

AGENDA – 9th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2019/20

January 26, 2020; 7:00 in SUB 103

Regrets: Maddie Thibodeau, Sam Arseneau, Srijain Shrestha, Chris Lutes

Not present: Emily McMillan, Camryn Smith



1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Gill performs roll call.

Chair Gill calls the meeting to order at 7:21pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Remove “Women in Sport Conference/Club Discussion”, “Club Ratification”, “Committee Policy” and “Reports to Council: Vice President – Finance & Operations”.

Mover: Jefferies

Seconder: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

Approval of amended agenda.

Motion: Fernandez

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

3. Chair’s Remarks

Council Chair, Gill, makes her remarks by saying “There is a by-law requirement to have two meetings in January but, as of right now, this is the only meeting this month. If you want to have two meetings in January, we can schedule one this week, before next Sunday.”

Jefferies: “We can make these meetings longer than normally if we have more agenda items. I do not see us needing an extra meeting.”

Motion to make the scheduled meetings longer if necessary and have one meeting in January.

Mover: Pittman

Seconder: Jefferies

Vote passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mover: Pittman

Seconder: Archibald

Vote passes unanimously.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Ella Wiggins: Election Presentation and Ratification

Fernandez: “Ella is not here, there must have been miscommunication as she was originally supposed to come two weeks ago, and I told her to come to the next meeting because they were cancelled. I will ensure she is at the next meeting. For the newly elected, it is the ratification of the results of the election and the process of the election.”

5.2 Faculty Councillor Updates

Computer Science Councillor, Sean Mackenzie: The CSA had their annual casino night, raising money for the Fredericton Community Kitchen. He has also been working on various committee initiatives and meeting to discuss a new possible policy.

Arts Councillor, Lidia Shibre: Looking forward to starting projects for her role!

Management Councillor, Molly Pittman: Had a faculty coffee house and the Business Administration Undergraduate Society election is coming up in February. They did a food drive and she dropped off 127 items to the Fredericton Food Bank in December.

Science Councillor, Mackenzie Brimicombe: Working with Sam Arseneau to organize the Science Society. Will be taking steps to ratify the society but first they will be talking to the Dean to ensure there is sustainable funding. She was asked to be a student representative for the search of the new Associate Dean.

Engineering Councillor, Shanece Wilson: Has been involved with the EUS on various projects: book buy and sell, hockey tournament, escape room, and student-led banquet. She is looking into possible councillor projects to help support the EUS, possibly a professional event to help meet their action plan.

Renaissance College Councillor, Olivia Penney: The RCS had a by-election to elect two Indigenous Representatives. They have a meeting scheduled with the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoquey Centre to discuss a new sign for the Renaissance College with multiple languages. She is also planning a green event with the RC Green Team.

Kinesiology Councillor, Jessie Bennett: Has been working with the Kinesiology Society in planning the Kinesiology Formal.

5.3 Craig Fernandez: Discussion on UNBSU absorbing Adult-Learners & Part-Time Students (ALPS)

President, Craig Fernandez, presents that, in the past, ALPS has tried to operate similar to the UNBSU but no longer has an executive or committee, therefore it has not benefitted anyone. He has been asked if the UNBSU can absorb ALPS, as they have a bank account and students who should benefit from scholarships and initiatives. This will take time and need to be passed through the Board of Governors and Senate. A lot of unions around the country represent part-time students. A proposition is to have a representative on Council who manages their funds. Part-time students currently pay \$10/class toward ALPS, which could go towards programming.

Bennett: “What are the benefits for part-time students?”

Fernandez: “Right now there is no one representing part-time students at Senate or the Board of Governors, where they have seats appointed by ALPS. They would gain representation as well as programming, such as a formal and excursions. From talking with mature and part-time students, they say it can be a lonely experience as they are often in classes with people who are in the full-time student lifestyle. It gives them people that they can connect with, who have similar experiences.”

E MacKenzie: “Would it be one representative for both adult learners and part-time students, or will they be separate things?”

Fernandez: "ALPS is the name they gave the group. There are adult learners that are full-time undergraduate students that we represent. I think they use that name because they noticed that a lot of part-time students are mature students who have full-time jobs and are taking a couple classes on the side. I would be open to anything if you want to have an adult learner representative and a part-time student representative on council. It is open to council on how we want to shape this vision."

Evans: "To me, an adult is eighteen years old, so I am curious where that line is drawn."

Fernandez: "It is an intentional grey area that differentiates the university experience of an eighteen-year-old and how that is different than a thirty-five-year-old student with a family. They wanted to capture that in their programming and offer things more oriented towards people with families or full-time jobs. We can also change the name so that it covers part-time students, which is more accurate."

Bouvier: "What currently makes someone a member of ALPS? Does it include graduate students?"

Fernandez: "Currently anyone enrolled in undergraduate studies, who is taking less than 3 classes. They pay \$10/class to ALPS, which has been used for scholarships and programming in the past."

Bouvier: "In the meantime, there is a lump sum that people have been paying into. This is something that we need to look at."

Fernandez: "Yes it is, and we would get that money as well as their lounge in Marshall d'Avary. I would want to be very careful about how we spend that money and I would not want it to come into general SU funds, as that would seem very shady. I would appreciate it going into an infrastructure development for students in that lounge, scholarship/bursaries, or something else for part-time students."

S Mackenzie: "I am assuming that, with the absorption, they would have full access to all the resources that full-time students currently have under the UNBSU?"

Fernandez: "Correct, however, it is currently set up with our health insurance provider, that part-time students cannot be covered under the health plan. It is difficult for them to cover part-time students and they are worried that people would take advantage and take one class just to get all the health benefits. They would have rest of the benefits of being in the union."

Jardine: "Do you know how many people pay into ALPS right now?"

Fernandez: "I do not have the exact numbers, but I know it is low with the recent changes of full-time student status being three courses. I believe it is around four or five hundred students."

Shibre: "You mentioned that they pay \$10 towards ALPS, but do they also pay into the UNBSU?"

Fernandez: "No they do not, our union currently only covers full-time undergraduate students."

Fazio: "Are you proposing they begin to pay UNBSU fees on top of \$10 ALPS fee?"

Fernandez: "No, I would propose a similar system to ALPS, where they pay per class. I do not see it being fair to charge part-time students the full union fees."

Bouvier: "Right now, I think a lot of our services are geared toward that eighteen-year-old demographic. I think we do a really good job of serving those people and, if we are going to be charging them money, we need to ensure that we do a good job offering services that would be useful to them."

Fernandez: "Absolutely. One part of why I am interested in this idea is because there is currently no one doing that for them, so it gives someone a chance."

Fazio: "Have you been able to gauge how part-time students feel about joining the UNBSU?"

Fernandez: "It is hard for me to do so with no current governing body. Previous ALPS executives think it as a great idea, and they have all been showing support, but it would be interesting to talk to current part-time students."

S Mackenzie: "Do they have access to the voting service? We could do a vote to gauge their opinion."

Fernandez: "That would be a question for ALPS and ITS. I do not know if they have access to the service."

Fazio: "It would be good to have a committee responsible for looking at this work because we can look at the different services that we offer and what we can do to make ourselves worthwhile for part-time students. We can put the work into gauging their response because having their feedback is very valuable and we should have a dedicated team to do that."

Zundel: "Would part-time students also be able to run for other positions on Council?"

Motion to refer the discussion of the UNBSU absorbing ALPS to the Advancement Committee.

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

5.4 Craig Fernandez: Discussion on UNBSU Action Plan 2023

President, Craig Fernandez, presents that the UNBSU Action Plan 2020 was written to accomplish a long-term strategic plan, as it is hard to make substantial change in one year, so this helps set broad goals. This plan is now expiring, so the executive has been brainstorming for the UNBSU Action Plan 2023, and they are looking for feedback from Council. They would like to keep the broad goals from the previous plan and add a sustainability goal as well as few more specific goals.

Mangusso: “To clarify, the one that you have is the 2020 version, which we are using as a skeleton. Nothing that we have done yet is presented in your meeting documents, this is to give you a guideline of what we are working with.”

Evans: “Do you plan on rewriting this completely or expanding on the old one?”

Fernandez: “We will be rewriting it completely. We are using this as a skeleton to build on because it already exists. Some parts are still relevant, but it needs to be rewritten and updated.”

Bouvier: “In the past three years, were there initiatives or programs the union has made that have been a direct result of this plan?”

Fernandez: “If you read through the document, a lot of it focuses around brand identity. It was part of this team’s vision to make a new brand and it has enhanced a lot in these past three years. Being more relevant and relatable to students is a big part of it. Previously, the SU was a very political organization and the student life piece was missing. This document captured that change and now we have high quality events and services that have been revamped. One thing we have looked into, which has not really come to light, is physical expansion of the union and acquiring space that we own beyond our offices. It is really difficult because there is no space to be acquired on our campus.”

Mangusso: “This is going to be a guide for teams in the future so, when we were looking at how we wanted to rewrite it, we did not want it to have strict checkpoints because we want future teams to have flexibility but also be able to set large strategic goals that can guide them. When you are new to the role,

it is nice to have something to go back to and look at the goals set by people who have a little more experience.”

Fernandez: “We have three questions that the executive has asked, and we want to get feedback from council.”

What does the UNBSU currently do well?

- *Supportive of councillor initiatives and ideas.*
- *Inclusive and respectful of the Indigenous community on campus.*
- *Events (ex. Winter carnival).*
- *Services (ex. Saferide).*
- *Using money in a way that is beneficial for the students.*
- *Listening to student concerns (ex: parking – created a committee).*

What does the UNBSU not do well?

- *Students do not have an accurate idea of what the SU does (ex: nation-wide advocacy).*
- *Some people do not get a lot out of the union.*
- *Could branch out from the SUB and host events in other buildings.*
- *More advocacy on campus.*
- *Try to make it relatable to all students.*
- *Sustainability of the executive - financials being operated by someone who is not elected.*
- *Letting students know how much the UNBSU does compared to other universities.*
- *Constituents not approaching their councillors because they are intimidated. Letting students know what councillors do and what they can bring to council.*

Jefferies: “A common theme is that students do not realize what the SU does. It is difficult when these events have been going on for a long time and they are integrated into their experience. How do you suggest we make that visible when it is inheritably not visible? How would you show that the SU does all these things without bragging?”

E MacKenzie: “We could go to first year classes and do a presentation about what the SU does. We have really good social media, but people do not always take away from that.”

Fernandez: “We did that this year and went to faculty orientation. It was a really good initiative and more people were interested in volunteering for events and asking more questions. It seems like the union struggles with communication and telling out story. Some strategic points moving forward could be about how we tell our story. How do we tell the value of the SU? It is very difficult to broaden when we do so that it encapsulates everybody. I think we are getting there and working at it each year.”

Pittman: “Not everyone remembers what happens during faculty orientation, so maybe incorporate it during orientation week and having a “What is the UNBSU?” event.”

What do you want to see from the UNBSU in 3 years?

- *Environmental sustainability – every event is a green event.*
- *For students from other universities to see how lucky we are and want to come to UNB (ex. Free Peer Assisted Learning, a great orientation week).*
- *More scrutiny by Council in regard to operations (ex. \$1.9 million budget passed in October while asking very few questions about where the money is going).*
- *Encouraging a culture of engagement and not being afraid to assert the purpose of Council.*
- *Creating a society for Indigenous students in the most holistic and decolonial way possible. During the time of peace and friendship treaties, European settlers and Indigenous peoples were supposed to live in harmony and work together in parallel while not crossing paths. Having the UNBSU and the society for Indigenous students working together to represent that.*
- *More collaboration and outreach with the city of Fredericton and local organizations (ex. Pride week).*
- *More events organized by the SU similar to the international night of orientation.*
- *Professors feel that UNB students work hard and have better outcomes due to services offered. Could obtain statistics about the influence of these services to tell students.*

5.5 Craig Fernandez: Orientation By-laws & Constitution

President, Craig Fernandez, updates that they looked into the orientation by-laws and constitution and noticed errors and omissions, so they decided to update the documents. Will be meeting with Sara Rothman and Gillian McLean at UNB Student Services.

5.6 Craig Fernandez: Advancement Committee – Formal Governance Review

President, Craig Fernandez, presents that Advancement Committee has decided to do a formal governance review to look at the structure of the union and employees. Will be reviewing the different structures around the country and creating a formal report with proposals.

Evans: “Did you see any major pros or cons for the different structures?”

Fernandez: “Some things work for different campuses and it depends on the culture of the campus and a lot of other variables. We are the only SU in the country that has an elected VP Finance. When you are looking at the longevity of the union, that is perhaps a threat because someone with no skill or ability could be in that position and do a lot of harm to the money.”

Motion to task the Advancement Committee with the formal governance review.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

5.7 Craig Fernandez: Acceptance of Signees

President, Craig Fernandez, presents that Policy Committee found, in the by-laws, that the signees of the SU need to be approved by Council.

Motion that the signees of the UNBSU: President Craig Fernandez, VP Finance & Operations Sam Arseneau, General Manager Karen Miner, and Administrative Assistant Terri Noble, be accepted.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Jefferies

Vote passes unanimously.

5.8 Grace Mangusso: Senator Resignation & Appointment Interim Senator

Vice President Internal, Grace Mangusso, presents that Emma Huestis has resigned from senate and council. Emma was in her first year of a two-year term. Council can appoint someone for the interim and the position will be advertised as a one-year term in the general election.

Sean Mackenzie indicates that he is interested in the Student Senator position.

E MacKenzie: “What about the people who are not here today?”

Mangusso: “Three people reached out to me to ask questions about the position. One of those people is not here but, we discussed it, and they decided not to run. I also indicated in my Facebook post that we would be voting at this meeting so anybody who is not here would have had the opportunity to indicate that they were interested.”

Sean Mackenzie leaves the room. Anyone with voting rights can vote yes or no for Sean Mackenzie as Student Senator.

Vote passes unanimously in favor of Sean Mackenzie as Student Senator, with three disqualified votes.

6 Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Promotion: general election, black shirt applications, sex week, promoting clubs and societies events, and information on the NBSA 2019 advocacy week.
- Council social media project will be starting now that we have new councillors.
- Higher Education Expert Social Media Conference in December, which she could not attend due to exams but has received all the presentations.
- Has been working with a videographer for the winter carnival video and a few councillor projects.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Sex week is February 10th-14th; need more volunteers. Possible events include CSASA ted talk style presentations, vagina monologues, trivia night, and on-site sexual health testing.
- Her and Drinksmart Coordinator will be doing an open session TIPS training on February 26th.
- Winter carnival was great, thank you for volunteering!

- AUS basketball tournament (February 28th-March 1st) in Halifax is sold out with a wait list.
- UNBSU Food team is doing a Share a Meal Campaign: supper at meal hall where students can choose to opt out of their supper and Sodexo will donate that money to Greener Village.

6.3 Vice President – Internal

- The think tank is finally done! Looking at the best way to make the space available. Will be open during office hours to use for meetings or events. Reach out to Grace to book the space. Possible options are to have booking system in the future or keep it open for students to hang out or study.
- Councillor merchandise should be done by mid-week.
- Doodle poll is still active for councillor meeting for this semester, sign up if you have not already.
- Breaking Stereotypes Campaign theme is indigenization and reconciliation in a colonial institution. Looking to have a small advisory committee led by Mick and Nadia. Looking for a small group of people to help, including two people from council.
- Internal Affairs Committee has an open educational resources survey for professors.
- Scholarship regulation proposal – senators did an awesome job this week! Two motions approved at senate: tasking the Senate Undergraduate Scholarship Committee to investigate a new method of awarding scholarships to all full-time students and a recommendation be put forth to the president of UNB that, for the 2020-2021 academic year, a pool of funding be allocated to the College of Extended Learning.

6.4 Vice President – Advocacy

- Working on the action plan for the 2023 document.
- Consultations for the Breaking Stereotypes Campaign.
- Awareness campaign about NBSA advocacy week, as well as letter writing campaign surrounding their asks from advocacy week. Has also been following up with the people that he met with during advocacy week and discussing how they will be supporting us.
- Supporting survivors of sexual violence through We Can Challenge Abuse Campaign.

- Alongside the Wellness Coordinator, he has been looking into creating a weekly breakfast program to provide nutrition for Monday mornings. Budget – \$100/week.

Bennett: “I think the breakfast room is a great idea, and I think it would be better if it started at 8am because a lot of students will be starting class at 8:30am and will not finish until lunch time.”

6.5 President

- General elections: nominations will open Monday and be open for two weeks, followed by two weeks of campaigning and then a week of voting.
- Red Awards Chair, Adrian Bolesnikov, will look into hiring a team over the next week.
- CASA – gearing up for advocacy week and the annual general meeting. Craig, Nadia, and Mick will be going to Ottawa during February 13th-23th to hopefully meet with every MP in Ottawa.
- NBSA – awareness campaign / pre-budget campaign.
- SEED program – a noticeable number of changes by the Minister of Postsecondary Education Training and Labor. NBSA does not agree with the changes and has been working on challenging them.
- Policy Committee is still going through the by-laws. The plan is to finish the updates and send to a lawyer for approval.
- The think tank is done!
- Winter carnival was awesome!
- Parking Committee – Craig and Chris had a meeting with the Assistant Vice President Capital Planning. Last year, the university had a report done to review parking, which contained a lot of recommendations which were not utilized. Will be looking at that document to create a more formal proposal.
- Joint project with the STU Student Union for changes to the trail that connects the campuses. Looking to improve lighting, safety, maintenance, and give the trail an official title.
- University Public Relations Committee – the fire department can search any housing that is believed to be at risk and make sure that wires, piping, etc. are safe. They are also looking to put forward a

checklist of things for students to look for, when looking for housing. Also looking to do a sustainability project involving a furniture exchange program to promote sustainability and decrease the amount of furniture being burned.

- Divestment from fossil fuels – UNB President would like to meet with Craig to talk about why divestment is important and has also been asked to come to council to discuss the topic.
- Thank you to Nadia for her hard work with organizing the smudge!
- Shout out to senate for doing an awesome job at the last meeting!

7 Announcements

Mangusso: Marilee Sulewski will be here next week to talk about the retail services review. She submitted her report to the university a couple weeks ago. Strategic planning wrapped up on Friday and the committee met one last time to do a review for the president. There is now a free menstrual product dispenser in the female washroom in the SUB, as part of Emily MacKenzie's councillor project!

Wysote: Wet'suwet'en Solidarity Rally on Wednesday regarding the coastal gas company who has been trying to build a pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territory.

Bouvier: UNB administration is presenting next year's budget tomorrow at the Wu Centre.

8 Question Period

E MacKenzie: "For sex week, we are thinking of a general kickoff health-fair. We have AIDS NB, the nursing faculty, the 203, the Women's Centre, Qmunity, the psych society, and the nurse practitioner. If you know anyone who would be interested, please let me know."

Bouvier: "I was looking for a budget for the NBSA and I was not able to find it."

Jefferies: "NBSA's budget should be on their website. We have a meeting this week so if it is not on the website, I can attach it to council or in the Facebook group. Also, we are looking at capping UNB's financial contribution to NBSA. Right now, we all pay per student, per institution. We have the largest student population of all member schools, so we are paying about four times the amount of everyone else, and we fund half of the NBSA. We have been looking into propositions for capping it at a certain point because, right now, we are the only school in NB that is increasing enrollment."

9 Other business

Mangusso: “Mick and I are looking for one or two people to be on an advisory committee for the Breaking Stereotypes Campaign.”

S Mackenzie: “I want to say thank you, I am very excited to work with the rest of the senator team and hopefully it is going to be a good few months!”

10 Adjournment

Mover: Brimicombe

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.