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UNB Senate Approves Fall Reading Week Pilot for 2018-2019

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Fredericton, NB – After months of advocacy by the UNB Student Union, the Fredericton UNB Senate in a meeting on Tuesday and the Saint John Senate motioned and approved a bi-campus pilot Fall Reading Week to happen during the 2018-2019 Academic year. The Student Union began its advocacy for a Fall Reading Week in the summer of 2016 by consulting with Faculty and Administration and in October a plebiscite took place in which 97% of students who voted, voted in favour of a Fall Reading Week.

“The UNB Student Union is incredibly excited about the universities decision to pilot a break that will benefit students’ mental wellbeing” said UNBSU President, Travis Daley. “This decision reflects the importance of student advocacy on campus.”

The UNB Academic Policy and Procedures committee reviewed the proposal submitted by the UNB Student Union and a report developed by the university Registrar as well as other relevant materials. These reports included how this break would affect the Academic Calendar, students’ mental wellbeing and best practices for the implementation of a fall break.

“In contrast to popular opinion, this decision shows that the university is not deaf to student concerns, rather that they are motivated by what is most important to students” said UNBSU VP Internal, Herbert Bempah who led the advocacy for this Fall Reading Week. Herbert continues, “this Fall Reading Week will provide students with time to catch up on their academics, reflect on their progress for the term and most importantly stay mentally healthy.”

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