**Annual Report**

**Year in review: 2017-2018**

This year was incredibly productive. The Students’ Union has begun to initiate measures that make our organization stronger and more sustainable. As with any year in student government, there were challenges; however, the outcomes (despite their divisiveness) have situated the organization well for the future.

The Executive Team published an Annual Plan this year that was drafted in consultation with students. The plan outlined the team’s objectives and direction for the year. The following is a summary of the outcomes from the plan:

**Pillar 1 – Equity: the goal aimed to established greater diversity in representation and direction within the Students’ Union.**

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| Action Item | Outcome | Measure | Results |
| Provide space for expression and security. | Students have the ability to express themselves outside of the classroom, on campus. | Country flags are hung in Bloomfield, art mural installation, and 4th floor student lounge. |  |
| Increase experiential learning opportunities. | Students have been exposed to a variety of opportunities that they may not have otherwise 1) been exposed to, 2) felt encouraged to attain, and 3) seen themselves as suitable for the position. | The Student Representative Council approves two (2) student-at-large positions for each Union committee and actualizes the Equity Advisory Committee. |  |
| Increase promotion of existing experiential learning opportunities. | Develop a marketing strategy to promote job opportunities (Xaverian Weekly, CFXU Radio, Sub-executive positions, councilor positions, etc.) and other financial opportunities (Council Initiatives Fund, Students’ Union Bursaries) for students. | All Union positions are filled, and students seize all available opportunities provided. | Most all positions were filled; however, it was not the result of increased promotion as there was not any. |
| Promote diversity in candidacy for positions. | Students from all demographics are empowered to run for elected positions. | Pre-election awareness campaign meetings with specific demographics. |  |
| Maximize membership with Students Nova Scotia and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. | Students have their post-secondary education needs adequately addressed and advocated on to the provincial and federal governments. | The External Affairs Advisory Committee is a champion of grassroots feedback. | Development of External Issues research paper that included consultation and focus groups. |

**Pillar 2 – Advocacy: the goal aimed to ensure that the Students’ Union championed relevant student issues.**

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| Action Item | **Outcome** | **Measure** | **Results** |
| Advocate for social drinking. | Awareness raised for social drinking in residences, the Inn, and off-campus. | The university introduces liquor licenses for residence lounges, the Inn utilizes its extended hour (for safety & security purposes). |  |
| Advocate for the prevention of sexualized violence | Awareness is raised of the stand alone sexualized violence policy and Bringing In the Bystander Training. | All Union Executives, Sub-Executives, and Inn Staff received Brining In the Bystander Training. |  |
| Advocate for mental wellness by de-stigmatizing mental illnesses and facilitate a space for students to increase their mental wellbeing. | The Students’ Union facilitates a medium for mental health discussions and trains student leaders to adequately address any mental health issues. | One (1) Smart StFX seminar and X-Talk focus on mental health and all Executives and Sub-Executives received Mental Health First Aid training. | Mental Health First Aid training was largely inaccessible to acquire this year because of the limited times it was offered. |
| Advocate for improved food quality on campus. | Awareness is raised of Sodexo’s contractual services to identify which areas can be improved and to help the Students’ Union envision its long term food operation goals. | Access is granted to the Union in an effort to identify what flexibility is available (i.e. local sourcing, organic, FairTrade) within the Sodexo contract. | The Union did gain access to the contract details. Moreover, the food contract will be going to tender this upcoming year. |
| Advocate for house hockey cups. | Create a sustainable house hockey cup model. | The current structure of house hockey cups is reviewed. Through student & alumni consultation, a sustainable model is established for the year and years to come. |  |
| Advocate for the wellbeing of students at ‘traditional events’. | The Students’ Union works with external stakeholders to ensure that celebrated events that are affiliated with the StFX experience are preserved. | The Union partner with the Town, County, and university to create a sustainable model for Homecoming. | In progress. |

**Pillar 3 – Innovative practices: the goal aimed to ensure that the Students’ Union was consistently evolving to meet the needs and interests of students.**

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| Action Item | **Outcome** | **Measure** | **Results** |
| Develop alternative programming. | Student population is engaged in Students’ Union events and feels as though the events are adequately tailored to them culturally, socially, and economically. | The successful execution of two (2) Smart StFX seminars and four (4) X-Talks. Furthermore, the Golden X Inn is used as an available space for students. |  |
| Highlight and communicate wins to students. | Students’ Union is transparent and provides students with its direction for the year. | The successful completion of tri-annual President’s Reports (Summer, Fall & Winter) and an Annual Plan approved the Annual General Meeting. | Fall & winter reports were amended to become the Annual Review. |
| Promotion of existing financial opportunities. | Students are informed of the funding and job positions that are available to them. | The Marketing office completes a short video highlighting the Students’ Union Bursary, Society Allocations, and the Council Initiatives Fund. |  |
| Develop strong governing documents. | The by-laws, policies, and strategic plan are correctly revised and updated. | The By-Law & Policy Committee complete a Policy Manual overhaul, an Annual Plan and Strategic Plan are developed, and by-laws are revised. |  |
| Increase sources of revenue. | The Students’ Union has transformed the Marketing Office into a revenue generator. The Inn expands its operations from Tuesday to Friday. | We meet our revenue goal of $6000 and the Inn continues to be a profit generator. | Revenue was around $5000. |

**Highlights – among the successes we had this year were:**

* Abolishing the $25 Capital Campaign Fee
* Inclusive and accessible Orientation Week and Frost Week
* Ranked ballot/alternative vote electoral system introduced for all elections\*
	+ \*Approved the terms of reference for the Aboriginal community group that will select Aboriginal Student Council Representative to better reflect community values
* Annual General Meeting
* Policy Manual overhaul with a number of new governing policies introduced
* Health & Dental Plan went to tender and the Union switched to having Gallivan as the plan provider
* Major donations for the Student Food Resource Centre, as well as getting a sign put outside the building for the centre
* 2018-2019 Students’ Union Budget approved
* Increased investments to post-secondary education as a result of successful lobby efforts done by Students Nova Scotia and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
* Memorandum of Understandings for 2018-2019 residents of Cameron and MacKinnon Hall signed between the Union and the University following the co-ed changes to the buildings
* Introduced co-presidents to MacIsaac Hall, replacing the previous HP/VP/VP structure
* Health and Wellness Expansion Fee referendum passed with majority of voter support, as well terms of reference for the fee were signed between the Union and the University
* Major advances in our Marketing Office in terms of the quality of material produced both graphically and video
* 2018-2021 Strategic Plan developed

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who made this year such a success.

All the best,



Annie Sirois

Students’ Union President & CEO

2017-2018