

*Office of the* **President**

**Name: Annie Sirois**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (June 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 twice this month to narrow down the focus of what is becoming 'external' and 'internal' member relations.
* StFXSU *Pre-Strategic Planning Committee*: This year, people will continuously hear me state that the SU is working towards a more proactive than reactive approach. Starting a preliminary Strategic Planning Committee in the summer, with the purpose of reviewing the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, is in an effort to best organize ourselves to start work on drafting the 2018-2021 plan as soon as Councilors return to campus. To date, SU General Manager, Chair of Council, and myself have highlighted areas of completion, needing improvement, and no longer relevant.

**External Affairs**

The VP External Affairs and I met with the **Member of Parliament for Central Nova, Sean Fraser,** at the beginning of the month to discuss the advocacy work we would be doing with the federal government this year. Key advocacy priorities we will focus on this year will be around student employment, graduate retention in the Maritimes, and how best to create a sustainable labour force. A detailed memo of our meeting can be requested via email. I would like to thank **the Town and Municipality of Antigonish** for giving the SU Executive Team an opportunity to come and meet with them on June 12th. We highlighted a willingness to partner for a successful execution of Homecoming.

At the provincial level, I traveled to Halifax to meet with the SNS Executive Director to organize work for the year. Collectively, we executed the **SNS Board Education Conference** that was held at Acadia June 24th to 26th. **BoardED** was an opportunity for all SNS delegates to gather, receive more advocacy and media training, but most importantly to begin narrowing down the advocacy priorities for the year. The priorities highlighted will be amalgamated into an Annual Plan which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in August. It is vital that one of the priorities we continue to advocate for is immediate MSI coverage for international students in Nova Scotia.

**Internal Affairs**

A big focus for the earlier half of June was centered around **Board of Governors** events. Key areas included campus infrastructure over the next few years, residence occupancy, and the university budget. The Board held their Annual General Meeting June 16th, and for the first time it was open to the public. Furthermore, I had the pleasure of addressing the donors at the **President's Gala** on June 17th on behalf of the student body.

Following the Board AGM, the first Student Representative Council meeting was held where my **motion to pilot Alternative Vote** for the September First-Year and Arts Councilor was passed. The reasoning for pilot projecting AV is that it will encourage more students to run in our SU elections, as well as to vote because they will have more of a say in who gets elected. The Chair of the Council and I have been proactive in doing a **full revision of the SU Policy Manual** to decipher which policies need to be eliminated, amalgamated into new policies, or those that are sufficient as is.

 After having met with the Chancellor of the university, Susan Crocker, there has been an instrumental focus for VP Activities and Events and me to incorporate more art and culture into Orientation Week. We are working with Terena Francis, Student of Aboriginal Descent Advisor, to incorporate a **smudging ceremony** into Orientation Week. Additionally, I met with the Chair of the Art Department, Susan Gregory, to discuss creating a piece during Orientation that would commemorate the week.

The **X-Ring Committee** met to approve a new degree for ring eligibility, as well as to review to the requirements for masters/graduate programs.

I met with Kent MacDonald to follow-up on the **flag initiative** brought forth by a student last year—ideally by September, the 3rd floor of the SUB will host flags from all around the world. Lastly, I am extremely happy to announced that I have completed one of my election pillars: **the elimination of the Capital Campaign Fee**. On June 26th, VP Finance and Administration Andrew Beckett and I signed an agreement that stated that the $25/year fee would be phased out by the 2018-2019 year.

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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

**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

**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 (June 2017)

Committees:

June 6: Student Orientation Committee

 Continuing on the idea of making StFX really feeling like a community, we have continued to focus on goal of creating new groups for a portion of Orientation Week. Looking at the idea of randomly placing students into groups in order for them to have the chance in developing new relationships with other first year students that may not be from their residence.

June 8: Sexual Violence Prevention Committee

 At this meeting we discussed some little edits that we will be looking to implant in the BITB power point presentation. We are looking to remove a few slides to prevent it from being too long, as well as looking to remove some of examples that are very out of date. We also looked over a new BITB policy for the Students’ Union that was developed by our Chair of Council.

June 13: Student Orientation Committee

 In this committee meeting, an idea of doing something very different that would develop a strong community feeling within the students and the university. This activity would include all first year students that are willing to participate.

June 15: Equity Committee

 The committee had looked through all the applicants and chose 4 of the best candidates. We then established who we would wish to see on the hiring panel, we then sent out the requests to have these people sit on the hiring panel. We then received a late, yet very strong candidate bringing our number of interviews up to 5. Shortly after, one of the original 4 candidates dropped out bringing us back to a total 4.

June 19: Senate Steering Committee

 At this committee we created the agenda for the Special Senate Meeting, which was held on June 26. This meeting was called because Senate wanted to get the new BA and BSc in Climate and Environment program approved.

June 20: Leadership Summit Planning Committee

 During this meeting, we looked into the possibility installing a physical display outside the McKenna Leadership Center. We also organized a list of all the leadership opportunities on campus ranging from curricular activities to extra-curricular. This list doesn’t have a definitive purpose but can and will be used to show new and old students our schools leadership opportunities.

June 21: Academic Computing Committee

 During this meeting, the committee looked at the new computers that the university is planning on purchasing for the future. A few of these computers will be switched to Windows due to the new technology and productivity that they provide.

External Affairs

 Working with the Chair of Council, we developed **a BITB policy** for the Students’ Union, this **Policy was reviewed** by a number of people such as other executive team members and members of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee. The committee is also working to **revamp the current BITB presentation**. **The presentation is being reviewed** by a select group of members from the SVP committee so that we can get the best response from trainers and people being trained. I am also working with the Women’s Resource Centre to help make a **‘Made In Nova Scotia Bystander Program’**. I met **with the Dean of Business (Tim Hynes) and the Chair of Business (Brad Long)** in regards to an **interdisciplinary program between Human Kinetics and Business Administration**. After meeting with these two, I got a solid idea of how the business program sees this program idea and also got a good view on what they believe would need to happen to see this program succeed. I also met with **the Dean of Science (Petra Hauf)** to get to know her ideas for this program. I met with a faculty member of the university in regards **to accessibility on campus**, especially with the new construction that will be happening in the future. I am doing some research with goal of **making our campus more accessible** for everyone.

Internal Affairs

 **A special Senate meeting** was held this month, this meeting was held only for one agenda item. This agenda item was to vote to pass the new **BA and BSc in Climate and Environment program**. During this month I sat on a **couple of hiring panels**, these were mostly for **House Presidents and Vice Presidents, Student Advocates and the Returning Officers**.

Sub-Executives

 I have been keeping in touch with our new BITB coordinator and keeping her in the loop with regards to the BITB program and presentation. We are still looking a specific date to have them come back for training week.

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



**Name: Sean Hopkins**

**To:** StFX Student Council

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

**Committees**

Student Orientation Committee (SOC): This past month I have been meeting weekly with the SOC committee regarding our plans for Orientation Week. Plans are coming along very nicely and it’s looking to be a very exciting week, filled with lots of new forms of entertainment that have not yet been explored. Over the past month, we have finalized the decisions on the following:

* Orientation Week Theme and Logo
* Frosh Kits
* Headlining Concert
* Orientation Week Schedule
* Playfair
* Faculty Social
* Shinerama
* Carnival
* Keynote Speaker

Event Risk Committee (ERC): No updates from this committee as we have not met yet.

**External Affairs**

This month I attended the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities – COCA National Conference held in London, Ontario. Here I learned a lot more regarding the entertainment and programming industry in Canada. I was also able to network with all of my counterparts from schools across the country and connect with several artists, talent agencies, full-time staff and programmers. Overall I found this experience to be very valuable as I left the conference with several ideas and knowledge that will translate well into my current role. Specific topics that were covered were programming specifics, event management, contract negotiations, offer sheet formats, and more.

I have finalized the frosh kit orders with Festival Promotions and we should start receiving items within the next month!

With many companies, I have been discussing the possibility of bringing in different speakers throughout the year, especially during Orientation Week. These conversations are going well but options are still open.

Contacting many talent agencies regarding entertainment for the week and again, for the rest of the year.

Contacted the Aboriginal Office regarding a Smudging Ceremony during Orientation Week.

**Internal Affairs**

Working on the bookings for entertainment for Orientation Week.

Back in May, we hired Cody McGregor as our new bar manager for The Golden X Inn. Since his hiring, I have gotten to spend lots of time with Cody, both in the office, outside of the office, and at COCA. We have already started to build a strong working relationship and have begun planning events for the fall.

I’ve continued to have my 1-on-1 meetings with Annie Sirois to establish a strong support system between the both of us.

This past month I have had several meetings with Mary Coyle at the McKenna Centre for Leadership regarding collaboration on specific events such as X-Talks and Smart StFX. We are bouncing back and forth several ideas which we are both very excited about for next year.

I have also had the chance to speak with several society presidents regarding their potential involvement in Orientation Week. This is coming along well and I am seeing lots of creative ideas that could help form an exciting week.

Working on the schedule for Orientation Week (nearly complete).

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

**Sub-Executive:**

Entertainment Coordinators: Coordinated with one of my entertainment coordinators to come in early to help with the production of Orientation Week.

Society Coordinator: Working with Sarah to finalize a list of all of the society presidents for the coming year as well as continuing to set goals and objectives for the year. Also spoke with Sarah regarding plans for Society Night, to get the ball rolling on this event for Orientation Week.

O-Crew Co-Chairs: Continued to involve the co-chairs in the SOC meetings to ensure we are planning the best week possible. I’ve also been in continuous contact with them regarding training spaces and plans for the week.

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



**Name: Will Gatchell**

**To:** StFX Student Council

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

**Committees**

- None of my Union committees have met

**External Affairs**

*Campus Trust Annual APO in Toronto* – Conference took place June 19th-23rd and is designed to introduce, educate, and update attendees on the health care environment and provides health plan administrators (students, managers, and actual admin) from the 12 respective schools the opportunity to share constructive solutions for new problems that arise in this field. Some of this year’s highlights included:

-Sessions on Mental health and Sexual health (consent culture)

- Sessions surrounding wellness programs for campuses

- Other topics include: Medical cannabis (insurance coverage), Art with impact, Prescription drug update, investment outlook and last but not least we conducted our first Communication and Finance committee meeting and our semi-annual Board meeting. St. FX has no representatives (either administrative or student) on the board this year but remained vocal from the gallery.

*DM Champion –* Met with DM Champion Michael Keenan along with rest of our Executive board to discuss our platforms and ambitions for the coming year as well as to help him address the gap between St. FX students and government jobs. Looked at brainstorming ways to better publicize available government positions for undergraduate students.

**Internal Affairs**

*Sponsorship:* I hired our sponsorship coordinator at the end of June and have since commenced meeting with previous sponsors alongside Sean Ryan, while allowing our Coordinator to reach out to new businesses and services in town. So far our new sponsorship package and approach seems promising and we are excited to begin meeting in person with respective businesses in our area. As of right now we have only made first contact through email with more formal sit-downs taking place in the near future.

*Terms of Reference:* Met with Helen MacGregor, head of Finance with the University, to begin to understand the backstory surrounding some ancillary fees we as students pay each year. In particular we have been looking at:

* Facilities Renewal Fee
* Information & Technology Fee
* Facilities & Recreational Fee

From this meeting, I plan to have subsequent meetings with other stakeholders involved before drafting up Terms of References for these fees and their designated usages moving forward.

*Aspiria:* Met with Rob Gould from Aspiria (our student assistance progam) to crunch our utilization numbers for the service and try to come to an agreement moving forward surrounding our terms and our rate. Currently in the negotiation stage with regards to this and will notify once an agreement or interim direction has been reached.

*Meeting with the Chancellor* – Met with the Chancellor here at St. FX, Susan Crocker, to discuss our own individual executive office goals as well as our collaborative goals and we got the opportunity to understand her role better and how we can work together moving forward. Susan has strong ambitions to bring more art to campus so we have been tasked to formulate ideas surrounding this topic.

*Town & County Meeting* – Met with the Mayor, Laurie Boucher, and the rest of Town Council to introduce ourselves and our positions. Strong aim towards maintaining good communication with town officials and remaining a part of the conversation moving forward. A big emphasis was placed on being more proactive when bringing student voice to the table.

*Student Food Resource Centre*- In the process of developing our SFRC centre sign alongside our marketing office. The finalized version should be complete by the first week of July and will be promptly forwarded to the office of Bob Hale and subsequently Facilities Management for project completion. Also in the works, is a potential “Tackle Hunger” campaign taking place at one of our Varsity Football games in which food items will be accepted and all donations go towards our food centre. This would be done in collaboration with AUS, Athletics, and Purolator as a sponsor. More to come on that moving forward.

*Bar Projects*: Have had a few meetings with Sean Ryan and Cody, our new bar manager, to discuss developing our game corner of the Inn to be more substantial and effective having run it for one year now. We also brainstormed other issues facing the Inn, specifically looking at getting another well and creating a new service area to the bar.

**Sub-Executive: Research and Policy Associate**

*Student Food Resource Centre Coordinator*: Have been working with our Coordinator, Hannah Chisholm, to reach out for more volunteers at the Summer community garden and received lots of new names. Also, by way of Hannah’s efforts have been approved and created a new planting bed at our garden meaning we can go more fresh produce for the Resource Centre and further improve our service.

*Sponsorship Coordinator:* Position is now filled by 5th year student Scott Sampson, who has hit the ground running in terms of soliciting sponsors. We have agreed to keep in constant communication with a formal meeting every two-or-so weeks to discuss where we stand money wise.

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

**Name: Zakariya Chatur**

**To:** StFX Student Council

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

 

**Committees**

* On June 6th the Police and Licensing Committee convened at Town Hall. At this meeting, there were a few presentations, one of them on building respectful relationships between students and their neighbours (members of the Antigonish community). One of the suggestions was community barbeques. This was my first time meeting members of Town Council as well as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer and a member of the RCMP.
* Jessica Fullerton, who is the Chair of Council, and I had a brief meeting on June 8th to discuss the startup of the External Affairs Advisory Committee.
* The National Advocacy Committee for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) convinced for the first time on the 21st. As the Advocacy Director for CASA, I chair this committee. I described the organization’s pillars on Advocacy and Public Relations which are outlined in the strategic plan as well as facilitated the election of two Vice-Chairs. The Government and Stakeholder Relations Officer for CASA, MacAndrew Clarke, briefed the committee on the political climate and ongoing advocacy discussions.

**External**

* The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) held their Board Retreat from the 16th to 18th of this month. This is where myself and the other members of the Board were educated on the entirety of our portfolios as well as the state of the organization. We went in-depth into the finances, the state of the organization, state of the Alliance, the strategic plan, I was given specific assignments, and then discussed the priority theme selection questionnaire. This conference was essential for understanding how the organization is governed and how the membership can best utilize it. One of the biggest discussion points with transparency and accountability of the Board. As a Board member, I am responsible for acting as the Board liaison three member institutions.
* Students Nova Scotia held Board Education on the 23rd, 24th, 25th of this month. Similar to Board Retreat for CASA except at a provincial level. We went over the political climate post election, were introduced to our new Executive Director, went over the state of the membership, received media training, and went into our priority theme selection process. At our next Board meeting, which will be the 11th of July there will be an outline of our annual plan. At this conference I was elected chair of the Governance Committee and put on a Ad Hoc committee to look into restructuring our conference schedule. Updates will be provided to council and the public during council meetings and future executive reports.
* On June 2nd Annie and I met with MP Fraser. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce ourselves and discuss our priorities for the year. MP Fraser outlined that his key priorities are Economic development, retaining youth, job creation, and immigration. Annie and I discussed some of CASA’s asks from the previous advocacy week. It should be noted that all asks are non-partisan in nature, which is something that MP Fraser acknowledged. One specific item that I will be looking into is the Atlantic Growth Strategy and how this can help create opportunities for students in Nova Scotia.

**Internal**

* As an executive team we held a FUME meeting to discuss orientation week, and how we can enhance the overall experience, this took place on June 2nd and was led by Sean Hopkins.
* On June 7th Margie Mackinnon came and spoke to us about mental health initiatives that the Health and Counselling Centre will be launching this year.
* Patrick, the VP Academic, and I had a meeting on Accessibility on campus. We are looking into a project that can receive grant funding. The specific grant we are looking at is for up to $50,000. This project is still ongoing and in the early stages of development.
* On June 5th I met with the Pillar Three Working Group. This group was a soundboard for the people developing the Social Responsibility and Innovation section of the University’s Strategic Plan. One of the goals is to foster local to global citizenship. Part of the conversation was surrounding how to encourage students to be involved in the community. As a working group, we could not determine an exact answer, but many people seemingly agreed with the idea that engagement from professors encouraged students to participate in a more socially responsible manner. I hope to be part of this discussion again in the future.
* Susan Crocker came to meet the Executive Team on June 15th. She wanted to introduce herself as Chancellor of the University and articulate what her role is and how she hopes to make a change in the StFX community. One of her objectives is to increase arts and culture here at St FX.
* Deputy Minister University Campion Michael Keenan came to meet with the Executive Team. Here we discussed how we can engage students and build a community that wants to work in the Public Sector. We also discussed what the Students’ Union’s priorities are for the upcoming year. This meeting was interesting in the sense that it sought to help students gain co-op and internship opportunities. I will be following up with Joe MacDonald and Michael Keenan in the near future.

**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

**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.

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

**Name:** Rebecca Mesay

**To:** StFX Student Council

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

**Committees**

The Student Orientation Committee (SOC) has continued its weekly meetings. We have been discussing the schedule of activities for Welcome Day so as to ensure that first year students are receiving all the information they need for the rest of the week. We have also been able to confirm one of keynote speakers for Orientation Week and are also looking at the possibility of bringing in a number of external speakers in addition to the one that has already been confirmed.

I have continued weekly meetings with the Director of Student Life, Jacqueline de Leebeck and Manager of Student Life, Shannon Travers for training week as pertaining to in-house residence leaders meaning both the Residence Life Team and House Presidents and Vice Presidents. We have been successfully collaborating so as to ensure coordination with training for the groups.

**External Affairs**

This month, StFX’s 4H Society hosted a conference for students of the secondary level from a range of junior and senior high schools across the province. Seeing as both the President, Annie and Vice President Academic, Patrick were away on the days of the conference June 27th-30th, the President asked me if I would bring regards to the attendees from the Students’ Union and Executive Team. It was a good opportunity to introduce the values of the Students’ Union and of StFX to a group of potential incoming students. Later in the week, along with the Frank McKenna Centre for Student Leadership, I facilitated workshops on community development along with a partner from the StFX 4H Society.

The Board of Governors had their Annual Lobster Dinner at Crystal Cliffs, which the entire Executive Team as well as the Board of Governors Representatives and Chair of Council attended. It provided us with the chance to connect with a number of prominent alumni from the university and to discuss the student experience at StFX. We also had the opportunity to discuss the current needs’ of students and potential opportunities for collaboration.

The Executive Team was provided with the opportunity to meet the **DM Champion**, Michael Keenan. This provided us the time to speak to him about different issues facing students at StFX and how potential changes at the provincial and federal levels could help students. He also asked the team about different strategies that could be used to recruit students for opportunities available in government.

**Internal Affairs**

On June 1st, the Students’ Union President, Annie and I had a meeting with the Director of Student Life, Jacqueline de Leebeck and the Vice President of Finance and Director of Student Services, Andrew Beckett to discuss the **Residence Review**. We were able to discuss what effect the review would have on students living in residence and which recommendations from the review would be implemented in the coming year and in the long term. Furthermore, there were a number of suggestions that were made pertaining to the Office of Residence Affairs and its sub-executive positions that I intend to review and initiate in the coming year. There will be further consultation as to what degree the Residence Review and its recommendations will be affecting residence.

In the second week of June, I requested a meeting with the entire Executive Team as well as Sean Ryan, the General Manager of the Students’ Union and Jessica Fullerton, the Chair of Council to outline my goals and aims for the Office of Residence Affairs for the year. Based on the discussion from the aforementioned Residence Review meeting and the re-occurring issues identified in residence, I created specific objectives with the aim of having a more proactive approach in residences that would ensure a safer and more holistic environment for all students living on campus.

The Executive Team had a meeting with the Chancellor of StFX, Susan Crocker, where each of us had the opportunity to outline the goals for our offices. In correlation with these objectives, Susan was able to make different suggestions as to how we could collaborate with her specifically in her aim of helping StFX establish an atmosphere that nurtures the Fine Arts. There were a number of ideas about how visual art could be incorporated into different residence buildings.

**Sub-Executive**

There has been ongoing communication with the House Presidents, Vice Presidents (HP & VPs), Off Campus Leaders (OCL), and House Council Coordinator (HCC). The hiring was completed for the re-opened House President, Vice President and Student Advocate positions. The House President, Vice Presidents as well as the Student Advocates were ratified in Council on June 16th. I have been communicating with the House Council Coordinator, Maddy Horne and provided her with updates about training week.

I had a meeting with the Student Conduct Officer, Matt Girard and reviewed the current discipline and conduct process. This was also an opportunity to examine the proposed changes to the discipline process and how they would be implemented in the coming years. We were also looking at improving the training provided to Student Advocates.

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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.

**Residence Review:** a document with recommendations created per request of the university; external reviewers came to StFX to examine its residence culture as well as the structures of Residence Services, Residence Life, and Residence Affairs with the aim of improving the student experience as a whole

**DM/University Champion:** the role of the University Champion is to represent the interests of post-secondary students at the federal level and to ensure opportunities are available to them as they leave post-secondary institutions