



# UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING. JULY 19, 2015.



# PRESIDENT SOPHIE HELPARD

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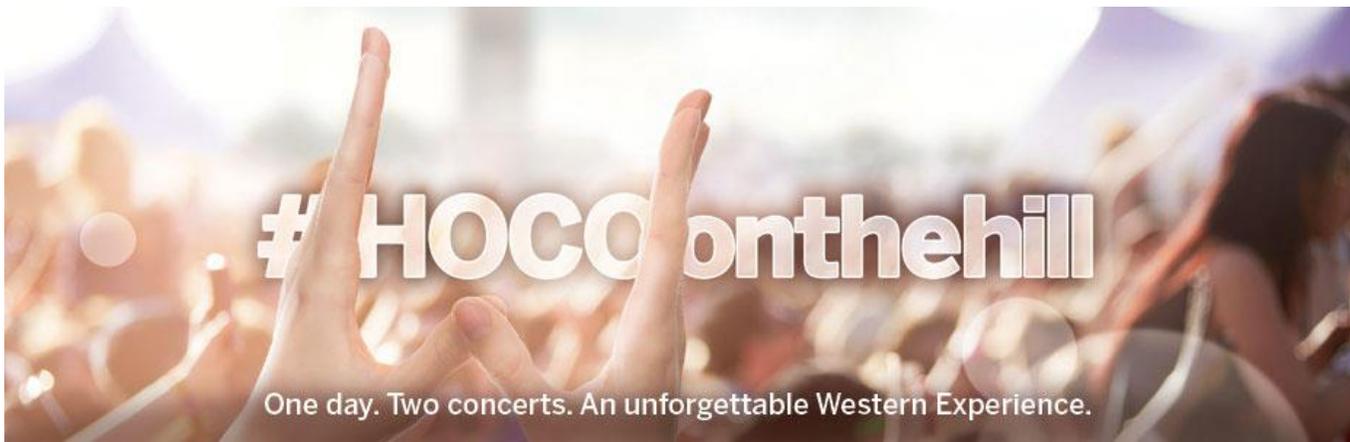
# Orientation & First-Year Experience

## An orientation program with vision

- ▶ Working with Western's administration to develop a strategic plan for orientation. As part of the data collecting stage, the USC co-hosted the first Orientation Strategic Planning Summit where a number of relevant parties attended and shared their priorities.

## Developing Homecoming further

- ▶ With the Homecoming Planning Committee, collaborating with a number of on and off-campus stakeholders to plan programming that is engaging, high-quality and financially responsible.
- ▶ This includes #HOCOonthehill - a two concert event geared towards students in addition to visiting alumni.





# More Experiential Learning

## More financial allocation

- ▶ Working with Western Alumni to launch the Experiential Learning Fund - a sum used as a resource to help students access co-curricular experiential learning opportunities without being limited by financial barriers.

## City-wide relationship building

- ▶ Also meeting with off-campus firms to discuss ways to create such opportunities for students with businesses in the city. The London Economic Development Corporation is one such partnership.

# Corporate Training & Preparation

- ▶ Attending training to fulfill role on the Campus Trust Board of Trustees - the trust that administers the USC's health and dental student plans.
- ▶ Preparing to begin the organization's collective bargaining agreement with some of our staff members.
- ▶ Working with Jonathan to plan and implement meaningful Board training to ensure good governance of the organization.



**VICE-PRESIDENT INTERAL**

**ALEX BENAC**

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# Peer Support Program Revitalization

## New promotional campaign

- ▶ Videos promoting both the Peer Support Network (PSN) and Centre (PSC) are being developed by the Promotions Department. The PSN video was completed in time for SAO and was widely screened; the PSC video is on course for completion by O-Week.

## More thorough volunteer selection, training & assessment

- ▶ From an applicant pool of over 160, we selected 40 highly capable, competent, and passionate students to be the team that leads Western's Peer Support Program into a new year. Mandatory training is set for August 26th to 28th.
- ▶ We're working closely with Student Experience on creating an evaluation system for the success of the program. This will allow us to track student satisfaction with their experience in the Centre, volunteer satisfaction as program participants, and the usage/traffic of the space.





# Peer Support Program Revitalization

## Grand re-opening

- ▶ Set to take place on September 29, Sophie and Western's Associate Vice-President Student Experience will sign a memorandum of understanding underscoring a mutual commitment to the success and development of the program.
- ▶ We're also revamping and replenishing our resource library, drawing on government and non-profit sector publications that already exist. We're also stocking resources in languages other than English wherever possible. Some of the languages now represented include: French, Mandarin, Korean, Urdu, Persian, and Woodland Cree.

# Reworked Caucus Framework

## Caucus' for all

- ▶ International Students' Caucus has been created. The creation of this caucus led us to question if there is a better way to initiate the creation of a caucus? We've been devising a USC Caucus Framework that will afford students the opportunity to petition the organization to create a caucus that will advise Council and the Executive on issues relevant to that group.



# Experiential Learning Partnerships

## Reintroduced Involvement Compass

- ▶ We've reaching out to campus partners that wish to cross-promote their involvement opportunities with us. This means more students being exposed to more opportunities for hands-on learning.

## Rewarding opportunity creators

- ▶ Working with Alumni on the logistics of creating an award that recognizes faculty who excel as instructors and facilitators in curricular experiential learning settings.
- ▶ A foundational meeting between the USC and the Student Success Centre was held to ensure that priorities regarding experiential learning align. Moving forward, the two units have agreed to collaborate very closely on ensuring that Western's strategic plan commitment to experiential learning will be upheld.

## Collaborating with Western Administration

- ▶ Student Mental Health and Wellness Steering Committee
- ▶ Mental Health Working Group
- ▶ Student Questionnaires Working Group
- ▶ Pride London Organizing Committee



# VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL LINDSEE PERKINDS

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# Restorative Justice

- ▶ Research is being collected to develop a presentation for September regarding the logistics of the project. I will meet with each stakeholder in September to present (City Hall, police, court officials).
  - ▶ The goal is to have everyone on board by the end of first semester so a pilot project can be initiated for St. Patrick's day of 2016.

# Transit

- ▶ Working with the city to provide opportunities for students to give feedback on the Rapid Transit initiative. We will be hosting more Pints and Politics Events this year so students can speak directly with City Planners, LTC, and other stakeholders about Rapid Transit.
  - ▶ Also have been working to plan a city wide campaign to push the province for the money we need to have this project developed in the city (possible idea is a letter writing campaign).



# Federal Election Engagement



## Get Out The Vote Campaign

- ▶ Set to be a month long initiative, the goal of the campaign is to encourage students to vote and we have been lucky to lock down many opportunities for students to do so on campus.
  - ▶ Between October 5-8, we will have two satellite polls on our campus. Satellite polls allow ALL students to vote in their home riding if they choose to not vote in London. On election day, October 19th, there will be four polls in residence for students living in residence.

## Social Media Campaign

- ▶ Starting September, there will be a full social media campaign consisting of videos and infographics about how and where students can vote. A “Why My Vote Matters” campaign will be aimed to get students thinking about why they should be voting in the election. We also have planned to have a student and candidate debate.

## Other Related Initiatives

- ▶ Other components include creating lawn signs to place on student lots directing them to their voting location and an updated Western Votes website with videos and voting instructions.

# OUSA

## Advocacy Strategy

- ▶ This past week, I attended OUSA's Strategy Conference. This conference entails finalizing the years priorities, picking the papers for the Spring GA, choose the authors and editors for each paper, and write the annual and long-term plan.
- ▶ This years top priorities for OUSA include tuition, funding formula, experiential learning and work integrated learning, credit transfer and student union autonomy. There will also be six papers written this year.
  - ▶ These include Teaching and Assessment, Student Financial Assistance, and Student Success in the fall, and Online Learning, Student Employment, and Students with Disabilities in the Spring.
  - ▶ I will be editing the Teaching and Assessments paper while writing the Student Employment Paper.
- ▶ A foundational meeting between the USC and the Student Success Centre was held to ensure that priorities regarding experiential learning align.



**OUSA**  
Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance



# VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT EVENTS TARYN SCRIPNICK

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# Orientation Week

## Continued planning and organization

- ▶ Working with the Orientation Planning Committee to organize, develop and implement O-Week events.
- ▶ Guiding the Training Working Group to prepare for summer Soph training while identifying key areas for improvement. I also meet weekly with the Programming Working Group to discuss acts, performers and to solidify what the Oweek programming will look like.

## Soph attention and appreciation

- ▶ Working to establish a Soph Care Drive-Through.
- ▶ Soph leadership approvals (soph names, programming and budgets) are almost completed and will be sent out soon.
- ▶ Liasing with Grocery Checkout to plan Soph meals during training, as well as discuss the potential for Soph discounts or benefits with healthy food during O-Week.





# Clubs on Campus

## More supported and organized clubs system

- ▶ Conferring with the USC's compliance department to rework clubs training, moving all of the training online with the help of the new USC Promotions Department.
- ▶ Critically looking at the way clubs events and Clubs Week are run, revamping clubs week to make it more accessible to clubs and students.
- ▶ Interviewing web-design companies interested in designing a new clubs interface meant to replace Western Link for 2016. Working to find a medium both accessible and appealing to students.

# National Events Collaboration

## Canadian Organization of Campus Activities

- ▶ I attended the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) conference in Alberta. Had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with student events portfolio representatives from postsecondary institutions across Canada.
- ▶ Included a series of workshops to prepare students and staff for the demands and challenges of campus programming. Also offered "block booking" - when schools close in geographic location can book the same act or performance and save funds.



# COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER KEVIN HURREN

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# Organizational Communications



## USC Website restructuring

- ▶ Working to restructure the website to better facilitate navigation and traffic while simultaneously ensuring key information remains relevant, accurate and accessible.

## Organizational Chart

- ▶ Building a chart outlining how the executive portfolios, council and other key campus partners relate or interact. This will hopefully be disseminated to all members of the USC as well as featured on our website.

## New promotions department

- ▶ With this new department, I've been working with the staff involved to define it's role and better direct its goals these years.
- ▶ Additionally, I'm also developing a way for USC members to better request promotional, political and other communications assistance from both this department and my own.





# USC Brand Presence

## USC involvement in SAO

- ▶ I've been working with the Summer Academic Orientation staff to not only update how they present the organization but also include USC-related videos and schedule executive members to speak with incoming students.

## Curated campus publications

- ▶ Big components of the summer have been spent editing USC content in a variety of Western publications, including the SAO Handbook, the Student Guide, the Westernizer and more.

# Greater Campaign Consultations

- ▶ This summer, we've been preparing a number of long-term communications campaigns so we can better ensure that throughout the year high-priority issues are not being forgotten about.
- ▶ These campaigns include a federal Get Out The Vote presentation, advocacy platform discussions, student feedback initiatives and student event marketing.



# SECRETARY TREASURER JONATHAN ENGLISH

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# Board of Directors



## Rebuilt BoD structure

- ▶ Building upon foundations with the creation of a Vice Chair for the Board.
- ▶ Creation and implementation of Terms of Reference for both the Chair and Vice-Chair.

## Better prepare and empower the BoD

- ▶ A strong, independent and thoughtful Board of Directors impacts the quality of the corporation.  
Ongoing projects included;
  - ▶ Transferring over to OWL for Board communications and information-sharing.
  - ▶ Implementing Board Orientation Modules.
  - ▶ Creating Board self and peer assessments.
  - ▶ Creating an external Audit Committee to Report to the Board.



# Overhauled By-Laws & Documents



## Improved transparency and clarity of documents

- ▶ A part of this process requires breaking down our old systems and rebuilding them in a newer, modern and easier-to-understand form. Completed projects include;
  - ▶ Converting By-law 3 into an “External Relationships” Policy Tree.
  - ▶ International Students’ Caucus documentation.
  - ▶ Senior Operations Interim Terms of Reference.
- ▶ Other ongoing projects include;
  - ▶ Creation of Standing Committee Chairs Terms of Reference.
  - ▶ Implementing Committee Chair Orientation Modules (along with Committees).
  - ▶ By-law 1 Review.
  - ▶ Creating a ‘tiered’ policy/procedure/by-law structure and definitions Policy.
  - ▶ Establishing a clearer picture of the responsibilities and direction of Council, in comparison with the Board.
  - ▶ Elections Committee Reform.



# THANKS FOR LISTENING!

Contact [communications@westernusc.ca](mailto:communications@westernusc.ca) with any questions

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