

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a modern campus building with large glass windows and a white facade. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained green lawn with several young trees and black lampposts. The sky is overcast and grey.

The Year of Opportunity

Our 2022- 2023 Priorities

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq Peoples. This territory is covered by a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties which Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Peoples first signed with the British crown in 1725. These treaties did not deal with the surrender of land or resources, rather they recognized Mi'kmaq and Maliseet title to the land and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Message from the President

For 57 years, the SRC has set yearly priorities that will serve as the guiding principles for all actions taken by the SRC in that year. However, this is no ordinary year. With The Pandemic in our rear-view mirror, and the world coming back to normal, we have the opportunity to shape the future and set new precedent for the SRC, and that starts with the priorities listed on this document.

The 2022-2023 SRC priorities document is made based on discussions with students and what we believe to be some issues that students face in these times. We made this document with the goal that these priorities should not only be met but exceed. Although there are many issues that affect students at UNBSJ, we have decided it would be best to find five overarching themes to guide our actions. We believe that we can truly make a difference this year for students at UNBSJ.

Devin Debly,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Devin'.

Governing Statements

Vision Statement

The UNB- Students' Representative Council aims to create a safe, equitable, and sustainable environment for all UNB Saint John students through services, advocacy and a vibrant student life

Mission Statement

Our mission as the UNB- Students' Representative Council is to empower and amplify the student voice. As an organization that is created by students, elected by students, led by students, for the benefit of students.

Affordability

As the SRC has very few products or services that incur a cost to students, in 2022-2023 we will focus on empowering students financially. This will be done in a three pronged approach, firstly by trying to find new ways to educate students on finances, secondly, making financial aid more accessible to students, and lastly, advocating for changes that will make life as a student less expensive.

Student Wellness

The UNB-SRC exists to serve and support the students in every way possible. While our true vision extends far beyond what can be put into three goals, there are three major pillars that we are going to use throughout the year to guide our commitment to improve student wellness. Firstly, we will be looking inward to try and improve ourselves as a whole so we are able to better support students in the future. Secondly, we will facilitate the collection and distribution of knowledge of various support systems that are available at UNBSJ. Finally, we look to improve the student experience through events and improving the amenities already provided to the students.

Student Engagement

Coming out of the pandemic, now more than ever students need engagement, at the SRC we believe there are 3 important factors contributing to engagement. The first is being engaged with their campus, knowing what events are taking place, and having the desire to participate in the events. Second being community engagement, being in touch with Saint John and the things going on around the city. Last, and most importantly, engage with other students, which we hope to help cultivate this year.

Sustainability

To 'sustain' means to keep something going or provide support to enable something to flourish. As a student-led organization, we fully recognize the importance of the youth in implementing, monitoring, and engaging in sustainable practices. We strive to create a culture of sustainability within UNBSJ while empowering student-led initiatives with help of organizations like UNB Sustainability and Green Society.

Inclusive Community

A key role the SRC plays in regards to student voice is promoting the incorporation of diverse experiences found within the student body at UNBSJ through surveys, ad-hoc committees and equity seeking groups. We here at the SRC this year would like to organize events that give every individual adequate opportunities to grow a community and meet like minded people/organizations throughout the year.

Facilitating WorkingNB on Campus

In collaboration with the Provincial and Local Governments, we will work to bring Working NB members to campus regularly. This will allow students to find out their Financial Aid Opportunities first hand, without self screening and possibly limiting their aid opportunities.

Finance Week

We aim to have at least 1 Finance Week during the 2022-2023 academic year, with keynote speakers discussing investments, taxes, financial literacy, and much more. This week will not be limited to only speakers who can provide knowledge on student financial issues, but will also have Alumnists speaking on how they dealt with student finances when in Post Secondary Education.

Job/Career Fairs

The SRC wants to provide an event for students to find options for jobs, possible careers, and volunteer opportunities. This will help students with short term finances, while also helping to bridge the gap between graduation and entering the job market.

Improved Knowledge of Student Aid Opportunities

The SRC and NBSA is assisting Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) in developing a marketing campaign to bring these opportunities to students in a more effective way. Students should not be digging for financial aid, because of this, the SRC will be compiling as many financial aid opportunities as possible and delivering them to students via social media and the website.

Advocate for Improved Student Loans

Working in tandem with the NBSA and CASA, the SRC will advocate towards improving the student loan process and program for students. This will include advocating for expansion of the Grant portion of the Student Loan, as well as advocating to minimize the effect of Parental Income on Student Loans.

Improve U-Card

The U-Card offers discounts to students at some local vendors, although this is a great program, there is major room for improvement in terms of transparency and quality of the card. The SRC wishes to inform students that discounts are offered and where they are offered, while also expanding the vendors that offer these discounts.

Governance Rework

In order to maximize our ability to support the students, we must look within to find the most efficient way to perform, as well as plan for future expansion in our organization's reach. To do this, we will be working with multiple consultants throughout the year to ensure that the SRC is able to have a more in depth level of guidelines to support future students and executives.

More Student Consultation and Feedback

While the UNB-SRC is student run, we are a small group that therefore only faces a small portion of the problems that students face. In order to deal with this, the SRC plans to connect with as many students as possible through meetings, surveys, and many other methods to ensure every student has a voice to share their concerns on day to day problems that students face, as well as issues that should be brought to UNB's attention.

SRC Executives in Assistive Programs

Throughout the year, our executives will be undergoing various training programs, such as ASIST, Bystander Training, and Disclosure Training in order to improve their ability to deal with situations that students face, and also to increase their awareness and knowledge of issues that need to be addressed by the SRC.

Increase Knowledge and Improve Mental Health and CSASA Services on Campus

The SRC will focus on spread the awareness of many different mental health and sexual assault services that are offered on campus, so that those who are in need of support are able to receive it. As well, the SRC will be working closely with CSASA in order to improve the knowledge and awareness of sexual assault, resources available to those affected, and training on campus.

Wellness Week(s)

We aim to have 2 Wellness Weeks that focus on various self care events as well as some speakers to elaborate on various support services offered on campus to increase understanding and awareness of certain issues students are facing. With this, we aim to improve general student well-being and create good coping mechanisms for any students who need it in more informal and less traditional ways.

Whitebone

The SRC plans to work in partnership with UNB and our food service provider to revisit the Whitebone Pizzeria to address potential areas to improve, to create an area that promotes casual social interaction to increase student engagement. We want the Whitebone to be used to its maximum potential in the 2022-2023 year and will work with our food provider and UNB to accomplish that.

Increase and Improve Marketing

One key component to making sure that students are engaged this year is to ensure that everyone is aware of the events that we do have planned. This year, we have hired a new position, a Marketing and Communications coordinator whose sole job is to ensure all students are up to date on events happening. As well, we will come up with new and innovative ways to inform students of all important dates.

Consistent event schedule

We at the SRC want to ensure that there is always something going on that students are able to attend and engage with others, so we are working towards having a more consistent event schedule instead of the periodic ups and downs of events schedules in the previous years.

Events Coordinator

As the SRC continues to grow and evolve, we believe that the hiring of an Events Coordinator, whose only focus would be the planning and implementation of events. The goal of this position is to ensure the events we host are the best they can be, while freeing more time for the rest of the executives to focus on other projects that contribute to overall student wellness. The hope is to have this position created and filled for the 2022-2023 academic year, but if not, we will have it for 2023-2024.

Increase UNBSJ's Presence in Saint John

Here at UNBSJ, we are more than just a part of a university, we are also a part of the greater community of Saint John. The UNB-SRC plans to become a bigger part of the Saint John community and be more involved with different community leaders to improve our university and our city. We also plan to advocate for UNBSJ to be more involved in the community.

Increase and Consult for UNB Specific Events

UNB and the UNB-SRC have very similar goals, which are to improve engagement on our campus any way we can. In saying this, it seems natural that we will try to collaborate any way we can with UNB so we can receive feedback and support from the institution. This will in turn improve the events

Student Community Engagement

One aspect to student engagement is in engaging with the community, not just the university. This year the UNB-SRC plans to host more events that connect the students to the city of Saint John and help those who are not from the area feel more familiar and comfortable with the area.

Sustainability Week

Sustainability is not only a major overarching issue that the SRC can advocate for, but a daily issue we all contribute to. We want to empower our students to make more sustainable daily life choices, the first step in that is informing students. Because of this we plan on hosting a Sustainability Week that will inform students on how to make more sustainable lifestyle choices.

UNB Bike Initiative

The UNB Bike Initiative is a student-led initiative that means to have rental bikes available for UNBSJ, the SRC fully supports this initiative. We will work with the Athletics Department and the Student(s) involved in this initiative.

Micro Green Mondays

This year we will work with UNB and our Food Provider to make healthy food more obtainable and less expensive. A part of that will be the Micro Green Monday initiative, where students can come to the Resource Center and pick up some Microgreens to snack on.

Compost Collection at UNBSJ

One way the SRC plans to push for a more sustainable future is by advocating for compost collection. This will reduce our overall waste and provide a source of cheap fertilizer to the community gardens here at UNBSJ. We also hope that these practices will be carried on by the students outside of UNB, leading to even greater change.

Community Garden

Along with composting, we at the SRC plan to work with UNB, our food service provider and the Green Society in order to revamp and increase the usage of our community gardens. We hope to make it more accessible to students, and more students involved in using it and improve the quality of the garden through the usage of compost.

UNB Divesting from Fossil Fuels

The SRC wishes to advocate to UNB to divest from Fossil Fuels, we will do this with the Support of Fossil Free UNB (FFUNB), who's open letter the SRC has signed in May of 2022. The advocacy work will be done to the Board of Governors as it serves as the Finances and Investments decision makers for UNB as a whole.

Indigenous Space

This year, we are working with our Indigenous Representative to create a space that is inclusive to Indigenous Students! We hope to have the Space ready by Truth and Reconciliation day, Sept 30th, 2022). The SRC offering the Indigenous Community this space will be one of many steps towards Reconciliation that the SRC would like to take over the next year.

Acknowledge Important and Commemorative Days

This year, the SRC plans to have Acknowledge and/or Celebrate Important and Commemorative Days by not only spreading awareness of the day to students, but also showing resources and other helpful items or information pertaining to that day.

Collaborate with Minority Groups

The SRC being a small group that cannot fully represent all of the different issues and ideas that every group or community has. Because of this, during the upcoming academic year we hope to work more closely with the different representatives on the council to ensure everybody has a voice and their concerns are heard.

EDI

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is not just a single act or project the SRC can undertake, but rather a process of eliminating barriers and creating equal opportunities for all. This is something we take very seriously and will be at the forefront of all decisions made by the SRC. This will be achieved by collaborating with equity seeking groups, clubs and leaders in order for the SRC to become more inclusive while also contributing to reconciliation.

Career Counseling

In the 2022-2023 year, we wish to pursue more avenues of career development for International Students. We find that for International Students it is more difficult for career development in New Brunswick when compared to students from Canada. Giving this opportunity will increase retention of those students who come from different countries to pursue an education and life in New Brunswick.

Indigenous Rep at Graduation

Graduation is a time we should all celebrate equally, with this being said, we will advocate for more Indigenous Representation at the UNBSJ Graduation this year. We will work with Graduation committees, Indigenous representatives, and the Grad Class Coordinator to ensure Indigenous Students are fairly represented at the 2023 Graduation.



UNB

**STUDENTS'
REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL**