did not file their taxes, and all these different things were coming at an extra cost for us. We are not willing to take money out of student’s pockets and take \$33,000 that we could give back in scholarships for students. We do not need to be part of NBSA to be part of CASA and have that federal advocacy. We want to continue with NBSA; however, we want to make sure that they are doing it legally.”

Fernandez: “We have met with KJ and a lot of our conversation revolved around consistency, especially since we are paying half of their budget. We want to know what we will be paying year to year. The cap will align fairly closely to where UNB will likely be for enrollment in the next few years and if we see a massive boost in enrollment, we could renegotiate. It is more so we can budget for the large sum that we are paying. In terms of administrative issues, I will acknowledge that the NBSA is historically an administrative nightmare. That is before KJ was with them and he has been very good at cleaning up that mess so I do not foresee it getting to that state again.”

Jefferies: “That is the contingency part that board members want to negotiate in terms of the draft; how often we will renegotiate.”

Fernandez: “They want it to be fair, but they understand the fact that our numbers change dramatically compared to other schools. We are looking at fluctuations of a few hundred students, whereas other schools see changes of about fifty students, so they have a better idea of how much they are paying year to year. We definitely see the value of the NBSA and would get nothing done provincially without it, we just want to add consistency for our executive, our GM, and for the organization.”

Evans: “What happens if we go on strike for a few weeks?”

Fernandez: “This did happen a few years ago and there are a number of issues there. If faculty is on strike, they cannot hold class. Depending on how long it is, they could just return to the classroom and

act like it never happened if it is only a week. If it goes too long, they look at extending the semester. If it is much longer than two weeks, they start looking at tuition rebates and students getting money back for classes they did not get to attend. That becomes a much larger negotiation because they need to talk about where that money is coming from, and how it is administered. There is nothing set in stone in that case as it is a lot of back and forth between our team, the representatives from the faculty union, and administration. I have talked to a lot of people involved and they do not think it will go that far. They think they will reach an agreement, but they have not entered bargaining yet.”

Bouvier: “What is the timeline? What is the earliest that a strike could occur?”

Fernandez: “I do not have the dates, but I think bargaining begins next week.”

Bouvier: “Would it be this semester or the fall semester?”

Fernandez: “This semester.”

Bouvier: “For Sam, there were a few agenda items from last week that we did not talk about because you were not here, do you know when we will be talking about those?”

Arseneau: “For the Science Society, MacKenzie and I decided to work on that together a bit more before eventually presenting it. For the Women in Sport Conference, I met with them on Friday and a solution has been found for the meantime. We are waiting until the clubs and societies policy is finished before presenting to council.”

9. Other business

Sam Arseneau informs council that the UNB Ski and Board Club is a group of around 100 students who go on weekly ski trips to Crabbe Mountain by taking a party bus and limo as transportation. SERC has been unaware that they were taking a party bus and students were allowed to bring and consume alcohol. The first event was cancelled on the morning of the event. They decided to go on the trip and signed waivers stating that they were not going with the SU or UNB, so the club executive held all liability for that trip. The following week, nothing had changed or been submitted to SERC, so they were sent a reminder email and that week’s event was cancelled as well. Sam has been meeting with the UNB Ski and Board Club President and the Co-Chair of SERC to find a solution, which is to find a

transportation company with no alcohol consumption. They have talked with the insurance companies and can sign with the Silvers bus company for up to five million dollars of insurance, as long as the club members sign waivers stating there will be no alcohol consumption before, during, or on the way back from the trip. This proposal has not yet been approved by the university.

Fernandez: “It has not been approved but it has not been disapproved either. We are waiting to hear back about our proposal and our insurance company is good with it if we are added to the bus companies general liability insurance which covers up to five million dollars, and there are agreements signed that no one will be drinking within any part of the skiing activities. We are waiting to hear back from risk management at UNB.”

Bouvier: “What is the cost associated with the extra insurance?”

Arseneau: “I think it is a little less than \$1000 but I would have to double check.”

Thibodeau: “How are we assuring that these contracts are being followed and what happens if they are not?”

Arseneau: “We cannot really ensure that they are being followed. Once they sign a contract/waiver, we have done our due diligence to communicate what is expected of them. The club executive can have some sort of “policing” to make sure people are following the contracts, but it is the individual’s liability after that.”

Fazio: “Can you share with everyone how the \$1000 in funding contrasts to funding for other clubs?”

Arseneau: “The Finance Committee decides on an event by event basis. This is based on how it impacts the UNB community, how many people are attending, the cost of the event, and how much the club has requested that year. This situation is different because of the timing and that it is 100 students going on these trips weekly and there are supposed to be eight more trips. I think an additional \$1000 is a fair price to pay, given the circumstances.”

Bouvier: “Is it possible that the waivers that they sign can be written in such a way that, if they do drink, the liability is on themselves personally, instead of the university or the organizers of the club?”

Arseneau: “These waivers are drafted by the university and the individual will be held responsible.”

Bouvier: “Has this damaged our relationship with SERC, since we have been approving these events without realizing the complicated dynamic with the university?”

Arseneau: “It has been going SERC in the past. Apparently, they have been using the Silvers company for four years, from what I have been told by Ryan. From looking at the event applications going through SERC, in 2016, it was said that they used Trius. In 2017, the first update said Trius and the second said Silvers in the same year, but it was not flagged. The 2018 application has not been found, so it either was submitted and lost, or it was not submitted at all. It has been going through the SERC process in the past and I guess no one noticed, and I assumed it was common knowledge.”

10. Adjournment

Mover: Jefferies

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.