

AGENDA – 14th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2019/20

March 22, 2020; 7:00 via Google Meet

Not Present: Adarshna Chhetri, Mick Jefferies, Nadia Wysote



1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Gill performs roll call.

Chair Gill calls the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to add 5.8 COVID-19 Academic Guidelines and approve amended agenda.

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: Lutes

Vote passes unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks

Council Chair, Gill, makes her remarks by saying "Last meeting's minutes will be approved next week. We will do general consent for votes and I will ask for any dissenters and abstainers. If no one speaks up, we will assume everyone agrees."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mover: Fernandez

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates

Management Councillor, Molly Pittman, is working with a faculty advisor to instruct students on how to register for courses. All faculty events have been cancelled for the remainder of the year.

Nursing Councillor, Emily McMillan, was organizing a gala which will no longer happen. Thinking about doing something online with self-care. The faculty is figuring out requirements and clinical hours. A lot of students may be going back into hospitals to help with COVID-19.

Science Councillor, MacKenzie Brimicombe, was working on the science gala which has been cancelled. She is sitting on the committee to find a new Assistant Dean, which has been postponed for a few months.

Engineering Councillor, Shanee Wilson, informs that the EUS will be holding elections online. She will not be able to complete her councillor project as planned but is looking into doing something online. The EUS acquired \$8000 in alumni donations for mental health initiatives and a food security program.

Computer Science Councillor, Sean Mackenzie, had the first search committee meeting for an Assistant Dean of graduate studies and outreach. Further meetings have been delayed. He is working with the co-op coordinator to make a plan for current and future co-op students. Will be delaying or cancelling the end of year banquet, scheduled for late May.

Renaissance College Councillor, Olivia Penney, informs that all summer internships have been cancelled. Her plant potting event was cancelled but she left the plants in the student lounge for students to take. The RCS is conducting society elections online.

Arts Councillor, Lidia Shibre, informs that the arts formal went really well with 92 students from faculty and outside faculty. She was working with Matt MacLean from the counselling center to find ways to help students with end of year and exam season stress management. That has been postponed and they are planning on collaborating with the arts peer mentors to have regular sessions. She is helping find an Arts 1000 lecturer for next year. She was sitting on the search committee for Assistant Dean both for academic and graduate school/research, which has been postponed.

Law Councillor, Chris Lutes, informs that COVID-19 has put a lot of things on pause and Policy Committee met yesterday.

Kinesiology Councillor, Jessie Bennett, was working to create a new study space in the kinesiology building but that was not working so she switched her project into making bathroom readers, but will now switch to an online project about “how to study in your own space”. She was helping the Kinesiology Society with their events, but they have been cancelled.

5.2 Craig Fernandez: Approval of Orientation Constitution and Bylaws

President, Craig Fernandez, presents the edits made by a working group to the orientation constitution and bylaws.

S Mackenzie: “Are we considering looking into the involvement of the executive VPs as event coordinators?”

Fernandez: “We can have a discussion about possibly not allowing SU executives, with the exception of VP Finance & Operations and VP Student Life, to be BlackShirts. Last year, those two as well as VP Internal and VP Advocacy were all BlackShirts and it was very difficult. The SU essentially could not function for two to three weeks.”

Evans: “Did they hire two extra people that are going to replace those positions?”

Fernandez: “The VP Finance & Operations and VP Student Life are automatically members of the BlackShirt team, mainly because the VP Student Life plans the concert and VP Finance & Operations manages the finances of orientation week. VP Internal and VP Advocacy do not have official roles in orientation week but BlackShirt hiring happens before elections and Grace and Mick were hired to be BlackShirts then were elected as executives and kept both roles.”

Lutes: “It makes sense for executives to focus on their duties as much as possible, especially at the start of the year. I do not know if it is feasible to get the VPs, who are currently involved, to be less involved but having executives focused on the roles that they have been elected to do is optimal.”

Fazio: “Have we consulted with the Orientation Week Chairs?”

Fernandez: “We brought it up but they are both new to the role and neither of them have been BlackShirts. They saw both sides but did not have much of an opinion.”

Fazio: "I do not know if it sits within the role of the union to restrict individuals from these opportunities. We have executives who are also highly committed to other endeavors. There could potentially be provision in the hiring of the BlackShirts that says, if you are also considering running for an executive position, ensure you are committed and recognize the amount of work. I do not think it falls within our scope to force people out of opportunities."

Fernandez: "I disagree because we oversee both bodies. It would be similar to another organization hiring someone for two jobs, knowing they are not able to fulfill them both because the workload is too much. They are missing their office hours for two to three weeks or ignoring orientation duties to fulfill office hours. Mick and Grace both made it happen and they got their work done, but the union could have been running at a better speed in September."

Arseneau: "I was a BlackShirt and it is not possible to do both jobs well at the same time. You are gone for BlackShirt training a week before orientation starts, and then for the full orientation week. You are put behind by two full weeks during the busiest time of year. When multiple executives are doing that, the union is basically shut down for that time. It also creates an inequality within the executive, because it is part of the job description for the VP Finance & Operations and VP Student Life to be BlackShirts, so they do not receive an honorarium, whereas any other executives who are hired as BlackShirts do. My original idea was to not allow the VP Student Life and VP Finance & Operations to be involved during orientation week. They should be involved in the planning process and finances, but they should not be running events or have an official BlackShirt role during orientation week."

Bennett: "In agreeance with what Sam said, we have a lot of excellent leaders at UNB so we should give more people the chance to have leadership opportunities. Someone may be great for both roles, but we have enough good leaders to separate them and not have people filling dual roles."

Thibodeau: "Proctors are not allowed to apply for a BlackShirt role due to holding dual roles, so that should be the same for the executives considering they all have a job to do during orientation week."

Mangusso: "The BlackShirt team is often selected before the SU elections. How would we go about enforcing this rule if we decide to put it in place? Would it be that anybody could apply to be a

BlackShirt then, if they are elected onto the executive, they would have to withdraw and somebody else replaces them?”

Fernandez: “I imagine that if you have been hired as a BlackShirt and elected for the executive, you would have to choose one or the other.”

Mangusso: “Say somebody gets both and decides not to be a BlackShirt, then would somebody who was originally told they were not hired as a BlackShirt be hired? If they chose to be a BlackShirt instead of executive, would we need to hold a separate election?”

Fernandez: “You would follow the bylaws for those positions.”

Arseneau: “It is too late for it to happen this year, so there could be more conversations with Jillian and Sarah to adjust the BlackShirt hiring timeline. BlackShirts do not do much work until the summer so the timeline could be adjusted to associate more with the general election.”

Pittman: “We should be able to hire the BlackShirts after the election, as a few weeks should not make a big difference.”

Evans: “Would an executive be able to be a RedShirt?”

Fernandez: “There is currently nothing preventing people from doing that, as per the bylaws.”

Fazio: “A potential way to mitigate this issue would be to redefine the executive roles, in the context of orientation. I cannot speak to whether or not there should be some involvement and if that is valuable to the orientation team, but there could possibly be a provision stating that they cannot be BlackShirts but are suggested to do certain work in regard to orientation, or are BlackShirts who only have certain duties, such as not running their pods.”

Motion to approve the orientation constitution and bylaws and continue this conversation at another time.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Shibre

Vote passes unanimously.

5.3 Craig Fernandez: First Reading of UNBSU Bylaws

President, Craig Fernandez, presents the changes made to the updated UNBSU bylaws.

S Mackenzie: “For a while in the voting software, if you are doing a double major, you have had to choose to only vote in one of the two faculties. When it comes to the voting software, will students now be able to vote for both their majors?”

Fernandez: “Our bylaws should not be bound by what ITS is able to do. We should make our bylaws and find a software that accommodates that.”

Fazio: “As a concurrent student, thank you! This has been frustrating because I am impacted by both faculties and I have only been able to choose one to vote for. Speaking from a computer science perspective, this should not be too challenging.”

Motion to pass the UNBSU bylaws through the first reading of council.

Mover: Fernandez

Secunder: Zundel

Vote passes unanimously.

5.4 Sam Arseneau: Final Budget Review

Vice President Finance & Operations, Sam Arseneau, presents the final budget. The revenue is much lower than the estimate given by the university. Ended the year with a \$1000 surplus but that is not reflective of a typical year, due to COVID-19.

S Mackenzie: “Under programs and events, the Red Awards have a cost of \$10,000. Seeing as the Red Awards were cancelled, do we still have to pay that much?”

Arseneau: “There will probably be a few expenses that cannot be cancelled, but it will not be the full \$10,000. That will likely be pushed to next year’s budget or redistributed to cover other costs throughout the year.”

Bouvier: “If this had been a typical year, how big do you think that shortcoming would have been?”

Arseneau: “It is hard to guess but I would assume \$10,000-15,000 deficit if we were to continue the year and operate with the same capacity as last year, in terms of the Red Awards, the Red and Black

Revue, SafeRide, etc. The large deficit is because a lot of things increased this year, which were out of our control, such as insurance, unexpected orientation expenses, rent, etc. With the NBSA fee increase, next year will also cost us an additional \$6000. It is important to consider a UNBSU fee increase and levy. Student fees per year are \$118 at UNBF, \$560 at Mount Allison, \$155 at STU, \$140 at UNBSJ, \$154 at Dalhousie, \$162 at Saint Mary's, and \$194 at Acadia. It seems that our fee is unreasonably low compared to other Atlantic universities. We do amazing work with what we have but we are getting to the end of our rope. If some things do not change, we will have to start cutting.”

Fazio: “Will we be consulting with students about a fee increase? We were in a similar circumstance in 2018, when the NBSA increased their fee by \$1.00 and we upped our union fees, and there was a lot of pushback about there not being any student consultation.”

Arseneau: “I would like to gauge council's opinions and then we would do further consultations with students.”

S Mackenzie: “Do you have a recommended sustainable fee increase, which would last more than a year or two?”

Arseneau: “As a minimum, a \$5 increase would get us in a solid financial situation for the next few years. That would be split by going to the NBSA fee increase, cover extra costs for offices, increase conference funding, and offer opportunities for councilors to attend conferences. It was wonderful to send Nadia to the conferences in Ottawa but that was only possible because of funding from CASA. The rest of the revenue would go to clubs and societies with a portion going to the support center lines at the 203 and the Women's Center. SafeRide would also have an increase because the vans will likely need to be replaced soon. A small amount would also go to entertainment to maintain the precedent that has been set. A \$5 increase would get us back to even, but I would propose an ideal situation of a \$10 increase for the year, which would still bring us \$12 below UNBSJ's SU fees. Those additional funds would be to increase pay for certain honoraria positions, like the CRO, who put in a lot more hours than their honoraria covers. To also offer more paid positions to students who do everything volunteer based. We would also be able to save for future expenses, such as new SafeRide vans, as well as for future financing

opportunities. We currently hire a videographer and graphic designer, but it would be great to have more opportunities for students to do contract based and hourly work. It would also allow us to buy new infrastructure such as software for the clubs and societies which could be integrated with SERC, or new voting or tutoring software. Ideally, I would suggest a \$10 increase.”

Zundel: “Have you thought of any ongoing fee increase ideas to match inflation?”

Arseneau: “The National Bank of Canada has inflation at 2%, so as long as we have a minimum 2%, we are staying ahead of the curve. We are currently remaining stagnant, so I would recommend a 2-3% increase every year with a flat increase this year.”

Motion to approve the final budget.

Mover: Arseneau

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

5.5 Sam Arseneau: Clubs and Societies Policy Update (Finance Committee)

Vice President Finance & Operations, Sam Arseneau, presents a change to the Clubs and Societies Policy, in regard to defining the duplication of services or activities of an existing group. They decided that, if the VP Finance & Operations decides there may be a duplication, the club must present a statement to council about how their club differentiates from existing groups.

Shibre: “If the new club is similar, will they have the options of joining the existing club or not being a club? Can we ask the existing club to absorb the new people and how do the two executive teams work?”

Arseneau: “Say it was a duplication of services or activities, we can direct the new group of students towards the club of already existing members and executive and provide contact information. I do not think it is council’s place to decide if they were to merge or absorb a group.”

Bouvier: “With the clause around hiring processes for conferences, the policy puts out reasonable restrictions on how hiring should be done to keep it fair. The last clause is that the standard can be waived

by the Clubs and Societies Committee, as approved by council. I was wondering why that clause is included.”

Arseneau: “That clause is also used for ratification status. It leaves it open for extenuating circumstances and allows council to vote if other measures were available to take. I would not expect that to be used widely. To clarify, this is in the section updated by Policy Committee.”

Motion to approve the Clubs and Societies Policy update from Finance Committee.

Mover: Arseneau

Secunder: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

5.6 Sam Arseneau: Clubs and Societies Policy Review (Policy Committee)

Vice President Finance & Operations, Sam Arseneau, presents the Clubs and Societies Policy, in regard to conference ratification. Conferences will need to provide a constitution as well as terms of reference, which shall include a timeline of conference planning, a funding model, and logistics. Standards for the hiring process have also been updated.

Motion to approve the Clubs and Societies Policy update from Policy Committee.

Mover: Arseneau

Secunder: Penney

Vote passes unanimously.

5.7 Grace Mangusso: Undergraduate Scholarship Proposal

Vice President Internal, Grace Mangusso, presents the undergraduate scholarship proposal. The objective is to align the new full-time student definition and scholarship eligibility.

5.8 Craig Fernandez: COVID-19 Academic Guidelines

President, Craig Fernandez reopens the conversation regarding COVID-19 academic guidelines, which began at the council meeting on Friday, March 20th. The overlying issues will be their impact on admissions, scholarships, good academic standing, GPA, etc. The UNBSU will continue to explore ways to ensure that all students are supported.

S Mackenzie: "I spoke with students from my faculty and their opinions were split down the middle so I see how this could go either way."

Brimicombe: "I spoke with Dr. Val Reeves, who is having a meeting with all graduating chemistry students tomorrow to ensure we understand what it would mean if we had the credit/no credit (CR/NCR) system because a lot of schools may have a problem comparing that for admissions for competitive programs. The consensus of chemistry students is to have the option to choose the CR/NCR or letter grade."

Fernandez: "I worry that, if we ask the university to change things right now, there will be significant pushback because a lot of students like having choice. I am interested in continuing with the current system and advocating to see how it will impact scholarships and GPA and ensure that student looking to get into other institutions are taken care of. Rather than dealing with hypotheticals, I would rather approach the university and ensure that these other measures are being taken to ensure students who are disadvantaged are not seeing negative implications on things like scholarships and admission."

Lutes: "What measures could be done down the line to prevent people, who are disadvantaged now, from being disadvantaged in the future?"

Fernandez: "It depends on your definition of disadvantaged now. I do not fully understand how the CR/NCR system significantly helps disadvantaged students."

Lutes: "By creating a system where students are able to choose, there will be students who are not significantly impacted by COVID-19, who will be able to choose to have their grades represented, rather than CR/NCR on their transcript. That puts them at an advantage over students who are disadvantaged and have to choose CR/NCR. I understand that it is good for people to have choice but, in this case, it creates the likelihood for students who are disadvantaged by COVID-19, more than others, to be disadvantaged when it comes to hiring and academic graduate programs."

Mangusso: "Depending on your definition of disadvantaged, there may be students who you would define to be academically disadvantaged in terms of academic probation. If they were pushed to the CR/NCR system, it would not impact their GPA and they would be stuck in academic probation for

another semester, regardless of their grades. When you limit the choice, there are so many different people who are impacted differently. I do not know what the impacts would be, regardless of what we advocated for, but I would say we could proactively advocate to administration. Since they have given students this choice, we could work with them as they develop strategies for looking at scholarships, dean's list, and AGPA. This ensures the university is being held accountable for the decisions they have made, and students are not penalized for taking advantage of the choices they are presented with."

Pittman: "I agree with Chris, but if the system that is currently in place stays, it is important that students know the implications of choosing CR/NCR versus a letter grade, because a lot of students may choose without knowing. At UNB, if one person has CR and another person has a B-, will they choose the person who has a B- or a credit? I think that is where the discrepancy comes from and students need to know the implications."

Fernandez: "I think this is becoming a debate because we do not know what those implications are. We do not know if a student who chooses CR/NCR would be looked at differently than a student who chooses a letter grade. It is looking like a lot of admissions boards would be encouraged to ignore the grades from winter 2020, but we do not know. I can reach out to our VP Academic and other members of administration to ask if there are going to be different repercussions for choosing CR/NCR over a letter grade."

Pittman: "Someone could have an A- and the admissions would know that student received 80-85%, but someone who chooses CR could have gotten a 51%, and that is where the discrepancy lies."

McMillan: "A lot of us are unsure of what is going to happen with the grades, but I believe that students should be given the choice of what is going to happen with their grades because it is an individual decision. People should make an educated decision, so we could perhaps promote what it means for all choices. Also, the passing percentages are different in different faculties. In nursing, our clinical is a CR/NCR and does not affect our GPA. Some days I wish we did get a grade if I felt I did very well. I feel that choice is important, and I am glad that the university is looking into this because some

people will not be able to get a good letter grade. Students cannot complete biology or chemistry labs, so choice is important moving forward.”

Fazio: “We may not have enough information to make this decision. I have been looking at universities across the country, and they are also split. It would be worthwhile to have a conversation with administration and recruitment, and recommend that they release a policy, in regard to students applying for the university, about how they are dealing with marks from other institutions.”

Shibre: “The students that I spoke with were split and came to the conclusion of wanting choice but also wanting everyone to be assessed in the same way. One student said that she can chose a letter grade if she is doing well or a CR/NCR if she is not doing well. That led to a conversation of admissions seeing a mix of grades and CR/NCR on a transcript. Students do not understand how a mixture within their own transcripts will affect them. Also, what will UNB do for upper-level and graduating students to help them succeed at other schools?”

Fernandez: “I assume some measures can be taken to outline the situation or decisions made at UNB. There may also be an agreeance between universities to treat this semester’s marks a certain way since they will be getting a mixture from different schools. I do not have an answer right now, but I can have that conversation.”

Lutes: “I think we all want what is best for the student body as a whole. Choice is important and is usually good. My issue is that there are some students where this is not really a choice. There are people who are unduly put out by COVID-19, by having sick relatives, not being able to access mental health services, and all the secondary and tertiary effects of this crisis. There will be some students who feel they do not have a choice other than to take CR/NCR and those are the people we need to think about. You said admissions are being encouraged to ignore letter grades, which is all the more reason to go CR/NCR because it implies that these grades are not a good indication of academic performance. I want to underline what Lidia said and that it will look weird to have some CR courses and some letter grades on a transcript. With academic probation, if we go to a CR/NCR system, there are things we can do to work around these issues. This goes back to human nature of people who will be hiring or making

admissions decisions in the future. When you have two candidates who are otherwise all equal, but one student took CR/NCR courses and the other received all A-, it is obvious they would take the student who got all A-, despite the fact that we do not know the other student's grades."

Fazio: "I worry that if we give all UNB students CR/NCR, it may not be enough to say that it was a university decision when competing against someone with a full transcript of grades."

E MacKenzie: "We are focusing on admissions and this semester may not be considered for admission, but our GPAs will be. A lot of people have already established how they are doing in their classes by this point, so having the choice to take your good grade and have it count for your GPA is important. It is more important to consider how it is impacting your GPA because you would not be considered for admissions if you do not reach the GPA requirement."

Brimicombe: "With the possibility of admissions almost ignoring this semester, that can be problematic because a lot of programs require prerequisite courses, and if you do not attain a certain grade for a course, you cannot apply to the program. Taking a CR/NCR can have some serious implications for student's futures."

Fernandez: "I can set up a call with the VP Academic to discuss the implications of these choices and if there will be disparities for students who choose different options and how it will affect GPA. I can summarize the details of that conversation and post them online for you to view. Depending on the outcome of that conversation, we can choose to advocate for a change in policy or continue with the current policy to develop educational materials and ensure students understand the choice they are making. We can also advocate for how our own institution will treat winter 2020 grades, with regard to admission and scholarships. I will accept questions from all of you and ensure they get answered."

Lutes: "I have a question about the timeline. This document comes from the subcommittee that has been tasked with dealing with COVID-19 and they are going to bring their recommendations to senate, who will vote. How much time is there before that vote?"

Fernandez: “Senate voted to give this body the ability to make decisions so I do not believe this will go to another vote. As far as anyone is concerned, this is how the university is proceeding. We could pressure them to change it, but it is not coming to another vote.”

Bouvier: “This will be ratified by senate at our next meeting on March 31st.”

Mangusso: “Decisions made by the Bi-Campus COVID-19 Response Steering Committee are done in consultation with the VP Academic, VP Saint John and registrars, who will report back to senate for ratification. My assumption is that what has been communicated to students already is the way they are going with things. I am sure there will be an update at the next senate meeting, on March 31st.”

Fernandez: “I will include Grace on that call, and we will discuss your questions. We will also find out how final this decision was and if it will be ratified by Senate or if it is the final decision.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Garden Coordinator applications are due today.
- Working with the Red Awards Chair and executive to post winners online.
- Breaking Stereotypes was launched and feedback was amazing!
- Updating on campus closures and posting more resources and supports for students.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Executive discussed potentially getting taxi chips for students going to the airport.
- Working on a student support questionnaire to assess student needs during COVID-19.
- Will be going home to PEI and will be working from home.

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Worked on the final budget.
- Policy Committee finished the bylaws and review of the Clubs and Societies Policy.
- Finance Committee finished the review of the Clubs and Societies Policy.
- Hiring for a Gardening Coordinator.

- UNBSU will not be providing funding to clubs and societies and events for the remainder of the academic year

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Councillor honorariums will not be impacted by councillor projects being cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Sitting on the review/search committee for a new Dean of Libraries. A feedback system is currently open.
- VP Academic, George MacLean’s term is done next summer. The new VP Internal will be sitting on the review/search committee.
- Meeting with Academic Planning Committee later this week.
- Met with Mark Walma and Emily MacKenzie about expanding her councillor project of the menstrual product dispensers around campus.
- Breaking Stereotypes was launched – very successful! Thank you to everyone involved!

6.5 President

- Working on addressing COVID-19.
- NBSA Annual General Meeting was last weekend – he could not attend but was kept up to date.
- Worked on the final budget with Sam.
- Transitioning Sean into the role of President for next year.

7. Announcements

8. Question Period

9. Other Business

Mangusso: “I am looking for a student in political science to sit on a search committee.”

Fernandez: “With regard to a fee increase, we need to make a decision on how to move forward if we want to move forward, and how to get student feedback. Last time it increased, there was no consultation and it did not go well. Are you in favor of a \$10, \$5, or no increase and what do you feel we

should do for student engagement? This needs to move forward soon because it needs to be approved by the Board of Governors.”

S Mackenzie: “I think that \$5-10 is reasonable. I believe it is also important to have a reoccurring increase based on the NB inflation index, or a static 2-3 %. It is important so that we are not constantly asking students for more money and it does not seem like as big of an increase.”

Lutes: “I am in favor of a \$10 increase. Are these types of increases to the general fees levy usually adopted by a referendum?”

Fernandez: “Sometimes the executive will choose to do a referendum and sometimes they will not. I think it would make sense and we can launch a referendum right now, within the bylaws, we just need the resolution of council. A lot of schools do that, and it is god practice.”

Fazio: “To give a historical background, in 2018, we proposed \$2.50 and council decided on a \$1.50 increase. In 2015, we did a \$10/semester increase so it is relatively normal, and this price range is not bizarre. I think it is a good idea given our budget and that we do not want to be running at a deficit because we want to support student services. I think student engagement in some regard is important because the student body has not been happy with not being included.”

S Mackenzie: “Normally I would agree with a referendum, however with our current situation, I am not sure if it would be the best approach since students are not currently at the university. It may not be their primary focus, so we may not get an accurate view of the majority of students. It would also be difficult to give the information as to where this money would be going. Where this is something that could heavily affect next year’s budget, a referendum may not be the best approach. I would suggest receiving input from student through surveys or something similar.”

Fernandez: “I understand Sean’s concerns about a referendum and voter turnout not being great. Perhaps we can look at a survey asking if they support a SU fee increase and ask they comment why or why not.”

Lutes: “I really think we should push for a referendum. This is a major decision and I think it should happen, but I think it should be a decision in the students’ hands, given that is who will be

affected. I agree that this is not the best time but there are ways that we can educate the student body and most of the ways that we would normally promote it can still be done. On voter turnout, that is true, but referendum never get the majority of students voting anyway.”

Bouvier: “I agree with Chris and think it is really important to have a formal referendum. That is good practice for the SU and very appropriate for this amount of a fee increase.

Fernandez: “Moving forward, if we get any complaints, we could say they had the opportunity to vote in the referendum. I would like to move forward with a developing a referendum for a \$10 fee increase if there is no dissent.”

Shibre: “What is the timeline moving forward?”

Fernandez: “We do not need to vote tonight. Perhaps everyone can think about it and we will vote next week. If the vote is approved, then we will have a referendum.”

Shibre: “You also mentioned presenting this to the Board of Governors?”

Fernandez: “It needs to be approved by the Board of Governors because they collect our fees. They do not have their meeting until the end of April.”

S Mackenzie: “In the case that a referendum was not passed, that leaves us in a hard situation for next year with not much time to recover and push for something lower. What would your advice be if that were to happen?”

Fernandez: “In that case we would have to sit down and look at the budget. If students were not in agreeance with a fee increase, we could not go ahead regardless.”

10. Adjournment

Mover: McMillan

Secunder: Bennett

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.