



NBSA Board Meeting Minutes **October 15th, 2021**

The eighth meeting of the 2021-2022 session of the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Student Alliance was held October 15th, 2021 via Zoom.

1.0 Call to Order

Charlie Burke, the NBSA Board Chair, called the meeting of the NBSA Board of Directors to Order at **2:40pm on October 15th, 2021.**

1.1 Roll Call

Executive:	Charlie Burke, Chair Charlotte Fanjoy, Vice-Chair
Board of Directors:	Sydona Chandon (STUSU) Hannah Ehler (MASU) Adam Lambert (UNBSRC) Kordell Walsh (UNBSU)
Staff:	Bibi Wasiimah Joomun, Executive Director, NBSA
Regrets:	Tyler MaGee (STUSU)
Observer:	N/A
Absent:	-

2.0 Land Acknowledgement - Charlie (Chair)

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

It was **moved by UNBSRC** to approve the October 15th, 2021 Agenda
Seconded by UNBSU
Motion Passed Unanimously



4.0 Approval of the September 24th Meeting Minutes

It was moved by MASU to approve the September 24th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Seconded by STUSU

Motion Passed Unanimously

5.0 Reports

5.1 Chair Update (Charlie)

- Attended the GNB Campus Sexual Violence Working Group
 - Had two meetings where the working group has been working on providing recommendations as well as ranking them to what we believe should be the highest priorities for GNB
 - The second meeting was very good and they will be bringing these forward to PETL next week.
 - Hopefully the next time we meet we will have some progress in terms of what will be happening moving forward
- Working on getting the internal committees together
 - Working on a creating a schedule to ensure these meetings are happening monthly
- Executive team has been discussing advocacy week
- Committee applications will close on October 31st
 - a summary of these applications will be sent out to the committee leads

Hannah (MASU) asks what the recommendations were?

Charlie (Chair) responds, they were for sexual violence prevention on campus'. It was broken down between policies, resources, education, intervention, training, and legislation.

Wasiimah (ED) comments that she can circulate that with the board. Wasiimah also mentions that a sexual violence policy that was passed by the NBSA Board last year, is being pushed to this working group in collaboration with SVN. Wasiimah mentions that the health and wellness and the EDI Committee might want to be involved in the conversation of this policy, Wasiimah will provide updates to those committees.

5.2 Home Office Update (Wasiimah)

- Not much to add after Charlies update
- The committee applications are going well but please be sure to share this on your socials.
- Wasiimah is working on the finances and will be having a follow up with the bookkeeper in the next couple of
- Brainstorming about advocacy week
- Looking into rapid testing on campus - comparing to other universities/provinces rapid testing programs with ours



- Wasimah mentions the government's announcement about the territorial acknowledgement. And suggests that we repost our land acknowledgement saying we are on unceded territory and do not condone this behaviour from the government.
- Wasiimah has been updating the websites, and was going to look into getting it done professionally, but is okay managing it for now.
- Wasiimah asks the board to let her know when they would like her to come to home SU council meeting to do a presentation on the NBSA

Hannah (MASU) asks if a student is interested in sitting on an NBSA Committee, do they have to be non-partisan or not associated with a political party

opens up for discussion

Kordell (UNBSU) comments from a personal stance, as long as they are not actively aligning themselves with a party in official meetings while conducting official business with the NBSA, Kordell does not recommend we disbar students who have political affiliations from being involved. Kordell states that he had political affiliations to a strong degree when he was a delegate last advocacy week, and no one told him that he wasn't allowed.

Charlie (Chair) agrees and says that as a non partisan organization our board has to be non partisan but Charlie does not think that trickles down to our members.

5.3 Director Updates

- **MASU:**
 - MASU received backlash for their elections
 - MASU Executive participated in National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Events in their own individual ways.
 - The MASUs voting system unfortunately opened on September 30th (the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation) This is where the MASU received backlash from students, perpetuating colonial values or systems during a day that was supposed to be about reflection.
 - MASU sent out a formal apology via email and received some positive feedback.
 - The MASU made a promise to not let stuff like that happen again this year.
 - Off Campus Living Campaign has been running throughout the week to talk about rights and responsibilities. "What I Wish I Knew" panel happened last night and the recording will be posted. The Residential Tenancies Tribunal (RTT) will be giving a session to students on monday (conflicts with landlords, etc.)
 - The GOTV To Do List will be officially rolled up. MASU received over 200 action items on the list. Hannah still wants to roll it up and ship it to Parliament.



Charlie (MASU) comments that the MASU is looking into creating an EDI Budget Line in their budget for the coming years that will be a fund that students or equity seeking groups or campus community can apply for for bringing in speakers or putting on events. In a verbal stage of planning.

- **STUSU:**
 - Successful clubs and societies fair with the NBSAs presence
 - Successful By-Election (international student rep has been elected that Sydona will be working closely with for international education week coming up in November)
- **UNB-SRC:**
 - The By-Elections are coming up and the CRO is already hired

Charlotte (UNBSRC) adds that the UNBSRC has been receiving a lot of concerns in relation to COVID like mandatory attendance policies, masks, etc. The SRC is looking for more information before posting infographics to socials in relation to these challenges.

Charlie (MASU) comments that at Mount A they were dealing with professors moving online without the registrar knowing.

Hannah (MASU) comments that students' concerns at Mount A aren't necessarily COVID related, but rather in the inconsistencies of the regulations. Doesn't seem that it is a direct concern with COVID. Hannah mentions that she didn't know that participation was a large concern as well.

Charlotte (UNBSRC) clarifies that the conversation of participation is because some professors are working around the attendance mandate by mandating participation and linking marks with participation. Charlotte says ultimately in the conversations she has had, she wanted to make sure that if students cannot attend class or participate in class, then they will not be penalized.

- **UNBSU:**
 - By-Election Call went out
 - Resignation on the executive team (VP Internal)
 - As of right now, there is at least one application for each of the executive positions. Which means that if students don't vote overwhelmingly in no, then UNBSU will have a full executive team, which hasn't been the case since June.
 - Clubs and Societies fair happening every Friday over the next couple of weeks
 - Food services are a major issue on campus, zero accessibility. Tims is not open and the hours are not the best. So UNBSU is receiving some push back on that
 - Questions about rapid testing.

Adam (UNBSRC) comments that UNB has released the vaccination numbers which is 94% at UNB Fredericton and 92% at UNB Saint John.



6.0 Priority Updates

6.1 Sustainability - Charlie Burke (lead)

- Met to go over the recycling policy and it is shaping up - might be ready for the next board meeting

6.2 Accessible and Quality Education - Adam Lambert (lead)

- No further updates. Hoping to meet soon

6.3 Affordable Education - Sydona Chandon (lead)

- Sydona worked on the policy and made additions about retention as discussed in the previous board meeting
- Sydona hopes to meet with the committee soon and will reach out to the members

6.4 Health and Wellness - Hannah Ehler (lead)

- No Updates

6.5 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion - Tyler MaGee (lead) Sydona

- Sydona mentions that Ty sent over the policies
- No further updates

Charlie (chair) asks the policy that is going forward, it might be worth looking into to see if the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation will fit nicely into that policy.

Sydona (STUSU) agrees and says she will bring it forward to Ty after the board meeting.

7.0 Internal Priority Updates - Wasiimah (lead)

Finance Committee:

- Looking into hiring a bookkeeper for the NBSA
- Call scheduled with the potential bookkeeper for next week
- Will meet with the finance committee afterwards and have a bigger update

Communications Committee:

- Have not met
- Committee Applications have been posted on our website
- A lot of attraction on our social media
- Wasiimah asks if SUs can share the committee applications to their social media channels

Consultation Committee:

- No Updates
- Will be meeting soon

Outreach Committee

- Following up with NBCC

Charlie shares her screen to show the Committee Calendar

Hannah (MASU) asks if Charlie would like all the committees to be on that calendar as well.

Charlie (Chair) responds, yes we are hoping that the committee will start scheduling regular



meetings once we are all in a routine, if applicable to your committee. This will help with transparency, so if a board member has something they want to discuss with one of the committee, there will be a cohesive schedule that everyone can refer to.

Hannah (MASU) mentions that it might be nice to have this calendar on the website for students to see as well.

Wasiimah (ED) mentions that if your committee works with other committees it will be helpful to have a set meeting schedule, specifically for EDI, so if a committee wants something to be reviewed through the EDI lens, having this set schedule will be helpful with that.

Syдона (STSU) agrees with Wasiimah and thinks that the calendar is a great idea as it will help with structure.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Approval of May 16th Meeting Minutes

It was **moved by MASU** to approve the May 16th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Seconded by STUSU

Motion Passed Unanimously

Friendly amendment to edit the dates in the meeting minutes from May 6th to May 16th

9.0 New Business

9.1 Policy Approval

Charlotte did not include formatting/grammar amendments within the minutes as these will all be done through Wasiimah before being public

Affordable Education Committee

Policy FO7: International Student Loan Access (Syдона)

Second Reading

- *Syдона Reads the changes to the policy to the board with the addition of retention*

It was **moved by MASU** to approve Policy FO7: International Student Loan Access on September 24th, 2021 with an expiry of September 24th, 2024.

Seconded by UNBSRC

Motion Passed Unanimously

9.2 Rapid Testing

- The Executive Team has been discussing this a lot. Wasiimah reached out to PETL to see if they were doing anything to push the government or to push rapid testing on campuses. The response was that it was being left up to the institutions to make that decision. This was forwarded to the board.



- Opening up for discussion to see if this is something that the NBSA should be taking a stance on.

Charlie (MASU) mentions that MASU is drafting a letter and asking for people to co-sign. This might be something that the board would like to see at the next board meeting.

Wassimah (ED) mentions that she has been discussing this topic with studentsNS to see how they are handling this situation. The reason why we are so concerned about this is, for example, in Sackville it is taking nearly 7-8 weeks to hear back from testing and students are now being penalized for not showing up to class. That is why we think having tests on campus will be helpful and more effective. Dan Mills said it was up to administration, but really it is up to them because they are the ones with the kits. The government has only used like 0.3% of all the kits that they have been given by the federal government. That is why if you talk to your administration and they say they don't have control over this, that is what they mean. That is why we were thinking the next step would be to write a letter to present to the government.

Charlie (Chair) mentions that something released today talks about rapid testing pop up in circuit breaker areas, and has heard about testing in high schools, only for folks that are unvaccinated. There is a need for vaccinated students to gain some form of comfort with the concept of possibly being asymptomatic.

Hannah (MASU) agrees and thinks that writing a letter on behalf of all of us is a good idea. In the letter is might be a good idea for us to bring up the protocol for institutions to use these tests.

Charlotte (UNBSRC) mentions that she has been discussing rapid testing with UNB Saint John's VP. Dr. Hauf is completely on board with implementing this for vaccinated students, faculty, and staff. It's just the matter of getting those tests to campus. Right now the tests on campus have to be done routinely to ensure you are receiving the correct results. It is important that we are advocating to get those tests to campus. UNB Specifically does not have a definition for when they can use them or not, other than the current tests on campus that have to be done routinely.

Charlie (MASU) mentions that they did ask their admin if they wanted to co-sign a letter with us and they declined because they didn't want to harm the current relationship that they have.

Wasiimah (ED) asked the board how their administration is feeling about this and if there are any policies that affect how these tests are rolled out. Wasiimah would like to see these before the letter is written. Wasiimah mentions that Hannah brings up a good point because you have to be really specific in your wording.

Hannah (MASU) mentions that it might be beneficial to reach out to the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce and see if there is any possibility of working with them to get more tests on campus.

Wassimah (ED) replied letting the board know that she did reach out the other day to see if that is a possibility seeing as how we are a member. Wasiimah will follow up again.



Charlie (Chair) mentions that if a university has a COVID outbreak, it would be beneficial for the institution to have access to tests that can be used for students.

The NBSA agrees and is supporting increased access to rapid testing on campus

9.3 Advocacy Week - Wasiimah

- The Ledge will start to sit on Tuesday of Reading Week
- Wasiimah asks for everyone's thoughts on a hybrid model of advocacy week
Open Discussion

Wasiimah (ED) mentions that we are looking at the end of November/early December for dates. Week of November 29th to December.

- The Executive Team will come up with a list of priorities that can be brought up with your home SU so you can decide what priorities you would like to see and can be voted on at the next board meeting.
- Voting on priorities will take place during the October 22nd Board Meeting
- Wasiimah gave the board a run down of what to expect during Advocacy Week. There will be training as well, which will help board members be prepared for these meetings.
- Advocacy week will be open to students as well and we will discuss what that process looks like once we have confirmed dates.

UNBSU PROXIED THEIR VOTE TO UNBSRC AT 3:37PM

9.4 Committee Discussion

- With Advocacy Week quickly approaching, it is important for committee's to submit/approve policies by the next two (2) board meetings
- If your committee is putting forward a priority, there is a hope that there will be a policy to back that up.
- Be mindful of time between board meetings and the time it might take to get a policy approved. The policies that align with your committee's priorities should be updated as soon as possible to ensure that it's backing up the work your committee is doing.
- Discuss with committees and send a list of your committee's priorities to the executive team. Priorities sent by Tuesday so they can be discussed at the board meeting.
- Start structuring your committee's and scheduling regular/recurring meetings so they can be shared on the calendar as well.



10.0 Reminders/Action Items

Who	What	When
Home SUs	Circulate committee applications. (Wasiimah purchasing a LARGE pizza for the SU with the most applications as a prize)	Applications close on Oct. 31st, 2021
Wasiimah	Circulate the GNB-SVWG recommendations with the board	ASAP
Committee Leads	Talk with committee's to discuss priorities you want to see at Advo Week	Oct. 22nd Board Meeting
Wasiimah	May 16th Meeting Minutes	ASAP
Wasiimah	Forward previous Advocacy Doc to the board	ASAP
Board Members	Send priorities to Charlie	Tuesday October 19th
Adam/Wasiimah	Make friendly amendments to policy QO4. Also share the policy with Wasiimah for her to help with formatting/ footnotes.	N/A
Executive Team	Look into Training for Advo Week - open to all students	N/A
Committee Leads	Schedule regular/recurring meetings with your committees - this will be posted on the website	ASAP

11.0 Adjournment

Instead of motioning to adjourn, we have exhausted the agenda, therefore Charlie can adjourn the NBSA Board Meeting of October 15th, 2021 at 3:53pm.