

Vice President External: Thanh Ma
Report to the Board of Directors
May 2016

This Month in Review:

- May 5th: Academic Success Centre Committee Meeting
- May 9th: First Day for Officers
- May 11th: Officer Training – Workshop & Mock Meeting
- May 17th: Officer Training – SUS Jeopardy
- May 18th & 24th (Abbotsford) & 26th (Chilliwack): New Student Orientation
- May 23rd-27th: Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Foundations Conference
- May 30th: Changing the Conversation on Sexual Violence at Post-Secondary Institutions at UBC

Introduction of Officers

Within the Vice-President External portfolio, there are 3 hired Officer positions: Advocacy Officer (Alyson Gher White), Engagement Officer (Jessica Milliken) and Equalities Officer (Michael Chutskoff). The first day for the Officers was May 9th, where they were put through training in order to transition them. We are very lucky to have such strong members on the team!

Officer Workshop

During the first week of work for the Officers, they were put through an Officer Workshop which discussed crucial job aspects such as committee applications, confidentiality, Robert's Rules and writing the agenda and minutes. After all information was conversed and any questions and/or concerns were answered, the Officers had a mock meeting for each of their committees. Throughout these mock meetings, difficult situations and potential conflicts were acted out in order to provide a gateway for further questions. Feedback from the Officers said that the mock meetings were informative and extremely helpful, leaving them much more confident to conduct a coherent meeting through the course of their terms.

SUS Jeopardy

From the previous term, last year's Executive team was able to compile a handbook for each Officer as well as a general SUS Handbook. Within the handbook, subjects covered included the Student Union Society history; Student Union Society services; operations organizational chart; individual portfolios for each elected Executive and Officers; confidentiality agreements;

committees (committee policy, applications, meeting conduct); how to retain documents; campaign planning and other miscellaneous items.

To test how effectively the SUS Handbook was read, a Student Union Society Jeopardy PowerPoint game was created. SUS Jeopardy pulled the most crucial aspects out of the SUS Handbook, allowing for fun-but- educational environment for the Officers. Since the SUS Jeopardy was a success, it has been copied and stored for future use if necessary.

New Student Orientation (NSO)

This year's NSO has been changed and split up into multiple parts. The first NSO took place on May 18th, where most of the day was spent either tabling in the Services Fair or conducting the Student Union Building Tours. While tabling in the Services Fair, the first session of tours took place at 4PM where Executives and Officers had already previously rehearsed the route and script for these tours. Due to the short amount of time (~5 minutes) allotted for the Student Union Building Tours, rehearsing specifics in advance allowed for a higher level of congruency between the Executives and Officers while being able to communicate all the necessary information. The tours were executed efficiently as everyone was enthusiastic and information was dispersed without overwhelming the new students. The second session took place around 6:45PM (Services Fair ended), the turnout was much lower compared to the first round, however; the tours were once again completed well.

Due to conflicting schedules that could not be avoided, the next two sessions on May 24th (Abbotsford) and May 26th (Chilliwack) were conducted while the President and the Vice President External and were away for the CASA Foundations Conference in Ottawa. The Vice President Internal was also absent for these sessions for the Student Care Conference. All of the Officers were present and participating in NSO on May 24th in Abbotsford, while only the Engagement Officer and Equalities officer were present for NSO on May 26th in Chilliwack since there was no need to have all the Officers during the tabling session.

The Engagement Officer therefore was the main lead for these sessions of NSO, which turned out to be quite successful. Materials and information were all gathered before the first session of NSO (May 18th), which made preparation much easier despite the lack of presence from the Executives and will be continuously accessible throughout all the sessions of NSO.

All in all, the Student Union Society was able to increase our volunteer database from these sessions of NSO. New students were approached and were eager to discuss the services we provide and were very enthusiastic in becoming a part of our team in the future. The event was very well done!

Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Foundations Conference

This conference took place from May 23rd to May 27th, 2016 in Ottawa. Subjects discussed include (but not limited to) were the general structure of CASA; *Creating your workspace culture and environment*; *Indigenous education issues in Canada*, *PSE and the Federal Government*, *Political Climate Update*, guest speakers on either *Research & Innovation or International education in Canada*, *Campus Sexual Assault Prevention*, *The Next Canada* (presented by guest speaker Abacus Data), *From Here to Policy and Strategy* conference and *Building Tools for Effective Advocacy*. Please refer to the full CASA report for more information.

Changing the Conversation on Sexual Violence at Post-Secondary Institutions at UBC

On May 30th, the Vice-President External and the President attended this conference at UBC in order to discuss challenges and prevention for sexual violence on Post-Secondary campuses. This event was a part of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week and was conducted by the Department of Justice Canada.

Volunteer Database Updates

The Engagement Officer started out the term by gathering a total collection of all volunteer sheets and records to fill out a complete volunteer database. They then emailed all of the contacts in order to specify whether they were still desirable of volunteer hours. The Engagement Officer also contacted all the clubs and associations in order to identify those who would continue to be active by volunteering for events.

Unfortunately, from the collection of the previous year's list there were only three that responded saying that they would like to remain on the list. The rest have either been invalid email contacts, no longer interested in participating or have graduated.

Despite this, the New Student Orientation was very helpful in obtaining more volunteers for events in the future. Tabling at NSO increased the volunteer list by a minimum of 40 volunteers without any incentive. These volunteers will undoubtedly be contacted for future events.

Committee Updates

Committee applications have been extended until June 30th, due to the lack of applications that were filled out throughout the month of May. The lack of students studying during the summer semester has been determined as the reason for such a low number of applications. In total, there has been a total of two applications for the Advocacy Officer, one for the Engagement

Officer and three for the Equalities Officer. These applications have been arriving both by email and mail. It is expected that the following committees will be able to commence their meetings by July. A change from the previous year is that committee applications are not available throughout the entire year. They are simply only available for a shorter amount of time as this ensures rapidness of applications. Finding more committee members throughout the year and revising the discussions conducted in the past has sought to be an inefficient use of time, therefore by creating an application deadline and considering the length of time a committee member can stay with the committee is without a doubt a necessity. Creating a deadline also ensures potential committee members to submit their applications as soon as possible without delaying the volunteer opportunity further.

Welcome Week Update

The draft for Welcome Week has been created in order to find quotes and limitations for the proposed events.

The Engagement Officer is currently working on seeking the quotes for these events. The Engagement Committee's participation in this event has been delayed due to the lack of applications from the summer semester. There has been communication between UFV Student Life department, UFV International and Baker Hours in order to minimize any scheduling conflict during the first week. Meetings have been booked for the first week of June with Belinda Karsen (UFV Student Life department) and Chelsey Laird (UFV International).