 *Office of the* **President**

**Name: Annie Sirois**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

**Committees**

* StFX University’s *Building and Grounds Committee* and *Campus Planning Committee*: Please refer to May 2017 report for most recent update.
* Board of Governors *Finance Committee:* Please refer to May 2017 report for most recent update.
* CASA’s *Member Relations Committee:* The committee met throughout the CASA Policy and Strategy and executed a detailed Work Plan for the Year. The projects in the work plan include developing an info graphic video describing what CASA is and does for our students, developing ways in which CASA can increase and better its social media presence, as well as in house team building sessions for more productive lobbying.
* CASA’s *Pre-Strategic Planning Committee:* The committee has begun working on a series of themes and questions to circulate to students via a fall survey in an effort to gain grassroots feedback.

**External Affairs**

This month Zakariya and I traveled to Kananaskis, Alberta for **CASA’s Policy and Stategy Conference**. This conference is content heavy and sets the direction for the year’s advocacy efforts. Committees met to develop intensive and detail work plans for the year, reviewed the Quebec partnership and audited financials, and selected the advocacy priorities. These priorities include 1) open-educational resources, 2) health and wellness, 3) international and indigenous students, and 4) financial barriers to post-secondary education. The build-up and execution of this conference is another area that required significant allocated time.

Throughout July we continued to develop **StudentsNS’s Annual Plan**. The final copy of it will be passed at the Annual General Meeting that will be held at Saint Mary’s University from August 18th-20th.

**Internal Affairs**

This month we strengthened our partnership with the university’s recruitment team, underwent intense **media training with StudentsNS** Executive Director, partook in the **Halifax Pride Parade** with the X-Pride Society, and reviewed **X-Ring eligibility** for graduate and masters students. I met with the **Coady Diploma in Development Leadership for the Orientation**, introduced the Students’ Union and discussed areas for collaboration between the two bodies. The **Residence Advisory Committee** met several times to discuss a high-level overview of residences for the future, as well as to address the MacIsaac Hall closure.

I developed the **student-at-large applications** for the website that will be reviewed by Council prior to going live. I worked heavily on the **President’s Report** that serves as mechanism for students to know what the Executive Team has been up to the past few months and what to expect this upcoming year. I met with **Fenn Martin**, a professor in the Arts Department to coordinate a piece for Orientation Week that will be accessible for all students to take part in. We are in the final stages of securing an Mi’kmaq welcome for Orientation Week! I am also in the process of securing funding and an artist for the first of a series of **art murals** around campus, starting with the blank wall on 4th floor SUB.

Annie Sirois, President

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**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](mailto:director@studentsns.ca)

**CASA:** Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is the STFXSU’s Federal Lobbying Group and a national voice for Canada’s post-secondary 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](mailto:ed@casa.ca)

**PSE:** refers to post-secondary education, also known as higher education, which encompasses universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, and institutes of technology.

*Office of the* **Vice President Academic**

**Name: Patrick Panet-Raymond**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

Committees:

July 4: Student Orientation Committee

Together, committee members from the Students’ Union and from the University looked over the possible ideas we have/had for orientation week. We are making sure that these activities and events are fun yet will also reduce the first year, first week nerves.

July 12: Equity and Human Rights Committee

After going through many different and strong applications for the Equity and Human Rights Officer, we had originally decided to interview 4 candidates, 2 of those candidates cancelled shortly before their scheduled interviews. In the end, we only interviewed 2 strong candidates for the first round of interviews. After those interviews, we all summarized our feedback and gave it HR who will go through a second hiring process before the decision is made.

July 18: Student Orientation Committee

After getting the schedule for the weekend clarified with certain events, we then needed to fill in the open spaces that day with some less stressful activities. These activities will tie into our idea of community approach. I am also in the process of working on the Faculty Social with our VP of Activities and Events.

External Affairs

The sub-committee that was given the task of helping **revamp the current BITB presentation,** had met about 3 times during the month of July and over the course of this month we finalized the reformation of **BITB Presentation**. I will continue to work with the Women’s Resource Centre to help make a **‘Made In Nova Scotia Bystander Program’**. This is a two-year plan so I will be working on that with the **Women’s Resource Centre** as much as I can over the course of this year. On July 6th and the 11th, I participated in **Mental Health First Aid Training** which gave me an interesting insight on what and how to approach Mental Health in youth. Later in the week, I participated in **SNS Media Training,** this session taught us how to deal with the complications of media in given scenarios. We had a team meeting with Jacqueline De Leebeek in regards to her **Community Approach** for this year in the residences. **Our executive team** had a **meeting with staff at Recruitment Services**, which they were looking for any ideas that would help bring students to our door step. At our **last Leadership committee** meeting, we came up with a list with all **the student leadership opportunities** here at StFX. I gave them a copy of that graphic in order to help their recruitment ideas and presentations. After continuing the research regarding accessibility,I am in the process of completing my proposal to **enhance accessibility on campus,** so that it may be presented to the Campus Planning Committee.

Internal Affairs

This month I got in touch with our **Science Student Representative** about an initiative that I believe will be useful in the communication. This initiative is to create a **Student Advisory Board** that would meet a couple of times each semester. A student from each respective program of the science department would sit on this advisory board.

Sub-Executives

No that **the BITB Presentation is officially revamped**, the BITB coordinator, the Director of Health and Counselling and I are working on an appropriate breakdown on who to train to become facilitators, so that we can reach out to the most students and other community members as possible so that they may get the Bystander Training.

*Office of the* **Vice President, Finance & Operations**



**Name: Will Gatchell**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

**Committees**

- None of my Union committees have met

**External Affairs**

*Campus Trust Finance Committee –* This year I am sitting on two external committees with the Campus Trust. The Finance Committee met for the first time since the APO on July 20th where we discussed important things for the year ahead such as: appointing a new chair, administration review billings, and setting the 2017/2018 operating budget.

*Campus Trust Governance Committee* – This is a newly stuck committee for this year with aim to assess the governance of the trust as it heads into its 20th year. We met on July 18th where we briefly reviewed and discussed our current governance structure, specifically looking at the structure of our Board (student representation, equal representation, etc). To help establish a direction we created a mission statement for the committee and set out to generate questions for a governance survey to be sent out to all the Trustees at a later date.

*Mental Health First Aid Training* – Very excited to have participated in this training put on by Margie McKinnon and Ivan Drouin from the Health and Mental Counseling Centre It took place over the course of two days and was very interactive, informative, and important things to learn. We discussed a lot of material such as substance-related disorders, mood-related disorders, anxiety-related disorders, food disorders, and psychotic disorders. Walked away from this training with a lot of reassurance in detection and also intervention techniques.

*St. FX Big Bike Ride –* Happy to have gotten the opportunity to be apart of the St. FX Big Hearts team who got to ride the Big Bike (worth googling) and all for a good cause! Put on by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, the Big Bike brings awareness and research funding for heart disease and stroke. The 20-minute bike ride was completed by a mix of St. FX Administration, Faculty and Students and together as community we raised over $1000 dollars.

**Internal Affairs**

*Sponsorship* – Plenty of sponsorship and partnership meetings this month for Orientation week and beyond. These include ones with: Sobeys, Maritime INN, Staples, Athletics, Alumni Office and more. Have also met biweekly with our sponsorship coordinator for check-ups on how some of our other prospects are coming along. Currently working on drafting final contracts before sending them off next week.

*Student Food Resource Centre*- Sent off our final design for our SFRC sign and got final approval this past week. The project will be going ahead in the coming weeks with the sign up before school begins.

*Community Efficacy Meeting-* Met with Jacqueline De Leebeeck to discuss the new restorative justice approach her office is taking with conduct this upcoming year and how the residence communities will look. A lot of this information stems from the Residence Review Report conducted earlier this year.

*Recruitment Team Meeting*- Had a meeting alongside the rest of the executive team with the recruitment team here at St. FX. Their office was looking to understand what each of our offices had on our agenda for the year and ways in which we could support each other going forward. Spoke of some collaborative possibilities.

*Media Training (SNS)* – Completed media training with Tristan from Students Nova Scotia. He gave a very insightful presentation on the do’s and don’ts of speaking with members of the media and he prepared mock interviews based on topics that fall under my portfolio.

Facilities Renewal Fee – Met with Leon MacLellan, Director of Facilities Management, to get the background for his office such as their operating budget, projects currently on-the-go, and the history of the facilities renewal fee. Got lots of good material from this meeting and a sense for how this fee should be applied moving forward.

**Sub-Executive:**

*House Accounts Coordinator:* Have been working with Grace Knowles, this years HAC, to discuss tentative training dates at the end of August and a few obligations during the week of HP/ VP training.

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*Office of the* **Vice President, Residence Affairs**

**Name: Rebecca Mesay**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

**Committees**

The **Student Orientation Committee (SOC)** has continued its weekly meetings. We have finalized the schedule for Orientation Week and have set the time for a number of key activities. This helps the Committee in moving forward seeing as it can now focus on confirming the location of the activities. The keynote speaker for one of the primary presentations has been confirmed, as have all the external presenters who will be speaking to the incoming students at different points throughout the week.

I sit on the **Coady Chair in Social Justice Committee**; there was a meeting in the last week of July to discuss our Chair, Dorene Bernard’s schedule for the fall term. There was discussion about the best method for promoting the Chair and her work. This year the Committee hopes to show students that the Coady Chair in Social Justice is intended to be a resource for knowledge and active learning for the university.

The last several weeks have been filled with many meetings about training week. At this time, I am collaborating on the details and planning with the Manager of Student Life, Shannon Travers as well as the Residence Life Coordinators, Tyler McKone, Olivia Winder, Miriam Illman-White, and Mikayla MacDonald and Residence Education Coordinator, Kerri Arthurs. We have successfully planned the schedule for the first half of the week, which has the most cohesion in terms of training for our two groups.

After my Residence Affairs Visions Meeting, where I presented the goals of my office for the year to the Executive Team, we created a number of working groups to address potential areas for support that were identified in the meeting. There were three different committees that were established as a result, including a group for MacIssac, the TriMac Houses, and House Hockey Cups.

**External Affairs**

This year, StFX again participated in the Halifax Pride Parade. Robert Chatterton, President of the X-Pride Society, led the StFX cohort, which included the participation of various members of the StFX Community including both students and administration. The members of the Executive Team present included VP Academic Patrick Panet-Raymond, VP of Finance & Operations William Gatchell, and me. The other members of the team sent their regrets and well wishes seeing as they were unable to come while being out of province for External Affairs.

**Internal Affairs**

In the second week of July, SU President Annie Sirois, VP Academic Patrick Panet-Raymond, and I had a meeting with the General Manger, Sean Ryan to have a follow-up about the Student Advocate Office. We primarily discussed the possibility of the Student Advocate Office’s involvement with aiding students going through the Academic Appeals Process. As a measurable take-away, the VP Academic and I will be having a meeting with the Academic VP and Provost of the university, Kevin Wamsley.

Residence Life will be making some institutional changes in the coming year and I was a part of different meetings that introduced the proposed structural shift along with the members of the Student Life Office and Residence Life Office. These meetings were very informative and the changes shall be introduced to my sub-executives, as well as Hall Directors and Community Advisors, when these groups return to campus during training week.

In the last week of July, I had a meeting with Kerri Arthurs, the Residence Education Coordinator. She showed me how the Programming Model for Residence Life will be changing in the coming year as well as a calendar of programming events for the Fall 2017 term. It was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate on a diversity of ideas and also helped us outline how Community Advisors and House Presidents and Vice Presidents will be working together on different projects throughout the year.

I had a meeting with Dr. Lisa Lunney Borden from the Education Department about how House Presidents, Vice Presidents, OCL, and students at-large could get more involved with X-Project. We primarily discussed different ways of promoting the society on-campus and how to get students interested in working with the communities surrounding Antigonish.

**Sub-Executive**

It is starting to become fairly busy in the Residence Affairs Office especially pertaining to the sub-executives seeing as we are getting closer and closer to training week. In the second week of July, I had several meetings to finalize the order for House Shirts on behalf of the House Presidents, Vice Presidents, and OCL.

The larger group was also given a number of tasks throughout the course of July including creating a small write-up about their residence communities for YOUniversity in addition to a letter for their incoming first year students to be included in their Residence Mailout. They received their training week package on the last day of July as did the House Council Coordinator, Madeline Horne. This package essentially clarifies a number of details about training week before the group is provided with the finalized schedule. I have been in constant communication with the House Presidents, Vice Presidents, and OCL with general updates and to ensure that they are accomplishing the small tasks that they have been given throughout the month.

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**Glossary:**

**Student Orientation Committee (SOC):** committee composed of members of the Student Union Executive Team, Student Life, Residence Life, and the university administration whom are tasked with planning and reviewing events and idea generation for Student Orientation Week in September.

**Coady Chair in Social Justice:** intended to honour the Dr. Rev. Moses Coady and the leaders of the Antigonish Movement by bridging local and global concerns, involving the community, and encouraging an interdisciplinary approach to issues. The Chair is an important means to deepen St. Francis Xavier (StFX) University’s commitment to its service to society's mission, to develop student’s understanding and sense of social responsibility, and to support the Coady International Institute as a centre for global citizen leadership and social justice at StFX.

 *Office of the* **Vice President Activities & Events**

**Name: Sean Hopkins**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

**Committees**

Student Orientation Committee (SOC): SOC meetings have continued to go well for the month of July. We have finalized all decisions regarding the schedule and are now proceeding on the final preparations for Orientation Week. This month we have addressed the following:

* Orientation Week Schedule
* Frosh Kits
* Cheer Off
* X Talks
* Visible @ X
* Shinerama
* ERC
* Community Meetings
* BBQs
* Welcome Day
* Faculty Social

Event Risk Committee (ERC): No updates from this committee as we have not met yet, however ERCs for Orientation Week have been completed and will be presented to the committee in the month of August.

**External Affairs**

I have begun looking into numerous talent agencies regarding entertainment we can bring in for events throughout the year. These agencies include: United Talent, Paquin, Feldman, Berg and Paradigm.

Discussing with several companies regarding our Orientation T-Shirts which will be given to all incoming students as they arrive on campus in September.

Frosh kit items have begun to arrive and so far so good! Very excited to see the pieces come together.

Met with Antigonish Town & County Crime Prevention group to help organize and host the Good Neighbours, Strong Neighbourhoods BBQ which intends to strengthen the relationship between students and members of the community.

At the beginning of the month, members of Students Nova Scotia (SNS) arrived on campus to provide us with media training which is going to be of great value for the coming year.

Have been speaking with speaker agencies regarding our plans for Orientation Week as well as the possibility of bringing in many speakers for various programs and events throughout the year. These agencies include: Disrupt Agency and the National Speakers Bureau.

**Internal Affairs**

Working on the bookings for entertainment for Orientation Week. Met with many faculty to discuss the options we have for the Carnival and Headlining Concert. These discussions have been going very well.

Cody McGregor, Sean Ryan, Nicholas Carpenter and I have been meeting once a week to plan events for The Golden X Inn. First semester is complete and we are currently working on events for the Winter Term.

I have continued to discuss with Mary Coyle, Alex Corrigan and Rachel LeBlanc regarding events such as Smart StFX (which we will be introducing this year) and X Talks. During these meetings, all of these individuals have demonstrated their experience which is proving to be very useful in the organization of these large-scale programs.

Working with many societies to help with their events for the coming year.

Continuously meeting with Will Gatchell and Sean Ryan regarding finances for Orientation Week.

Met with the Recruitment Team at the beginning of the month and discussed our goals for the year.

**Sub-Executive:**

Entertainment Coordinators: Hired an additional Entertainment Coordinator, Riley Milford, who will also be arriving early to help with Orientation Week.

Society Coordinator: Begun working on Society Night and society ratification with Sarah, things are going well with this.

O-Crew Co-Chairs: Due to work schedule conflicts, Connor and Erica are no long able to attend the SOC meetings, so I will be having weekly meetings with them to keep them up-to-date and help them finalize their O-Crew training schedule.

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*Office of the* **Vice President External Affairs**

**Name: Zakariya Chatur**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (July 2017)

**Internal**

Took three days’ vacation to attend my cousins wedding in Edmonton Alberta. In order to save the Students’ Union money, I was given permission to use an office at the University of Alberta Students’ Union for the week of the 17th to 21st. Annie Sirois and I had a conference in Kananaskis for CASA on the 24th of July therefore we saved money by not having to fly me out to Alberta.

**External**

**CASA:**  Throughout this month the **CASA Board of Directors** has been working on the Theme Selection Package, as well as Board Action Plans. There was considerable amount of time put into the creation of a proposal. The proposal was intended for the membership to provide feedback prior to the actual plenary session in which the package is solidified. Until the Policy and Strategy Conference, which was held from the 24th to the 27th of July, I was tasked with calling different member institutions and discussion their thoughts and they I would relay them back to the rest of the Board. Prior to the Policy and Strategy conference I was tasked with creating my Board Action Plan. This plan included my objectives for this year, most of which are tied to the Advocacy Pillar in CASA’s Strategic Plan. The objectives of the Board Member are part of the vision of Committee Work Plans. As Director of Advocacy it is my job to ensure that the plan is in line with the work the Advocacy Committee will be doing for this year. The Policy and Strategy Conference is the last time the committees will meet face to face prior to Advocacy Week in November. Our task here was to design our work plan. We, as a committee, decided to focus on Local Lobbying, Social Media Follow-Up Campaign and a Letter Writing Campaign. The purpose of not selecting a campaign that is specific to one theme is to ensure that each member institution can be represented. Throughout the month as well, prior to the conference, the National Advocacy Committee (NAC) has met several times to receive training.

**University of Alberta:** I was fortunate enough to be able to work out of the University of Alberta Students’ Union for the week of the 17th to 21st. Here I did Students Nova Scotia

governing policy review, bylaw review, code of conduct research (specifically with the VP External at the UASU). I also had the opportunity to see how they operate and see if we were operating with best practice (we are doing quite well).

**Committees**

**Town and Gown:** Set up a meeting with **Mayor Boucher** on July 4th 2017 in order to discuss the purpose of the committee and how we envision it for the upcoming year. Later in the month

myself and Annie Sirois met with **Andrew Beckett** and had a conversation along the same lines. I was tasked with the creation of the terms of reference (TOR).The first real meeting of the committee will take place in August.

**Police and Licensing:** The committee met on July 11th 2017 and had many different conversations. Many of which were surrounding the successful (relatively problem free) 105th Annual Highland Games. I had asked the committee chair to add the purpose of the committee to the agenda at the last meeting. We had a slight conversation and went over the TOR.

**Governance Committee Students Nova Scotia:** Call took place July 6th 2017 between Samantha Nixon (Acadia Students’ Union Vice President External), the Executive Director for Students Nova Scotia Tristan Bray and myself. The purpose of this call was to discuss the organization of our conference schedule. My task was to analyze our bylaws and governing policies in order to ensure we are utilizing our resources effectively. We are scheduling another call for the beginning of August and will have a revised conference schedule to present at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in mid-August.