

AGENDA – 7th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2019/20

November 24, 2019; 7:00 in SUB 103

Regrets: Craig Fernandez, Mick Jefferies, Nadia Wysote, Kelsi Evans, Olivia Penney, Emma Huestis, Tea Fazio



1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Gill performs roll call.

Chair Gill calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to remove items 6.5 and 6.6 from the agenda.

Mover: Mangusso

Seconder: Brimicombe

Vote passes unanimously.

Motion to approve the amended agenda.

Mover: Gallant

Seconder: Archibald

Vote passes unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks

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

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mover: Pittman

Seconder: S Mackenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Lesley Balcom: Research Commons

Mangusso extends her speaking rights to Lesley Balcom.

Dean of Libraries, Lesley Balcom, speaks about a few initiatives at the Harriet Irving Library (HIL), specifically the renovation project on the third floor. Balcom reviews the layout of the floor, explaining each section. Balcom also speaks on the late-night hours at the HIL, which means that the HIL is open until 2am Sunday-Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Balcom also explains the student survey, in which they asked about how much time students are spending in the libraries. Another survey was done to explore why certain students are not using the library. Balcom explains the exam bank, which is encouraging instructors to deposit previous versions of exams for students to use. Balcom also mentioned that there is a room on the first floor where a group of artists developed art to be installed in that room. The objective was to create a welcoming space for indigenous students at the HIL.

Bouvier: “Last year, I heard from quite a few people who said that not much productive work was happening after 2am so I am glad to see that we are being more efficient.”

Bouvier: “On the exam bank, are they physical copies deposited to the library or are they electronic?”

Balcom: “If they are physically deposited with us, we scan them, so it is an electronic access.”

E MacKenzie: “Are professors hesitant to upload exams to the exam bank? There is not that many, so do you find that it is because no one knows about it or because they are hesitant?”

Balcom: “Last year’s Student Union had a bit of a challenge because it was new, and they were trying to help instructors understand what it was. There were a couple of early adopters who were willing to go with it. My advice to the Student Union would be that I do not think the library can be the advocates, that needs to come from students. We have built it and we would be happy to work with you to refresh any PR materials, but I think it is probably going to take leg work to engage people.”

Mangusso: “I have been working with Michael Nason and we have developed a one-pager explaining what the exam bank is and some more information about it. We are waiting on ITS to get a UNB email address where professors can send their old exams. We would both have access so that I could correspond, and he could upload them to the exam bank. We are still waiting to get that email address but, in the meantime, we are listing both of our emails and we will be going to Dean’s Council next week to talk to all the deans so that the information can be sent from the top level.”

Bouvier: “I am so pleased to see how the space on the third floor is being aimed towards students. The Visualization Center and things like Maker Space are really extending the offering of the UNB Libraries!”

5.2 Mark Walma: Alcohol Policy

Motion to extend speaking rights to Mark Walma and Sara Rothman.

Mover: Mangusso

Seconder: E MacKenzie

Vote passes unanimously.

Assistant Vice President Student Services, Mark Walma, and Senior Director of Academic Success, Sara Rothman, present on the alcohol policy and the changes that have been made since they presented to council last year. The two major changes are no longer selling highly caffeinated energy drinks with alcohol and setting a minimum pricing model which will be re-evaluated annually. Rothman also presents responses from the survey and the general themes within the feedback. Walma adds that after reviewing the feedback, there has been an addition to the policy, regarding alcohol education.

Mangusso: “Is this feedback entirely from students or from members of the UNB community as a whole?”

Rothman: “It is from all members of the UNB community, but primarily from students.”

Walma: “In your experience, do you see a lot of underage people in the pubs?”

S Mackenzie: “I remember at First Class Bash this year, I saw people that are just starting university, some of them are 17 or 18 years old.”

Wilson: “I have been here a while and I want to say that the bars are doing a lot better in comparison to my first year. They have improved a lot, even though there is still work to be done.”

Zundel: “I certainly think they are doing a lot better than the bars off campus.”

Thibodeau: “I wanted to make a note that, in residence, it mentions unsupervised drinking but that is why the proctors are there.”

Rothman: “These are just quotes that were pulled from the survey.”

Shrestha: “Is there a large focus in the policy about drinking in the residences or is it more focused on drinking in the Social Club, the Cellar and other businesses on campus?”

Walma: “The policy has a section for campus-specific standards, and those talk about training for bar staff, the CPs and those kinds of things. It does not specifically refer to training in residence, as residence is not dealt with specifically in the policy, because it has its own rules.”

Zundel: “What thought has been given to the effect that the additional pricing will have on low-income students or around encouraging other unsafe drinking habits, such as forcing people away from drinking in a social situation and towards either off-campus or drinking in their rooms?”

Walma: “A minimum pricing rule is not to say that the prices have to go up, it is simply to say that they will be consistent. My expectation is that, with the representation on the UNB Committee to Manage Alcohol on Campus (CMAC), the minimum price will be set below what the Cellar usually sells things for. The idea is to avoid those situations where an event or a pub tries to draw prices to one dollar per shot because those types of things encourage significant volume intake in short periods of time. One of the things that Craig said at the meeting is that he wanted to make sure that the prices were not set so low that the Cellar is no longer able to pay its bills, but also not so high that it drives students away. It is not intended to create higher prices, but to avoid the rock-bottom prices.”

Lutes: “You did not really answer the question of how you can justify the disproportionate impact that this will still have on lower income students. Virtually the fact that you are targeting price rather than volume means that this is going to happen.”

Walma: “The minimum price standard is not intended to raise the prices. If the prices remain approximately where they are, then it has the same impact on all students that it is having now.”

Lutes: “What is the purpose of setting that minimum standard?”

Walma: “To avoid some events or bars putting on such low prices that they are encouraging significant drinking for brief periods of time.”

Pittman: “All this feedback is from those who misunderstood the policy. I am positive that there is valuable feedback from those who did understand the policy. Could you speak on that feedback and how you implemented it?”

Walma: “This survey was done before the changes were made. Much of it was based on volume, so with most of the feedback we got plus the feedback from the bar staff, the committee looked at it and said that we needed to move away from it because it did not seem to be an appropriate approach. It was not an approach that the bar staff could implement properly while doing the rest of their job well, so we made a significant change there. The education section was added to the policy specifically because of the feedback we got from the survey. Those are the two major changes that were made.”

Brimicombe: “As a proctor in residence, a lot of our job is not to tell our students, who are underage, not to be drinking. We are making sure that they are doing it safely, or if they have not been doing it safely, that they know to access us and that we are there to help them and not to reprimand them. With this kind of model, how do you think that is going to influence life on campus? If you are telling these students that they cannot do something, speaking from experience, they are going to do it anyway, and we want to make sure that they are safe in doing it instead of trying to hide from everyone.”

Rothman: “Where do you see, in the policy, anything that would change the work that you currently do as a proctor?”

Brimicombe: “I think that by changing the pricing model and even before, with the previous discussion of limiting volume, telling students that you are going to restrict what they are doing is going to make them want to do it more. That is something that I have noticed as someone who has lived in residence for four years. I wanted to see where there are thoughts behind how this might affect life in residence. If they do not have enough money to go out and have a drinking night with their friends at the Cellar, they are going to drink as much in their room behind a closed door.”

Rothman: “I apologize because I am not sure that I fully appreciate or understand what you are saying. The research is out there that making some incremental changes is not likely to drive patrons away. If we were looking to change pricing so that it was massively different, which I do not believe is

anybody's intention, that might have a detrimental effect in terms of folks forgetting the bars. If there are some slight nudges in terms of price, like eliminating that rock bottom potential, then I think folks are still going to be there. The research certainly shows that they will. We are hoping that it will also have a nudging effect on the number of drinks somebody consumes over the course of the evening, and keeping folks safe, because safety and wellbeing is ultimately the driver."

Motion to extend the conversation by thirty minutes.

Mover: Lutes

Secunder: Pittman

Vote passes unanimously.

E MacKenzie: "I think food is really important, when it comes to drinking, as it can decrease intoxication levels significantly. 25F says that food options must be available anytime alcohol is being served. How is that going to work? Will the kitchen have to reopen, or would there be different food options such as a vending machine?"

Walma: "It was certainly part of the conversation and we talked to the bar owners and the people who run the events. It just says food options and that it going to be in the education program and part of what the committee will talk about. The presence of food, whether it is potato chips, a vending machine, or an open kitchen, does have a positive impact so I think it is one of those things where we did not get into the specifics of what it will look like but we are just requiring that there will be something."

Pittman: "I think the issue is that this year's council is not familiar with the policy. Only last year's council would be familiar, especially now that there have been changes. A suggestion would be to present the policy again because we only received the policy twelve minutes ago. I think the issue at hand is that no one really knows the context."

Walma: "I would agree. There were student representatives on the committee and I apologize that the communication did not get through to the rest of council. We can continue to have the conversation now if you would like. The committee decided that we would present this to this council and to the SRC in Saint John and hear any further comments but then we will be putting it forward to the university to put it

through its review process and then send it to the Board of Governors. There is still a chance for you to talk to your representatives on the Board of Governors and have some input, but at this point I agree, this is a difficult situation and I am not sure how to proceed. What would be the proposal? Perhaps bringing us back in a couple of weeks?"

Pittman: "Yes something like that or perhaps allocating a time for whoever is on the committee to present it, whether that be a student representative or someone else."

S Mackenzie: "Next week is our last council meeting, so it could not be in a couple weeks. Also, for the limitation of the consumption of energy drinks with alcohol, the province already has laws set in place, so why do you feel that the university should be making more intense rules, rather than allowing the province to legislate those as they do?"

Walma: "One aspect of the research that was brought forward by the research group was the significant impact of energy drinks by themselves and when combined with alcohol. The committee had a long discussion about the goal of the policy, the university, the Student Union, and everybody else, which is to ensure safe consumption. The risk associated with the mixture of a high energy caffeinated drink and alcohol is significant, so the committee had a conversation and thought that we should take this step for maximum safety."

Bouvier: "Thank you very much for all the work you have put into this, I know this can be a bit of a thankless task. Thank you for the language added to section 12D, which I perceived as being friendly to the Engineering Undergraduate Society's Pillar Pubs. I have a question regarding the definition of license holders, as defined in 3A. Would a student group holding a special event permit fall under that definition of a license holder or would that have to go purely through that language as specified in section 12D?"

Walma: "The intention is that the license holders are those holding permanent licenses."

Gallant: "The intention is not to hold another survey or anything similar for general students? Is that because you do not think the answers from the previous one would be different? What are your thoughts on why you would not hold another survey?"

Walma: “We will not be holding another survey. It was a discussion of the committee, which has been meeting now for a year and three quarters. With the flexibility that has been put into the policy, and the committee representing a broad constituency group, and having a great deal of decision-making power, the thinking is that we should put this forward now. The significant changes, that were requested, were made after the last survey and the committee was unanimous that it was ready to go forward.”

Lutes: “You were talking about the pricing model being specifically implemented to avoid those bottoms of the barrel drink specials from being those things that the bars use to attract students. I am hearing from Ms. Rothman that it is more about decreasing the total number of drinks that a student will have in the evening. I was wondering if you could explain that because what you are addressing is important and there are a lot of problems with binge drinking culture as it exists now. I think that targeting it at the pricing level is so far downstream from where the actual problem is, as to not affect any of the actual changes that you are intending to affect.”

Walma: “Thank you for that.”

Arseneau: “I want to apologize for not sending the draft out, I do not know how that happened. If people would be interested, we can have a discuss next week at council or I can hold an open meeting sometime this week, open to the general population of students as well. As a representative on the committee, I can relay any information to Mark. This way, we can bring up specific concerns that anyone may have in regard to the policy. If that is something that people are interested in, I am more than happy to set it up.”

Lutes: “On the energy drinks thing, last year our VP Advocacy was Simal Qureshi who is a Muslim and she was talking about how, from her perspective, sometimes people who do not drink for religious or health reasons still like to have the presence of energy drinks at these bars to feel included. I was wondering why you guys are still implementing that in light of knowing that full well.”

Walma: “First of all, we have a committee that is made up of representatives from across campus, including students. I am kind of pushing back on the “you guys are doing it”.

Lutes: “You as in the committee.”

Walma: “Thank you. We did hear what Simal had to say and one of the things that has concerned all of us is making sure we have an inclusive campus and recognizing that, as the campus becomes more diverse, whether it is religious or cultural reasons, we are going to have folks who do not want to be involved in socializing with alcohol. Whether it is being in a place where alcohol is served, or whether it is not drinking alcohol even if they are happy to go into a bar. We recognize and support that. The idea of having energy drinks as the thing there to provide the buzz and create that kind of high, as Simal talked about it, we understand that as well. Compared to what the research shows as a significant danger related to the mixing of alcohol and energy drinks, the committee decided that it weighed more strongly in favor of not permitting it.”

Lutes: “Why not have a provision saying that you cannot mix them together?”

Walma: “We talked to the bars and it would be impossible to enforce, putting the bars and the servers in a very difficult position and it would not be meaningful at all.”

Rothman: “The recommendation, which is now in the draft policy, to allow those mixed drinks that are sold through ANBL, came from the bars because they felt that they could manage that.”

S Mackenzie: “You said you wanted to have a yearly review of the minimum pricing?”

Walma: “CMAC would be an ongoing sitting committee and it would meet regularly to discuss the issues that are put into its mandate in the policy.”

S Mackenzie: “A new base is required to decide the price whenever they feel a price change is needed with inflation and such. I assume it would involve more conversation with stakeholders.”

Walma: “Absolutely. If you look at the make-up of the committee, it will have a representative of the managers of the on-campus pubs. The idea there is to make sure the appropriate stakeholders can contribute to the conversation on a regular basis.”

E MacKenzie: “I am not sure if the Cellar and the Social Club does sell coffee, but would that be included in caffeinated drinks? Would they still be able to sell them?”

Rothman: “More than able to sell them. Although coffee is caffeinated, it is not considered highly caffeinated. It is the energy drinks that we are focused on.”

Walma: “It is the ones that have health warnings, so coke would not be a problem but red bull would be.”

Lutes: “From what I understand, the bars that are affected by this policy will be partially responsible for setting the price? Have you looked into whether or not that is price fixing, under the Competition Act? Organizations getting together to determine a minimum price for things sounds like price fixing to me.”

Walma: “That is an interesting question and we will look into it.”

Bouvier: “In terms of sales and specials needing to be approved by CMAC, is that solely for beverages? Say that prices go up at Pillar Pub and instead of \$2 we will now sell it for \$3, could we throw in a slice of pizza for free with that?”

Walma: “That would be encouraged!”

Mangusso: “I would like to thank you both for coming and being here. I know it is challenging when committees continue their work which has progressed and we need to make sure that we are up to speed with that. I would suggest either what Sam has suggested or potentially having an opportunity to discuss as a council so that we can give you feedback that would be valuable, helpful and productive for the committee, relevant to this stage of the process and where you are at right now. If that is something you will be open to, we can be in contact in a follow-up form if that seems like an appropriate way to proceed.”

Walma: “That sounds great! Thank you all for your questions and for listening.”

Walma and Rothman exit.

Mangusso: “Thank you all for your patience. That was definitely an oversight on our part that you were not sent the policy in advance. I personally was not sure about the context of their presentation and what they were expecting from us, so that is why there was some miscommunication there. Now that you have the policy, I encourage you to take the chance to look at it. I know that some of you are new to council this year and have not been up to speed on what has happened in the past, what their consultation with us looked like in the past, and where they are at right now. This is very much in the final stages of the policy, so I want to make sure that the feedback we are giving them is going to be helpful and

relevant, and able to be applied to what they are doing right now. My suggestion would be to welcome them back next week at our meeting once everyone has had a chance to do a deeper look at the policy where it stands, understanding where they are at and what we can contribute to the committee, also knowing that Craig and Sam both have very relevant voices on that committee. Bear in mind that this is very quickly going to be coming as an established policy as opposed to one that we are having the opportunity to give feedback on.”

Zundel: “This only apply to alcohol and has no jurisdiction to cannabis?”

Arseneau: “Just alcohol.”

E MacKenzie: “I know that we are concerned about the energy drink thing because we are trying to be inclusive, but he said that the danger outweighs students who want energy drinks if they choose not to drink. If the establishment still offered things like pop or coffee, it is better than nothing. We can make that as a suggestion instead of trying to change it because I think that, at this point, that is not really an option. We can move forward with keeping it inclusive in other ways.”

Arseneau: “I really do not think they will budge on the energy drink thing because it is very hard to argue when the products themselves warn not to mix with alcohol. Pushing forward with those alternatives like coffee and pop will be much better.”

Bouvier: “Personally, I have not always been in great agreement with this policy but when comes to the energy drinks, I am quite convinced by those safety concerns. I think that there is various good research out there showing that it is dangerous. They are offering those mixed drinks from NB Liquor, so I think there is a path forward for anybody who does enjoy both kinds of beverages. I think that is a good and safe way to proceed.”

Wilson: “Regarding the membership of CMAC, I am assuming you folks will be appointing those positions. It says that representatives of residences will also be a student in residence, so I was wondering who would be appointing those.”

Mangusso: “The VP Internal role is responsible for appointing students to the senate and student committees, but this particular committee is not one that has been appointed in the same way. Since they

were struck to revise a policy, my assumption is that members of last year's executive were appointed to it and then those who were in their roles replaced them. I do not know if it was more about the role as opposed to the person."

Arseneau: "I am not sure how it was appointed in the past, I was told that, in this role, I would be a part of it. I assume it was role based in the beginning, but I am not sure if it will continue to be that way moving forward."

S Mackenzie: "When it comes to the energy drink thing, my personal thought is that if we are over the age of nineteen, we can make these decisions for ourselves. It should not be something where I am restricted to going downtown if I wanted to get a jager bomb or something like that. I feel like I should not have to go off campus to get a drink of my choice, because maybe I am not a big fan of a lot of alcohol or certain kinds of alcohol and mixing it with something like that is something I would enjoy. In addition, my fear is that they feel the decision of how the current policy is written is how they plan on going no matter what our input is. My biggest fear is that they do not plan on budging with anything that they currently have written."

Arseneau: "I understand the concerns with the energy drinks. To my understanding, if you wanted to get a jager bomb here, they would probably be able to mix it with those premixed ones from NB Liquor. In regard to them wanting to change after our input, I think they realize what happened after the survey, when they got that many thousands of responses. I think they are aware of the backlash they would have if they went forward ignoring anything that we gave them. Craig and I will very much push for that to be heard."

Mangusso: "The energy drink thing is complicated because there are some bars downtown who will not sell things like jager bombs because of the health risks associated with it. On campus, places like the Cellar and the Social Club moving towards not offering that would not an independent case. It is more so an unexplored health risk that is now being explored. I do not think we would be unique in that way. You can still get an energy drink at the SUB shop convenient store, so you can make your personal decision to do that, but the bar staff would not be the ones giving it to you. In terms of feedback, I think that in the

year and three quarters that the committee has spent making these decisions, they have done a fair amount of consultation and have come to our meetings and have done a lot of research to come to these decisions. While they do value the thoughts and the feedback we have, they are research and evidence-based decisions that have been made to form the policy as it stands. I do not think they are directly opposed to making alterations but, at this point, independently being oppositional to certain things that have been decided as a result of research and evidence is not going to sway them.”

Lutes: “I would push back a little bit in saying that this is a human rights thing if you think about it. The test for whether or not someone’s freedom to religion has been infringed, is whether or not they have a sincerely held belief to the nexus to religion. I think this energy drink thing arguably falls under that and I think there is some value to pushing back on behalf of the Muslim and non-drinking students who feel like they are having something taken away from them. I think that the fact that you can buy a premixed cocktail that does have energy drinks in it, already shows that there are really no fangs to this proposal in the first place. If you can still get stuff with caffeine in it then what is the purpose of banning this in the first place? I think there is a larger lack of mandate comprehension within the administration because they do not seem to know what type of behavior they are trying to change in the first place. Sam, as somebody who has sat on that committee and heard some of the discussions and seen some of the research, you obviously have a better idea of this than I do, but what behavior are they trying to target?”

Arseneau: “I cannot speak to the human rights end of it. In terms of the energy drinks, the reason why they are targeting that is because a lot of energy drinks have a label specifically warning of the dangers of mixing with alcohol. The premixed ones are made in such a way that they do not have that warning. In terms of the mandate of the policy, they are not trying to change the culture or make it more difficult. I think the policy is trying to target that happy hour because they are saying that you should not be able to go to the social club and buy twelve drinks with a twenty-dollar bill. They are not trying to infringe people on having a good time and being able to go out and socialize and drink with their friends, it is just stopping that aggressive binge drinking that has been seen.”

Brimicombe: “When we were talking about the potential of mixing a jager bomb type drink, did you say that they would mix the pre-mixed drink with the jager? That seems very counterintuitive and dangerous.”

Arseneau: “That would be up to the bar staff, but it would be less alcohol than buying a double.”

Brimicombe: “Yes, but you are still mixing a caffeinated alcoholic beverage with more alcohol. It seems counter intuitive to say that they are going to ban that and then bring it back.”

Arseneau: “The issue with the caffeine is that the energy drinks have a warning label on them because the amount of caffeine mixed with alcohol can cause heart problems and cardiac arrest. On these pre-mixed ones, there is no such warning, so it is not the amount of alcohol being consumed that is the issue, it is the mixing of the two with the high caffeinated energy drinks that becomes the health issue.”

McMillan: “I am with the whole health aspect of it all. If something warns to not mix with alcohol, I do not think we should be serving it to be mixed with alcohol. Is there any way for them to be sold to not be mixed with alcohol? For example, if the bartender sold a red bull and it just could not be purchased together.”

Arseneau: “No, they would not be able to purchase them at all.”

McMillan: “They are not supposed to be mixed together, so they should not be sold anyways. If other bars are taking that away, then I feel like that is the right thing to do. I do not think that anything trumps health. We look silly saying that people should have them and risk having a cardiac arrest just because it is their choice. There are other options for people that want to have them, and they can always have one before going to the bar.”

Wilson: “When seat belts came out, people did not want to use them, and they said that they would rather die in their car because it was their right, but now seat belts are legal. Also, I was speaking to a staff member at the Social Club and they already do not use red bull with their jager bombs, they use the premixed ones.”

Mangusso: “Would people be interested in us inviting Mark and Sara come back in next week?”

Zundel: “I do not know how much value we would get out of that because we have already gone over it once with this council and again with the council before this. A more efficient route would be Sam’s offer to have a feedback session that we can send back to them, rather than bringing them back for another long session that would either delegitimize us or keep going in circles.”

McMillan: “I agree with Eric and maybe, in the next couple days, we can send our questions to Grace. If there is a large amount of questions, we can ask them to come back if we feel that is necessary.”

Mangusso: “Keep in mind that you now have the policy, take a read through and send comments, feedback, or questions to me and/or Sam.”

5.3 Faculty Councillor Updates

Computer Science Councillor, Sean Mackenzie, updates council by stating that, in regard to his letter to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, he is meeting with the St. Thomas University Student Union to receive their support as well as chatting with Craig and Mick to receive support from the NBSA.

Law Councillor, Chris Lutes, updates council by stating that for Parking Committee, he met with Craig and Don Allen to chat about parking at UNB. Parking Committee also met as a group and is sending a proposal to administration to call for paving the Aitken Centre parking lot, the other half of the Student Union parking lot, and looking at the area of trees on the left side of that parking lot. Moving forward with Ludlow Hall, a working group has been put together and they are going to start writing submissions. Policy Committee is meeting every week and has been working hard on revising the by-laws.

Management Councillor, Molly Pittman, updates council by stating that her councillor project, the NBWIB conference, took place just before the last meeting. She is now organizing a hot chocolate bar/ ask your advisor next week.

Kinesiology Councillor, Jessie Bennett, updates council by stating that her councillor project will be taking place during wellness week. It is an interconnected health fair with different aspects of health and how they are connected. She has also been collaborating with the Kinesiology Society and helping them with events.

Science Councillor, MacKenzie Brimicombe, updates council by stating that her councillor project is forming the Science Society. She met with Associate Dean, Janice Lawrence, and the Student Services Coordinator for Science, Angela Regier, and they support this initiative. She is now looking into writing the constitution. She also attended the DrinkSmart Steering Committee meeting.

Engineering Councillor, Shanece Wilson, updates council by stating that she sits on the Search Committee for the Associate Dean of Engineering and has also been working with Nadia to advertise that there is a smudge kit in Head Hall, by creating an information graphic that can be shared.

Nursing Councillor, Emily McMillan, updates council by stating she has been working on her councillor project which is setting up a studying thing in the nursing lounge to prepare for exams.

5.4 Emily MacKenzie: Social Media Policy

Inclusion Councillor, Emily MacKenzie, presents that Policy Committee finished the social media policy.

Zundel: “This was sent to Policy Committee following the realization that we did not have many social media guidelines other than an old document that Chantelle was using. This indicates what content we are willing to share and gives a lot of discretion to the Vice President Communications. It also notes that the social media has to follow all our other policies, particularly around human rights.”

Motion to adopt the Social Media Policy.

Mover: Zundel

Seconder: Pittman

Vote passes unanimously.

5.5 Grace Mangusso: RAVEN Booklet

Vice President Internal, Grace Mangusso, presents that the RAVEN campaign is looking to ensure they still have the support of the Student Union before publicizing their brochure, which contains the Student Union logo and a statement of support.

Zundel: “What is the next step?”

Mangusso: “UNB’s investments are very intricate and they have a lot of different investments in a lot of different places. There are people through different companies that are responsible for their investments. They are looking at how to navigate that and move forward while divesting from fossil fuels. There are quite a few investment firms that are having more environmentally friendly investment options. The RAVEN team is working with the Board of Governors to develop strategies moving forward and to work towards divesting from fossil fuels, as it is a gradual process. In sending this to us, they want to make sure that they can say that this is something that the Student Union supports.”

Lutes: “Have they addressed the 600-pound elephant in the room, which is Irving? I feel like that is a pretty crucial piece in all of this and I do not see anything about that in this booklet.”

Mangusso: “What specifically do you mean?”

Lutes: “Do they think that Irving themselves should divest from the university or have they addressed them or mentioned the fact that they are pretty financially close to the university?”

Mangusso: “Unfortunately I do not have a lot of context in terms of the conversations they are having with UNB and divesting, however, my understanding of the campaign is that they are advocating for divestment from fossil fuel in all of its forms. My assumption would be that anything that is related to Irving and also an investment in fossil fuels would fall into that category.”

Pittman: “I am totally for combatting climate change and taking action to reduce our environmental impact, but as a Student Union we are considering what is best for students. Have they considered the results towards the universities resources and jobs for these students with these companies, if they are divesting from JDI and Irving? For example, Lesley just came in and spoke to us about how Irving is such a huge benefactor of the library and if you think about how many people are hired with JDI or Irving post-graduation or for co-op and things like that, have we thought of this?”

Mangusso: “My understanding is that they are not asking to remove any support, collaboration, or association with companies like Irving. It is more so UNB investing their money for the purpose of getting money back, and not doing that in industries that are fossil fuel related. It would not be entirely segregating from Irving and their support and collaboration that currently exists, but UNB will invest in a

company that has different plans that have investments in different pockets. With the environmental movement, a lot of investment firms are now developing packages that people can choose to invest in, that are fossil-free, and more environmentally friendly packages. Based on what I have heard from Craig, who sits on the Investment Committee, the returns on those investments are very similar and comparable to the traditional package that UNB has gone with. In terms of the money that UNB would be getting back, the benefit from their investments would be comparable. I do not know what that looks like with student jobs because I think that it is a separate issue, but I think that the Board of Governors and the Investment Committee are aware of that.”

Pittman: “I am assuming that, if the UNB Board of Governors are supporting it, then this would not impact our collaboration.”

Mangusso: “That is also my understanding, but I would be happy to invite Craig to discuss this next week when he is back because he has a bit more of a comprehensive understanding of the complications.”

5.6 Grace Mangusso: Discussion on Council Merchandise

Vice President Internal, Grace Mangusso, presents the possibility of ordering council merchandise. She is looking to see if councillors have an interest in this, and if so, what items they would be interested in ordering, and if they are willing to pay for a portion of the merchandise.

Brimicombe: “I like the idea of sweaters and I like quarter zips.”

Bouvier: “Two words: fanny packs!”

Wilson: “I am definitely up for a half and half situation because it is not fair for us to use student money.”

Lutes: “I agree and would be down for half and half or even that we pay the full cost because I feel like that money would be better spent on the students and even taking any money for ourselves as a union might not be great. I would also like to throw my hat in the ring for mugs. You get one and you use it for the rest of your life, it is great because you never grow out of it!”

Zundel: “Could you create a poll on the Facebook group to get a better sense of items?”

Mangusso: “I will make a poll and see what everyone is interested in and then have a further discussion on payment and pricing, keeping in mind that people are generally okay to put forward a little bit of money if we chose to move forward with that.”

5.7 Sean Mackenzie: Letter to Minister of Post-Secondary Education

Computer Science Councillor, Sean Mackenzie, presents that for any experiential learning, such as co-op and internships, students currently do not receive any tax benefits. This letter is written with the intent to focus on keeping students in NB after university, as 95% of co-op placements are in the province and a lot of co-op students are offered positions upon graduation. This letter is a request for the minister to allow students to receive a tax receipt on their experiential learning experiences.

Zundel: “What kind of support are you looking for?”

S Mackenzie: “To be able to say that the Student Union agrees with this statement, where we should be receiving more aid to pay for our experiential learning programs. Right now, the best way to do that is in the form of a tax credit, and then I would eventually have that pushed forward onto some other form of support. I met with Craig and was going to present at the last meeting, however, he felt that waiting until after advocacy week would be a better idea. I want is to be able to say that this is supported by UNBSU, hopefully STUSU, and NBSA.”

Zundel: “Where does this fit in with our current plans with NBSA advocacy?”

S Mackenzie: “The reason why they wanted to delay is because we are currently calling for more aid in tuition and eventually for the old tuition program that we had in form of government. Craig felt as though bringing up a tax credit for something that is completely different would make the minister think we are contradicting ourselves and he would try to use that against us. Seeing as advocacy week is now over and we are not discussing this at the same time, we felt this would be a better opportunity to do so. We are looking for students to receive more financial support and this is a way that we can receive that support, in immediate support for the students that are involved in these programs, rather than what we currently have, which is nothing.”

Motion for the UNBSU's support in this document.

Mover: S Mackenzie

Seconder: Lutes

Vote passes unanimously.

5.8 Eric Zundel: Feedback on Honorary Degree Candidate Support

LGBTQ Councillor, Eric Zundel, presents that faculty members and Mark Walma will be putting forward a candidate for an honorary degree. This candidate is a former UNB student and an advocate for LGBTQ individuals. They need letters of support to help the candidate receive an honorary degree, so Eric is looking to see what the SU can provide in terms of support.

Mangusso: “I can get back to you on the specifics of how we can support this individual. Moving forward, I would recommend that you write a letter and I will see if it can come from you as a representative of the Student Union, or from the union itself. Either way, I see there being some level of support.”

Lutes: “Are you looking for individuals to write letters of support?”

Zundel: “It would be council as a whole. To our knowledge there has never been a non-binary or openly queer recipient of an honorary degree. I may return, based on Grace’s information, with an actual letter.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Currently posting about wellness week and voting in the by-election. In future, will be posting about extended library hours. In the past, posted about the transgender day of remembrance and the Orientation Week Chair and Vice Chair applications.
- Please update the list on the Facebook group if there are any important dates that need to be posted.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- UNBSU Food developed a subcommittee for the 2020 garden vision and applied for funding to sustain the garden and accomplish their goals.

- DrinkSmart Steering Committee meeting – a lot of well-rounded, smart individuals talking about ideas and the DrinkSmart mandate. Will possibly be extending to high school presentations.
- Met with the health provider representative for the health and dental plan to keep the relationships going. Please talk to Karen if you have any specific questions.
- Winter Carnival will be January 17-18th.
- Went to the Campus Closet Launch – awesome initiative! Can make personal appointments at the Wu Centre.
- Attended the Girls Stem Up conference – very good job!

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Met with a few clubs to discuss sponsorship and help them develop their sponsorship packages.
- Working on SU sponsorships for Winter Carnival.
- Involved with the Orientation Chair and Vice Chair Hiring Committee.
- Involved with the Townhouse Executive Hiring Committee and everyone has now been hired.
- Attended Fredericton Budget Advisory Committee meetings.
- The executive team met with Jenica Atwin and discussed how to work together moving forward.
- Policy Committee has been reviewing the by-laws and working on the Clubs and Societies policy.
- Finance Committee has also been going over the Clubs and Societies policy.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Had the Strategic Planning Provision Conference with 60-80 stakeholders to discuss position papers. Consultation on strategic planning has come to an end - thank you everyone for your hard work!
- Met with George MacLean about the part-time/full-time change in regard to financial vs academic definitions, the process of how that happened, and preventing that for the future.
- Senate met on Tuesday.
- Working on a proposal for scholarship regulations. Looking into how it is done at other institutions. Discussing it at the Internal Affairs Committee meeting this week to develop a stance.
- Met with Jenica Atwin.

- Had the second retail service review popup.
- Had the second online survey which had 89 responses!
- Making progress with the exam bank and will be going to the Dean's Council next week.
- Next week is the last council meeting of the semester – wear something festive and everyone is welcome to go to the Cellar after the meeting to celebrate. Honoraria forms will also be distributed.
- Mick's update – wellness week is this week!
- Craig's update – CASA Policy Strategy Conference has been great, and he will be giving an update on the election, the Board of Governors, and the conference next week

7. Announcements

8. Question Period

Bouvier: “What are some of the things you have been speaking about in terms of changes in the Clubs and Societies policy?”

Arseneau: “The main thing is adding a section for conferences, which is being reviewed by Policy Committee. On Finance Committee, we have been reviewing the rest of the policy and adding more structure to the implied structure, in terms of a sustainability plan, transition period, how finances are managed, etc.”

Shrestha: “For the health and dental plan, you always have to opt out. Why is that system in place instead of opting in?”

Mangusso: “The reasoning why is because all students need some type of insurance to access health services on campus, so an opt out policy makes it so that everyone has insurance because you can only opt out if you have another form of insurance.”

Shrestha: “Is it a liability?”

Mangusso: “I am not really sure the reason why, but I think it is mostly so that students have insurance, so if they find themselves in need of services, they can access them.”

Bouvier: “We have a couple people away for a conference for CASA in Vancouver right now, could I ask for a rough figure of the estimated cost for that?”

Arseneau: "I will check with Karen and have it next week."

Mangusso: "Nadia is there because she was elected Co-Chair of the national committee, so CASA is paying for her and the SU is paying for Craig and Mick."

9. Other business

Mangusso: "Voting is open until 11:59pm on Friday. You are able to vote for the First-year Councillor, but it should have been that only first-year students could vote. That was discussed with ITS but they were not willing to meet in person to discuss it. They will be using this as reason to force a meeting in person for next semester and next year. I apologize for the discrepancy on that but unfortunately it is an ITS thing."

10. Adjournment

Mover: Zundel

Secunder: Pittman

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.