



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS'
COUNCIL

June 5, 2015

EXECUTIVE REPORT



PRESIDENT

After attending the Canadian Association of Colleges and University Student Services Conference with members of Western's administration, Sophie began discussions on evolving services that both the USC and university offer. At the event and in the days following Sophie conferred with Jana Luker, Western's new associate vice-president Student Experience, to highlight areas of potential partnership and growth.

As a member of the Homecoming Planning Committee, Sophie has been meeting with representatives from Western administration, campus police, Western Alumni and Mustang Athletics to plan programming that is engaging, high-quality and financially responsible.



Along with vice-president external Lindsee Perkins, Sophie attended the Town and Gown conference – a two-day event for sharing strategies to improve relationships between post-secondary institutions and the municipalities that host them. Beyond this, Sophie continues to liaise with the Town and Gown Association of Ontario to share best practices when advocating to and working with city bodies.

Sophie, as the Orientation Governance Board Co-Chair, has begun developing the "Orientation Strategic Plan" – a guiding document meant to shape the Orientation program's direction. This strategic plan will be further developed at the Orientation Planning Summit, also being planned by Sophie in conjunction with Jana Luker.

Sophie continues to work with Western Alumni to launch the Experiential Learning Fund. This sum will be used as a resource to help student access co-curricular experiential learning opportunities without being limited by financial barriers.

OTHER PROGRESS:

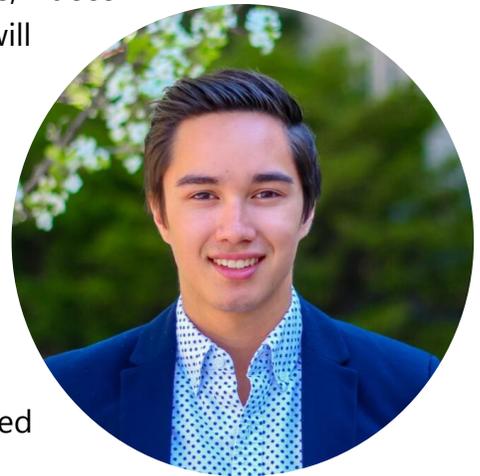
- Meeting with Fanshawe Student Union executives to pre-emptively identify areas of collaboration and cross-programming.
- Re-assessing the USC's Advocacy Papers process, ensuring students writing these papers can produce reports that are both high-quality and legitimate.
- Started planning "Beerfest 2015," but adapting the popular event to include students who are underage.

VP INTERNAL

Alex has had sessions with associate vice-president Student Experience, Jana Luker, to outline and clarify USC priorities for the year. One such priority includes a guidebook for mental health resources on campus, modelled from a comprehensive document created by Cornell University.

Alex also is collaborating with the USC's new promotions department to create videos featuring both the Peer Support Network and Centre, videos which will be completed by Orientation Week. These clips will accompany campaigns coinciding with the launch of the new Peer Support Centre location.

With the re-launch of the Peer Support Centre, Alex is also introducing an electronic interviewing process for PSC volunteers. These volunteers, once selected, will also go through a more thorough training process to enrich student use of the space. Additionally, Alex is updating the PSC library, collecting a pool of wellness-related resources.



Further, Alex is working with a Campus Mental Health working group to apply the Canadian Association of Colleges and University Student Services framework document to Western's services and operations. This group is drafting an advising proposal to be submitted to the office of the associate vice-president student experience and other administration.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Attending meetings with a working group to discuss the university's involvement in London's Pride Festival, occurring in late-July.
- Making progress in the food indicators initiative, having basic nutritional information the USC's food and beverage supplies. Diversity in food options is also being discussed with the Spoke and Wave management.
- Working to re-evaluate student course questionnaires to gather information in a more substantive, qualitative way. Consultations are being done with course evaluation experts from the University of Toronto.

VP EXTERNAL

Lindsee has conducted initial meetings with city council members, including Mayor Matt Brown, to discuss occasions where community stakeholders and students can positively interact. These meetings also included representatives from London Police, with Lindsee constructing a new initiative that will aim to improve student and police interactions.

Lindsee was also voted as the new vice-president human resources and administration for the Ontario University Student Alliance. With a background in human resources at Western, Lindsee is planning ways to improve OUSA's, and by extension the USC's, ability to advocate on a provincial level. This includes making progress on OUSA's approved and pending policy papers, which feature topics ranging from student financial assistance to teaching assessments.



Also attended the Town and Gown conference with Sophie to learn about ways municipalities and post-secondary schools can effectively co-exist. Lindsee also took part in OUSA's transition conference, becoming a part of the organizations steering committee and executive council.

Lindsee hosted a successful Early Outreach Conference alongside outgoing vice-president external Jen Carter. This year's event was the largest ever, gathering over 190 elementary school students from across the city to get them excited about the potential of postsecondary education.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Taking part in the rapid transit consultation process, learning about how a rapid transit system will affect campus life and seeking opportunities for student feedback to be collected and incorporated.
- Continues to outline ways that a restorative justice program can be better used with city police, local courts and city officials.
- Exploring ways to engage students with the upcoming federal elections, brainstorming new methods to best lobby federal parties.

VP STUDENT EVENTS

Picking up where the former vice-president student events left off, Taryn has been working with the Orientation Planning Committee to organize, develop and implement O-Week events. Recently, this has meant facilitating Soph training while identifying key areas for improvement. Orientation planning means that Taryn also meets with the Programming Working Group and the Training Working Group.

Wanting to get an early start on O-Week events, Taryn is working with USC productions to finalize contracts with performers, sponsors and other guests. Additionally, Taryn is working with vice-president internal Alex Benac to establish an orientation volunteer care and appreciation program.

Taryn is also conferring with the USC's compliance department to rework clubs training, moving portions of the training online. While working on this new clubs interface Taryn has also begun to critically look at the way clubs events and Clubs Week are run.

Taryn has been corresponding with faculty and affiliate student event representatives to make them aware of supports and roundtables throughout the year. Similarly, she has been conducting meetings with her portfolio coordinators to ensure everyone is familiar with their specific event and programming expectations.



OTHER PROGRESS:

- Cooperating with outgoing vice-president student events Sam Kilgour to reimagine the role that the Charity Orientation Team has with O-Week and yearlong programming.
- Uniting with the new promotions department to discuss re-branding Purple Events and event marketing in general.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kevin has been working with the USC's Information Technology department to reorganize the USC website, better facilitating navigation and traffic while simultaneously updating online content to ensure that information is relevant, accurate and accessible.

Kevin is also reviewing Western TV, working in concert with those currently involved with the station to find an organizational structure that aligns with the goals of Western TV and the USC. As such, Kevin is also researching student-run television programming at comparable universities to observe potential staff and content relationships.



As Summer Academic Orientation approaches, Kevin continues to actively reach out to members of the Student Success Center to increase the USC's presence during this program. This includes reviewing disseminated USC information, scheduling appearances of USC executives and finding creative ways for awareness building.

With the creation of the new promotions department, Kevin has worked alongside relevant parties to define and direct the actions those staff. This exciting new team not only creates a more streamlined process for the creation of promotional materials, but Kevin is working towards creating a clear procedure for council members to request promotional, political and communications assistance.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Creating on and off campus media contact lists so press releases and other news can reach a wider audience of relevant media workers.
- Conducting interview prep sessions with members of the executive to prepare them for public speaking and media relations situations.
- Writing and preparing executive reports to be sent to and read by council members.

SECRETARY TREASURER

Earlier this month, Jonathan attended a seminar for corporate secretaries with a special focus on corporate governance. Here he learned about risk management, internal control mechanisms and best governance practices. He is now looking for ways to integrate these practices into the USC's organizational structure, initiating reviews for the majority of USC's guiding documents.

Similarly, Jonathan has been preparing to undergo a comprehensive reform of the USC's policies and by-laws. A review of By-Law 2 and elections procedures has already begun and investigations into other policies will occur in the coming weeks.

Jonathan has also established a working group within the governance portfolio to interrogate high-level documentation in hopes that such questioning will cause a cultural shift towards clarity and transparency within the USC.

Finally, Jonathan has begun to rethink the current way USC meetings are held. From minutes to the agenda to the order of speakers, Jonathan is working on creating a logically sounds council meeting routine that better allows for open dialogue, critical thinking and productivity.



OTHER PROGRESS:

- Redefining the terms of reference for standing committee chairs and the newly formed senior operations committee.
- Adapting the process that occurs when the USC gives grants, including more professional guidelines to create a less vulnerable and arbitrary granting body.