|  |
| --- |
| StFX Students’ Representative Council |

Executive Reports – July 2016

## President – Taylor Chase

*I was away on vacation from July 1st – July 17th, therefore this report reflects July 18th – July 31st.*

**Committees**

Election’s Nova Scotia: *Had a meeting regarding the provincial election. Discussion was very preliminary and gave a brief outline of what was needed to take place to ensure a successful election, whenever it may be called.*

*There will be opportunities for student employment with elections nova scotia throughout the duration of the election.*

Oland Centre: *Participated in an Oland Centre Steering Committee. Looking at addressing the shortcomings of the Oland Centre and what can be done in the future.*

**External Affairs**

*Students Nova Scotia (SNS):*

*Pride Parade: Had the opportunity to march in the Pride Parade in Halifax along side student executives from other institutions in Nova Scotia as well as New Brunswick.*

*Board Education Meetings: Participated in 2 days of SNS Board Meetings (July 22nd – 23rd). Focused on planning and strategy development for the year to come.*

*Key Takeaway’s:*

* *Board Restructuring: The current board structure is ineffective as we are exploring new ways to increase efficiency. Currently the board is comprised of a Chair, Treasurer, Director of University Affairs and Director of College Affairs. We have experienced inefficiencies in roles and we are currently looking at other advocacy group structures to see options for us to increase efficiency.*
* *Discussed many areas of focus for us throughout the year and beginning to start creating strategies on how to move forward with our key areas.* 
  + *Social Barriers to Post Secondary Education (PSE): Barriers to PSE that are social in nature, for example, race, family income, mental and physical disabilities. Recognizing the difference between equality and equity when discussing accessibility to PSE.*
  + *Government Relations: Increasing our government relations, especially in the midst of a potential election. Ensuring that we are actively meeting with all parties, including those in the opposition.*
  + *Media Presence: Increasing our media presence within Nova Scotia. Have an opportunity with provincial election to increase our presence and build our brand of SNS.*
  + *Student Assemblies: Discussed many ways in which we are able to increase our student participation within our organization, ensuring that we are representing our members to the best of our abilities.*
* *Approved the hire of a digital content coordinator. This individual will help us with Web design as well as creating tangible infographics to represent our message in the clearest way possible to all stakeholders.*

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA):

* Attended Policy and Strategy conference in Winnipeg from July 27th – 30th.

Key Takeaway’s:

* We have 6 committees at CASA;

1. Policy
2. Graduate
3. Member Relations
4. National Advocacy Team
5. Trades and Technology
6. Governance

* Taylor Chase is a member of the governance committee, Annie Sirois is a member of the Member Relations Committee and Bry Crabbe is a member of the Graduate Committee.
* CASA has voted on its main priorities for the year. These are what our advocacy efforts will be surrounding.

1. Economic Barriers to Post Secondary Education
2. Student Wellness
3. Student Employment
4. Research and Innovation

* CASA as an organization recognized the need to develop/review and update out current policies and develop White Papers surrounding main areas of interest for our organization. All committees will be reviewing and developing whitepapers (which are a more in-depth policy documents which incorporate potentially multiple policies as well as research and vision for the future).
* Clear goals and deliverables were set to ensure as much work is done as possible leading up to our advocacy week in Ottawa in November.

**Internal Affairs:**

*Culture Change:*

*As one of the goals of this year’s current executive team is to drive a culture change within our organization. In speaking with students as well as discussions from our own executive team key areas have been identified which need to be addressed.*

*Currently compiling and developing a strategy with broad and specific goals, and clear concise deadlines to put forward to council outlining areas which have been highlighted by students and our executive team.*

## Vice President Academic Affairs – Ryley Erickson

**Committees**

Academic Computing Committee

* 1 meeting (July 5)
* Current computers are not fast but they do the job
* We will not be able to survive the current year with all the computers however
* Looking at moving back to Windows, but no firm decision was made
* Looking at closing down the computer lab on third floor Nicholson and using the up to date computers there to replace the failing ones around campus
* The faculty are all switching to Windows which will save $100,000

Academic Planning and Priorities

* 1 meeting (July 18)
* Worked on the concept for new degree pattern that will be unveiled sometime later this year
* Minutes for this meeting are in camera unfortunately

Excel Planning Committee

* 1 meeting (July 18)
* The Excel program will be discontinued this year, and it will be replaced by a suite of seven workshops designed at transitioning students to university
* The fee for APEX has been eliminated!
* Academic Advising will move to more faculty-based advising
* Looking at doing the suite of seven workshops in the fall and winter semesters
* Approximate cost will be $200 for all seven (also comes with a note on your transcript and a certificate) and $30 dollars per workshop

Student Orientation Committee

* Four meetings (July 6, 15, 20, 27).
* **1st meeting**
* Introduced two new potential headliners
* Finalized how we were going to implement the new O-crew committee (Equity and Diversity). Refer to VP Activities and Events for more info
* Looked at putting more items in the frosh kit that can represent diversity
* **2nd meeting**
* A new activity with the international students was proposed, whereby O-crew and the international students would work together to write welcoming messages in various languages in chalk around campus
* Everyone went around and provided updates on how their various parts of orientation week were coming together.
* I have found around 15 faculty to take part in the faculty social and will be sending out another reminder closer to the time
* We were on track with the deadlines
* **3rd meeting**
* We decided that students who came to St FX in January should be allowed to participate in Orientation Week. Details still need to be worked out so it is not completely final
* We reviewed the final schedule and added the LGBTQ barbecue and international barbecue to it
* Two more headliners were added to the mix
* **4th meeting**
* Cheer off and Opening Ceremonies were discussed and kinks were worked out of both of them
* The new O-Crew committee is looking good, there will be 12-13 students on it and Rachel/the O-crew chairs are very close to having everything finalized
* Both the O-crew and orientation week shirts were approved
* The multi-tent party is shaping up for the first night, and the live n’ local tent is looking great with local student musicians being booked

**External Affairs**

**Halifax Pride**

The entire executive went and marched in the Halifax Pride Parade, which was awesome to see!

**Internal Affairs**

**Senate**

I have begun to put together a package for the student senators that they will be able to add on to each year and keep updated. As well, all the committees that the senators will be sitting on have been decided and sent to the Senate Chair, and we have booked our biweekly meetings for the school year

**Diversity & Equity Presentation**

I have put together a presentation that I will be delivering to the House Presidents during their training week on Diversity & Equity, specifically when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community

**LGBTQ Advisor**

We are in the works of planning how to get a full-time LGBTQ+ advisor on campus.

**Me 2 We Leadership Camp**

I spoke at the opening ceremonies of this camp and also delivered Bringing in the Bystander Training to around 40 of the youths that were attending. The VP External and I also attended the closing banquet, which was delicious.

**Mental Health First Aid**

We had two full days of mental health first aid training (Wednesday 13th & Wednesday 20th). Four of the executive was able to participate, and while we did lose two full days of work, I feel a little more prepared in dealing with various mental health disorders that might affect various students throughout the year.

**The Coady**

The executive spoke at the Coady orientation. I also went back during day 2 and delivered a short explanation on Bringing in the Bystander and what the program was all about. Around 20 people have signed up so far to take the workshop.

**Sexualized Violence Presentation**

I am opening and closing the Spilling Tea Session during O-week, so I have been working with my co-host Bob Hale and the organizers Sarah MacPhee and Emily MacDonald to develop a script and a vision of what to do

**Research**

I discovered that the filing cabinet in my office has not been organized since 1992 (that is the oldest document I have recovered so far) so I have been organizing it. I have found many useful documents, including Senator reports dating back to 2003, a mental health and sick day policy, documents surrounding BurMac from past years, very old council minutes, and lots of other interesting papers. While most of it is useless (around 75% of what I find we have no need for and I’m therefore shredding it), some of it is quite interesting and informative and I am looking forward to having the whole cabinet cleared out.

**Welcome Day**

I am the master of ceremonies for Welcome Day so I have met with Justin Fox regarding my role during it

**Sub – Executives**

**Bringing in the Bystander Coordinator**

Jenna trained me in being a Bringing in the Bystander Coordinator so I can now deliver the presentations. She is also very close to finishing the updated version of the presentation.

## Vice-President Finance and Operations - Chad Hasegawa

**Committees**

*Finance Committee Meeting for Campus Trust –* Conference Call with the respected trustees and PBAS representatives. The bulk of the meeting was around operating fund contributions from each school as we are looking for a appropriate increase to the fund which will be fair for all associations. Other focus topics included (but not limited to):

* SBTA Invoices
* Interim Financial Statements
* Administration billings
* Transition document
* Trustee accountability
* Operating fund

*Oland Review Committee –* The Oland Review Committee is taking a look at possible renovations to the Oland Centre. A number of different stakeholders sit on the committee like the Human Kinetics department, University Admin, Athletics, Health and Wellness, Academic and students. Currently the project is in its early stages and assessing the need to accommodate all parties. After getting some quotes from the architects it looks like the project is not currently feasible with the other projects like the Xaverian fund and the Mulroney Institute. Right now it looks as like it is 5-6 years down the road.

*Downtown Business Organization –* Jamie MacDonald has approached us about a downtown student fair he would like to bring to Antigonish. After a couple of meetings we have decided it would be best to work together for ideas if they want to implement it for next year, the short timeframe would not be realistic with Orientation week approaching. It would be a similar style to the Street Fair they put on for Highland Games but tailored for students. We let him know about the transition and if he wanted to make this a yearly event to come back and work with the new team and us come second semester.

**External Affairs**

*Mental Health First Aid:*

A number of the team completed their Mental Health First Aid put on by the Mental Health Commission of Canada. It was a full two-day process but was very beneficial moving forward with the Health plan and Aspiria to be able to lift the stigma and offer supports for students. The sessions were very educational on a number of different mental health issues and informative on the proper process as first responder in a crisis situation.

Grant Thornton Audit:

Grant Thornton came for over a week to perform the yearly audit of the organization. They seemed to focused on cash flow rather than management this year but they will present the audit in September before council.

**Internal Affairs**

Internal Bylaws Rework:

The Vice President of Residence Affairs and I have gone over some House Accounts and committee bylaws and policy to update them, as they are outdated. With the organizational restructure this is a good time to update them for effective use this year. Some need to be removed and other reworked but they will be presented at the AGM.

*Activities and Events:*

Frosh Kit sales are underway on our app and companion website. The Items are all in and we are waiting on a few inserts from our sponsors. Still moving forward and help Rachel with actuals to fit in the budget while she contacts the production, security and entertainment companies for final quotes.

*The Golden X Inn:*

Jainyme (Bar Manager) and I are currently overseeing a few changes to The Inn. The first was the expansion of the sidebar, it is longer and has more of a counter. The space the staff was working with and the amount of volume it was getting was not a suitable space so it has almost doubled. This will allow suitable space for the bartenders, bussers and security to access the space safely and productively.

Another change is to the pool table area, the pool table is going to be removed for new TV’s and a backdrop for photos. The pool table is old and depreciated so the area will be transformed into a games and photo area. For the games we are looking into old Nintendo systems like Gamecubes to be hooked up for social nights with its classic games (Mario Kart, NHL Hitz 2003, Mario Party, Super Smash Bros, etc.). We are looking to get a Labatt sponsored backdrop and lights on the other side of where the pool table used to be.

*Sponsorship:*

Sponsorship has been a priority this month and we are in a good position with our corporate sponsors. Victoria is moving forward with contacting local businesses for smaller sponsorship opportunities.

Gold:

Scotiabank

Aspiria

Pharmasave

Sobeys (Special Deal with the SFRC)

Silver:

Maritime Inn

CIBC

Athletics

Bronze:

Grant Thornton

Alumni Affairs

Other:

The Casket

Snappy Tomato

Symphony Nova Scotia

## Vice-President Residence Affairs – Joelle French

**Committees** *(Here is where you can discuss the different committees that you are a member of. I would recommend providing a brief summary of items that have been discussed and the different initiatives before the committee. Please specify the way in which your office specifically has been a part these projects or the role that you have played in their progress or completion)*

In July, I continue to be part of one main committee, which is Student Orientation Committee (SOC). During the month of July, the committee has made astounding progress in regards to the planning of frosh week. Several different options have been approved for the headlining concert, and Rachel (VP Activities and Events) is working on different offers. I am sure in August, myself and the other committee members will be happy to announce the headlining concert to council. Continuing on, the content for orientation week kits have been approved and ordered, and the kits are shaping up to be very fun and will definitely improve the orientation week exponentially. Alongside these updates, the committee has been working on scheduling logistics, finalizing the schedule, and discussing the movement of houses from event to event and what the roles of O’Crew and House Presidents and Vice Presidents will be during the week. During Orientation Week, there will also be the standing tradition of the LGBTQ barbeque on Friday and the International barbeque on Thursday evening.

The second committee that I sat on in July was the East Coast Student Leadership Conference. The conference will be taking place on campus from November 5th-7th. I have moved positions from Sub-Committee #6 Sponsorship to now being Steering Committee Chair of Sub-Committee #3 Programming, alongside Jan Boomhouwer (REC). As a Steering Committee member, I was able to attend one of the two Steering Committee meetings in the month of July. However, in the first meeting we discussed action items for each of our sub-committees and various ways to ensure our co-chairs remain accountable to action items. Unfortunately, I was away on vacation for the second meeting. I look forward to reporting more on this committee in future reports, as it promises to be an exciting and empowering experience for StFX students.

Finally, the last committee that I had the pleasure to sit on is the planning committee for Senator Murray Sinclair, who will be visiting StFX campus in early November. The committee has met once so far, and in this meeting there was discussion of what the agenda will look like for Senator Sinclair’s visit, brainstormed various ways to engage StFX students both indigenous and non-indigenous, and the various activities that will take place while the Senator is visiting. This also promises to be an extremely exciting event on campus, and I look forward to continuing to report on the progress of the committee in upcoming reports.

**External Affairs** *(Here is where to indicate what has been happening through your office/department in terms of events outside of the Union, and our executive. Other groups within the university that you have been working with)*

During the month of July, I have not had much work in regards to external affairs. The work that I have had has mostly consisted of meetings with University stakeholders, in order to gain information about the residences for orientation week and the upcoming year. I had the chance to meet with Kathleen Adams, Carla Gillis, and Johnann LeBlanc to discuss the numbers in residence. This has proven helpful in being able to order the correct number of house shirts and the logistics of residence for the upcoming year.

\*If you would like a full breakdown of house numbers, please feel free to send me an email at [su\_resaffairs@stfx.ca](mailto:su_resaffairs@stfx.ca) and I would be more than happy to share the numbers.

As well, myself and Chad Hasegawa (VP Finance and Operations) had a meeting with Bob Hale (Head of Student Life), Jacqueline de Leebeeck (Director of Student Life), and Carla Gillis (Director of Ancillary Services) to discuss the future of House Councils in residence. At this meeting, the U was given the go ahead to hire a Vice-President for Mount Saint Bernard. This will be a project that I will be working on in the month of August. The other conclusions of that meeting were that I would be going ahead with the House Council Restructure that was outlined in the June Executive Report to Council. However, throughout the year Marek Viezner and myself will be continuously reassessing the role of House Council, what can increase it’s effectiveness, and what is the right “fit” for each specific residence. Through this process, I hope to come up with a new proposal at the end of the year to lay a foundation for an enhanced residential experience in the future, alongside the recommendations from the University.

Continuing on, I have been working with the Campus Store to work on ordering house shirts. This is a new change this year, as we have switched our house shirt provider from Ross Screenprint to the Campus Store. This is due to the reasoning that they could provide the most cost effective option, and being mindful of the limitedness of each residence’s house council budget. This is a pilot project, and I will be providing a thorough review of Campus Store as a provider, and recommendations for the future person(s) in my position.

Finally, I have been working with Jacqueline De Leebeeck to continue to plan the CORE Leadership Team (CLT) Retreat. The retreat will consist of various sessions on leadership skill building, mindfulness, the “bunny brain”, and various team-building activities. The retreat will take place at Crystal Cliffs on August 28th.

**Internal Affairs** *(Here is where to indicate what has been happening through your office/department in terms of events within the Union, and our executive. I would recommend discussing projects that require collaboration between your office and the office of another member of the Executive Board)*

In terms of Internal Affairs, most of my time has been spent working on Training Week for the House Presidents and Vice Presidents. I will attach the finalized schedule for your revision. This schedule is subject to change however, most of the sessions have been booked. I am very open to feedback, so if there is something you believe I have not included that would help set the House Presidents up for success, or just would like to provide some general comments please feel free to email me at [su\_resaffairs@stfx.ca](mailto:su_resaffairs@stfx.ca).

Ryley Erickson (VP Academic) and I have been working together to research the academic appeals process and the support that student’s have access to. We are hoping to be able to provide support to students in academic distress through the Student Advocate Office. This would be similar to the way the Student Advocates provide support to students who are going through the Conduct Process. Ryley and I will have a presentation to Council in either August or September, due to various factors in our meeting and research process.

Chad Hasegawa and I have worked together to re-write the Campus Affairs policy, in order to make it more effective. The Campus Affairs committee will now include the House Accounts Co-Coordinator and the House Council Co-Coordinator as non-voting members. As well, there will be a new budget that is drawn up. I will attach a copy of the new policy for your revision. This copy includes the old policy so you can easily compare the changes, There will be a presentation to Council, where we will look for your feedback, as well as answer any questions you may have.

Finally, I have been working with Rachel to co-ordinate the plans for orientation week that involve both of our offices. This has included working with O’Crew co-chairs Kelsey MacLean and Hannah Herbert-Robertson to discuss connecting Perma with House Presidents and Vice Presidents. Which events she would like me to be PEO of, and other various logistics. I look forward to providing a full House President/Vice President orientation week breakdown in my August report.

**Sub – Executives** *(Here is where to discuss your interactions and plans for your sub-executives. Please include any hiring of sub-executive positions, as well as communication that you have had with your different sub-execs. This would also be a place to discuss any planning that you may be doing for training sessions for each of the various positions that fall beneath your office)*

Communication with the House President and Vice Presidents has consisted of me providing them updates through our Facebook Group, in terms of Training Week and Orientation Week. As previously mentioned, I have finalized their training week, however it is still subject to change so I have not shared it with the HP/VPs as of yet. As well, they have sent in headshots and introductions to be introduced through a Residence Life Newsletter that Jan Boomhouwer (REC) has been compiling. In the month of August, the HP/VPs will be writing their House Letters to introduce themselves to the incoming first years, and will be gearing up for training week. I will have more to report in my August Executive Report. Continuously, I have been in contact with Marek Viezner, updating him on the various projects that involve the House Presidents and Vice Presidents.

Finally, I am looking into getting the Student Advocates Mental Health First Aid Training, as well as Positive Space Training I and II, in order to set them up for the most success in the upcoming year. I have emailed them in order to update them about these projects, as well as to let them know that their training day will take place on Sunday, September 11th.

## Vice-President Activities and Events – Rachel LeBlanc

**Committees:**

**Student Orientation Committee**: Have had weekly meetings to review and approve decisions for the upcoming welcome week. Over the course of the month the following decisions were made:

* Headliner confirmed
* Event Logistics
* Food for events
* Additional Frosh Kit Items

**ERC Committee**: EC committee works together to review student event plans for a risk assessment. Our first formal meeting will take place this August to review Orientation week events, but we have been communicating via email to work on Shinerama fundraising events in the meantime.

**External Affairs:**

* **Agencies**: Over the course of the month, I have been working primarily with third party agents to negotiate acts and follow up on confirmed ones.
* **Frosh Kits:** I have been working with Festivals Promotions to add a few items our frosh kits to better represent student resources on campus. He has been a pleasure to work with and has been sending in items in perfect condition.
* **Tshirts**: Working with Brent Hirtle from Hirtle Promotions on Frosh Kit T-shirts for students. The shirts come in all sizes except x-small, and we have made sure to have additional small and medium shirts to accommodate students better.
* **Student Union:** Met with MSVUSU team to discuss the summer’s progress and plans for the year. Working with Haley Myatt has been incredible!

**Internal Affairs:**

* **Calendar events**: We completed the winter calendar for events with Jainyme, Sean, Devon and Nick Carpenter. Lots of great events lined up for both terms!
* **Entertainment Coordinators**: Worked with Brandon to review last year’s Entertainment Coordinator position. With the recent changes, we reviewed the terms of reference to make some edits to the document.
* **O-crew**: Having regular meetings with O-crew Co chairs to review the O-crew logistics.
* **Hybrid Committee Pilot Project:** O-crew has had the privilege of beginning a pilot project to make the committees and Orientation week more equitable and representative of the student body. This Hybrid committee connects students of the international welcome crew and others to our O-crew to help more students identify and connect with others on campus. Responsibilities include interacting with underrepresented students, assisting in Orientation week execution and planning the international BBQ and LGTBQ BBQ.
* **Helping Shine Committee** with their Car Wash and BBQ Fundraisers through ERC forms. Very proud of the committee and all they are doing!
* **Working with VP Academics** to organize X talks for the year. Will revisit topic in my presentation.
* **Working with International Society President and Vice President**, Students of African Descent Advisor and Aboriginal Student Advisor to develop Culture Fest framework. Event aims to bring together students to celebrate culture on campus.
* **Working a lot with Sean Ryan** on Orientation week planning. Cannot thank him enough for all of the guidance and effort he is putting into helping execute this week.
* **Seeking out student musicians and DJs for calendar events**. Aim is to support student/local musicians as much as possible.

**Sub Executives:**

O-crew Co Chairs: Continuing with weekly meetings to discuss and update on frosh week plans. Focus has been on Glo games, new hybrid committee, O-crew t-shirts and day-to-day logistics.

Society Coordinator, Tiffany MacLennan: Met twice this month to discuss Society Night deadlines, Presidents’ Training in the fall and Handbook. Aiming to support Society programming with the help of Entertainment coordinators in the fall.

Entertainment Coordinator: As the role has been striped as a sub-executive position, Brandon Hamilton and I developed a new framework for the Entertainment Coordinators, which will be presented in the council meeting.

## Vice-President External Affairs – Annie Sirois

**Committees**

• *Nicholson Hall/BMIG Steering Committee*: Did not meet this month.

• *Campus Planning Committee*: Did not meet this month.

• *Town of Antigonish Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)*: Met this month to discuss flag lots

and containers. At Town Council it was decided that further public participation was needed

before a motion for a first reading was made.

**External Affairs**

I attended the Student Government Roundtable in Halifax on July 13th with SNS, CFS-NS,

Dalhousie Student Union, and the Atlantic School of Theology. It was a chance to meet with Minister

Kelly Regan of Labour and Advanced Education, as well as her staffers, to deliver SNS’ asks as well

as keep the Minister accountable for the MOU. **The recently signed MOU allows for the removal of**

**the tuition cap for out-of-province and graduate students**. This is of huge concern for StFX

students as now tuitions for both and international students are unregulated and can be changed

whenever the university sees fit. In 2015-2016, 52% of students were not from Nova Scotia.

Two other areas of significance from the MOU are: 1) the increased emphasis by the

government on supporting mental health initiatives in PSE, and 2) the expectation for universities to

develop their own sexual assault policies. There are no repercussions if the universities in Nova

Scotia do not complete the policies, but rather they will receive funding incentives (1% a year for

operating, which doesn’t even match inflation) if they do complete them. **What is of huge concern is**

**that if the university administration do not fulfill the various agreements outlined in the MOU,**

**they will not receive funding, and will have to compensate by raising tuition for international,**

**out-of-province, and graduate students**, or find another means of covering their ever-rising

operating costs. It is clear that universities don’t want to raise tuition, but the decline in funding from

the provincial government is forcing them to.

On the 19th I attended the **Town Hall on Electoral Reform and Climate Change**, hosted by

our MP Sean Fraser for Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef. Taylor and I had a meeting with an

individual from Elections Nova Scotia on the 26th to discuss the U’s participation in the upcoming

provincial election (for which the date has not yet been announced).

Taylor and I had a SNS Board Education Conference at Saint Mary’s University over the 23rd-

24th where we, accompanied by the rest of the executive team, walked in the Halifax Pride Parade.

We discussed the goals and priorities for our Annual General Meeting at Acadia University in August.

Taylor and I also attended the **CASA Annual General Meeting** at Red River College in Winnipeg

from the 27th to the 30th. I will give an update on that in my August report.

**Internal Affairs**

The Policy Proposal Package (*discussed in the June Executive Report*) I have been working

on is in its final edits; it will certainly be done well before the academic year begins. I am also finishing

July Executive Report

the final edits for an **Off-Campus Opportunities** databank collection submission form. The databank

will ideally be an interactive tool that students can use on our new website. The databank will be

composed of three separate databases: volunteer opportunities, job listings, and activity/event

postings. It is a means to compile information for students about the opportunities that they have offcampus,

while not diluting the U’s social media with material that isn’t underneath its jurisdiction.

I have been **actively reviewing the Canada Student Loans and Grants Program, as well**

**as the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program**. The purpose of this is to gain a better

understanding of what is available to StFX students and how accessible it is to each demographic; as

well as assess what external advocacy policies we should develop this year in regards to

scholarships/grants/bursaries/loans.

I met with Mike Fisher, the Students of African Descent Advisor, to **discuss ways in which**

**the External Affairs office is trying to make the Students’ Union more accessible and inclusive**

**to all demographics on campus**; as well as to gain feedback from the advisors on how I could do a

better job at doing that moving forward.

Last area worth noting is that I am now beginning the execution for the Municipal Election. **I**

**am developing a handbook for VP Externals in future years to refer to whenever there is a**

**municipal, provincial, or federal election**. It can often be overwhelming when people aren’t sure

where to begin when planning a campaign/event, so the hope of this handbook is to ease some of the

stress of starting from nothing and providing some direction on where to begin.

Annie Sirois

Vice President External Affairs

www.theU.ca

**Glossary**

**StudentsNS/SNS:** Students Nova Scotia is the STFXSU’s Provincial Lobbying Group. It is an alliance of Nova Scotia post-secondary

student associations, including StFX, Acadia, Cape Breton, Saint Mary’s, Kingstec, and Annapolis Valley. The organization gives

students in Nova Scotia a united voice, helping set the direction of post-secondary education by researching challenges, identifying

solutions, and creating the political space needed for these solutions to happen. For more information: http://studentsns.ca/ or contact

the Executive Director Sophie Helpard at director@studentsns.ca

**CASA:** Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is the STFXSU’s Federal Lobbying Group and a national voice for Canada’s postsecondary

students. Established in 1995, CASA is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student organization composed of student associations

from across Canada. For more information: http://casa-acae.com/ or contact the Executive Director Michael McDonald at ed@casa.ca

**MLA:** A Member of Legislative Assembly is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the provincial legislative

assembly. The MLA for the Antigonish constituency is Mr. Randy Delorey of the Liberal Party. Contact: office@delorey4antigonish.ca or

902-870-5899

**MOU:** refers to the Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement between the provincial government and all the universities in Nova

Scotia. It serves to provide operational direction for universities.

**MP:** A Member of Parliament is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the House of Commons (also known as the

Lower House). The MP for Central Nova constituency is Sean Fraser of the Liberal Party. Contact: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca or 902-867-

2919

**PSE:** refers to post-secondary education, also known as higher education, which encompasses universities, academies, colleges,

seminaries, and institutes of technology.