



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS'
COUNCIL

July 3, 2015

EXECUTIVE REPORT



us at the Big Bike charity event

PRESIDENT

An orientation program with vision and direction

Sophie has been working with Western's administration to develop a new strategic plan for orientation at the university. This year data will be collected by key stakeholders in the program to inform the future of O-Week and beyond. Last week, the USC co-hosted an Orientation Strategic Planning Summit as a starting off point for this process. More information on the summit can be found on the [USC website](#).



Offer more experiential learning opportunities to students

Recognizing that experiential learning doesn't have to happen through Western's faculties, Sophie has been meeting with off-campus firms to discuss ways to create opportunities for students with businesses in the city. This includes meetings with the London Economic Development Corporation who will partner with the USC for events such as "Student 2 Business."

Ensure the USC remains inclusive of its constituents

Sophie has been entering discussions with HBAA students to better understand how the USC can work collaboratively to ensure our programs are properly serving and representing those attending Ivey.

Oversee the USC staff's collective bargaining agreement

On the corporate side of the organization, the USC is entering a collective bargaining year with some of the staff members. This means that Sophie has been undergoing training to both understand the current agreement with the staff's union while also preparing to participate in negotiations which can impact our staff support and the USC's financial position.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- To prepare for the summer Board training next week, Sophie and Jonathan have been working with Board Chair, Isaac Jacobi, to plan meaningful training sessions and a productive agenda to orient new members to the Board and ensure good governance of the corporation.
- As per our Advocacy Papers Policy, when entering a new cycle the previous year's papers have been completed and approved by Council. This month, Sophie has been finishing the two papers that were commissioned last year to ensure that they are ready to present to Council at the Summer Council Weekend.



Improved LGBT resources in the Peer Support Center

In the past, it has taken until October or November for Peer Support Network representatives to schedule dates for Regional HIV Connections



facilitators to conduct queer discussions groups on campus. Now, Alex has been able to solidify dates in September so students interested in the discussions group have earlier opportunities to participate.

Preventing sexual violence on campus

Alex has been meeting with members of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee (SVPEC), which is an arm of Western's Safe Campus Advisory Group, to discuss ways to improve the quality of information available regarding Western's sexual violence policy. Alex hopes to guide the group to create procedures that would accompany the policy, affording a clearer outline of what to do if you experience sexual violence or harassment.

Greater representation for International students at Western

After successfully creating the International Students' Caucus' terms of reference with Jonathan, Alex went over this document with staff from Western International soliciting feedback and advice. Additionally, Alex coordinated meetings between the entire executive and Western International officers to identify points of collaboration – such as International Week.

Encourage experiential learning outcomes on campus

Alex has made progress with Alumni Western in the creation and administration of an award that will act as a recognition program for faculty who excel in the area of experiential learning. Alex hopes to position this award so it can be adopted by Western's overall recognition and teaching quality initiatives.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Alex has a fully formed internal portfolio as the Teaching Quality and Awards coordinator and the Associate Vice-President Campus Affairs were selected.
- The SVPEC coordinated a screening of *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary about sexual violence on American university campuses. Alex represented the USC at discussions about whether or not this film should be screened for a wider audience.

The logo consists of a purple horizontal bar with the text "VP EXTERNAL" in white, serif, uppercase letters. The bar is flanked by two purple arrowheads pointing outwards, one above and one below.

VP EXTERNAL

Introduce a restorative justice program to London

Lindsee has been working with the USC's advocacy officer to create a year-long plan for introducing a program of this nature to the city. This includes making presentations to relevant stakeholders such as police, municipal court officials and London residents with the goal of having the program's logistics finalized towards the end of the fall term.

Introduce a party registry to London

Lindsee has been collaborating with Susan Barkman, the Community Outreach Coordinator at the University of Colorado, to determine what the registry would look like in London. The University of Colorado has a successful party registry program, and did a presentation on the program at the Town & Gown Conference attended by Lindsee and Sophie earlier this summer.

Get more students involved in external advocacy

In order to create an opportunity for students-at-large to get more involved in external advocacy campaigns, Lindsee is creating and wrote the terms-of-reference for an "External Advocacy Taskforce." This group will be composed of students with an interest in planning and implementing advocacy initiatives including local advocacy week, the federal election voting efforts and other municipal or provincial campaigns.



Develop the USC's ability to lobby on a federal level

Research is being collected by Lindsee and her coordinators to assist in determining the most effective ways the organization can lobby to federal bodies. A number of potential plans are being accumulated and the Provincial and Federal Affairs standing committee will be consulted to determine what the next steps will be.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Along with Sophie, Lindsee met with London Economic Development Corporation to discuss the USC's experiential learning goals in hopes of combining efforts with city networks.

VP STUDENT EVENTS

Diverse Orientation Week programming

Taryn has been meeting with orientation's programming working group to finalize the acts, performers and complementary entertainment that are going to be present each night of O-Week. The diversity of the acts, and well as past successes or failures, were considered by the group in the deliberation process.

An orientation program with vision and direction

Along with Sophie, Taryn hosted and participated in the Orientation Strategic Planning Summit. Taryn acted as a group facilitator, starting conversations with a variety of orientation stakeholders to hone in on what some of the collective priorities are. More information on the summit can be found on the [USC website](#).



A more supported clubs system

As part of her portfolio overseeing clubs governance at Western, Taryn has had meetings with club executives who have summer membership to ensure that these student leaders felt comfortable in their roles and that any problems which arose from summer club activities were handled accordingly.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Met with Kevin Hurren and Melissa Cheater, Western's digital content coordinator, to discuss the orientation program's social media practices and overall communications strategies.
- As part of the USC's collaboration with the Western International offices, Taryn communed with the International Week coordinator to begin talking about collaboration on that event series.

COMMUNICATIONS

Updated USC-related publications

To ensure only accurate information is being disseminated to students, Kevin has been going through publications from various departments at Western and editing content. This includes the Summer Academic Orientation handbook, the 2015/2016 Student Guide, the Westernizer planner and a several webpages. This also involves drafting content on new services and building messaging for the executive members.

Engaging students in federal elections

Along with Lindsee and the USC's promotions department, Kevin has been organizing a federal Get Out The Vote campaign for the upcoming federal elections. So far, this campaign will feature a series of videos and infographics, signage both on and off-campus, information tables and potential political debates.



Organized orientation communications

As a program with so many invested parties, Kevin has been working with representatives from across campus to ensure that all lines of public communication (such as social media, advertising and promotions) are on the same track. This work includes planning emergency communications procedures, sorting through archived footage of O-Week, updating orientation webpages and sharing access to social media.

More efficient and publicized advocacy efforts

Recently, Kevin became the Advocacy Group chair. The Advocacy Group, whose members include the president along with vice-presidents internal and external, debate what the executive's advocacy priorities should be and strategize the best ways to approach them. As chair, Kevin facilitates conversation, negotiates compromise and assists with planning how to make students aware of such advocacy progress.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- Worked with representatives from Western International to brainstorm ways the USC can recruit for the International Students' Caucus.

SECRETARY TREASURER

A restructured and empowered First-Year Students' Caucus

As part of his recommendations in the review on council composition, Jonathan has been working to solidify its new format – primarily with new policy templates and tweaked over-sight policies. Jon hopes this improved caucus structure will act as a standard for any special interest groups on campus looking to be think-tanks, policy-makers and advocates.



Restructured and empowered standing committees

Jonathan has been working on creating a "Standing Committee Chair Terms-of-Reference." This document, in conjunction with training offered by the USC's government services department, will aim to cultivate a stronger sense of leadership and purpose amongst committee chairs. In addition to having the responsibilities of a chair detailed more clearly, Jon is preparing guides for standing committees to have more direction in their work and research.

Simplified organizational documentation

As part of Jonathan's overall attempt to review and rephrase the USC's by-laws and policies, he is currently going through By-law 1 – the organizations largest and arguably most important by-law. Much of the work is editing, moving and removing sections, in order to take significant steps towards a more holistic understanding of the by-law.

OTHER PROGRESS:

- To increase the accessibility of council documents, Jonathan is close to creating a WebCT portal that will easily lead council and board members to USC documents.
- Jonathan has also been working with Alex to create the International Students' Caucus – a group that is being set up to be independent of the USC allowing them to set their own agenda, direction and vision.