

Summer 2021 Report

Office of the Vice President Academic and External

September 19th, 2021



Overview

The following document is a summary of the tasks, activities, and accomplishments of the office of the VP-AX over the months of Summer 2020.

May - Transition, Training, and introductory meetings with University Administration:

- Senate: discussion and approval for extending winter break.

- Meetings with University Administration and Faculty Association (attended by all executives):
 - i) Library
 - ii) Mawi'omi Centre
 - iii) Residence
 - iv) VP Academic and Research
 - v) Chaplaincy Centre
 - vi) English Language Centre
 - vii) Athletics
 - viii) NSO/Grad month
 - ix) Sexual Violence and Prevention Response Officer
 - x) Donna Sutton
 - xi) SAVS/AVC point people
 - xii) International Students Office
 - xiii) Development and Alumni Engagement
 - xiv) Student Affairs

- Library Council meetings (Leena attended one of the two)

- Appeals:
 - i) met with a nursing student who was going to be charged international student fees twice.
- Put out a housing survey
- Finished and submitted Rotary Club Report on funds (\$6000) granted to Robertson Library to purchase laptops for laptop lending program (initiated by previous vpax Malak Nassar)
- Planned Maritime Student Congress with Executive Directors of NBSA and SNS.
- Hosted Elections Canada Information session 1.
- Meetings for Indigenous student support and reconciliation lobby doc policy (President sat in on these meetings):
 - Professor Charlie Sark (and constant consultation with L'nuey Executive Director, [Jenene Wooldridge](#) throughout the summer over email)
 - Professor Ron MacDonald
 - Professor David Varis (multiple calls discussing concerns)
- Government relations, introductions, and potential policy priorities:
 - i) MLA Heath Macdonald (President sat in on the meeting)
 - ii) MLA Karla Bernard and MLA Hannah Bell (President sat in on the meeting)
 - iv) MP Sean Casey (attended by all executives)
 - v) Minister Natalie Jameson (held in April and was attended by the President, vpax, Tolu, and Malak)
- Hired Policy & Research Coordinator
 - Miyah Mistal
- Met with Stakeholders

- SNS, NBSA, SMUSA Executive team, AUSU Executive team
- Attended CASA Digital Foundations
 - Elected onto Member Relations Committee.
- Started research for lobby document (with PRC)

June:

- Meetings:
 - [Anne Bartlett](#) to discuss the lack of a BIPOC counsellor on campus (with PRC)
 - Marilyn Barrett from the Health Centre to discuss potential Health and Wellness lobby document policy (with PRC)
 - Connor Kelly: Fight for Affordable Housing PEI (Meeting attended by President and vpax with equal contribution from both)
 - Professor Ron Macdonald to discuss the process, history, and lack of Mi'kmaq signage around campus. (President sat in on this meeting)
 - Professor Jennifer Taylor to discuss potential Food Insecurity lobby document policy (with PRC)
 - Nouhad and Richelle to discuss the lack of off-campus housing coordinator.
 - VPAR to discuss possibilities of adding Indigenous Knowledge and History course to the curriculum.
 - Nouhad, Richelle, Joy, Tyson, and Laura to brainstorm ways to get an off-campus housing coordinator.
- Scheduled meetings for Indigenous student support and reconciliation lobby doc policy (President sat in on these meetings):
 - Allan Gillis from the Mi'kmaq Council of PEI
 - Call with Native Council of PEI
 - Professor John Doran
 - Professor Charlie Sark.
 - Professor David Varis (call)
- Government relations, introductions, and potential policy priorities:

- i) Mayor Philip Brown (with other executives)
 - ii) Minister Brad Trivers and Deputy Minister David Keedwell (President sat in on this meeting)
 - iii) Scheduled and attended a meeting with MLA Steven Howard (President sat in on this meeting)

- Appeal:
 - i) Multiple meetings with a student requesting help to appeal being placed on probation. The Senate Academic Appeals Committee ruled in the student's favour.

- Elections Canada Information Session 2.

- Closed housing survey.

- Lobby document themes finalized and approved by Executives: Housing, Indigenous Student Support and Reconciliation, Affordable textbooks, Health and Wellness.

- Finished writing Affordable Textbooks policy for lobby document.

- Started Maritime Student Congress (two weekly MSC sessions all through June)

- Golf Fundraising event with Executives.

- Applied to be on MP Sean Casey's Charlottetown Youth Council and was approved.

- Applied to the Government of PEI's Computers for Success Program. Was approved to receive 110 devices (33 desktops and 77 laptops).

- CASA:
 - MRC meeting. Elected as Vice-Chair and Secretary of Member Relations Committee.

July:

- Meetings:
 - VPAR to discuss lobby doc policies and funds required to offer introductory courses.
 - Meeting with [Sobia Ali-Faisal](#) and Dante Bazard to discuss EDI workshop for UPEISU office (VPFA accompanied and equally contributed to the meeting)
- Senate meeting: Search committee for VPAR
- Appeals:
 - Two students were being charged a total fee of \$1000 for damage they had not caused in residence. Discussed with Laura from residence and the fee was removed.
- Picked up laptops from the Computers for Success Program (assisted by the President and VPFA)
- Attended Pride March with Executives.
- Indigenous Student policy consultations
 - Invited to Lennox Island to meet with Brent Chiasson and Nathan Sark (student). (President sat in on these meetings)
- Co-wrote and signed a letter with the President addressed to VP Finance and Administration to hire an Off-campus Housing Coordinator.
- Maritime Student Congress sessions (twice per week)
- Attended Charlottetown Youth Council.
- CASA:
 - MRC meeting.
 - Liaison call.

- CASA Policy & Strategy week-long Conference
 - Hosted two CASA social nights with MRC.
- Government relations:
 - Scheduled a meeting with CPHO Heather Morrison to discuss health and wellness policy priority (President attended the meeting and provided equal contribution)

August:

- Meetings:
 - CASA Member Relations Officer.
 - Chair of Council
 - President Alaa to discuss Indigenous Student Policy (President sat in on the meeting)
- Hired Academic Coordinator
 - Uyen Ngo
- Introductory meeting with Media (along with other executives):
 - Louise Martin
 - Kerry Campbell
 - Logan MacLean
 - Stu Neatby
- CASA
 - MRC monthly meeting.
- Media Training with UPEISU's Marketing and Communications Manager.
- EDI workshop with Sobia and Dante (entire SU office)
- Finished writing 2021-2022 lobby document.

- The 2021-2022 lobby document was reviewed and approved. It has been sent to print.
- Library Council
- Started scheduling lobby meetings for October and November.
- UPEISU Staff Orientation and Training.
- Governance training with Chair of Council.
- Federal election writ dropped and started planning Get Out the Vote.
- GOTV planning and prep:
 - Worked with Marketing and Communications Manager to put out social media posts.
 - Shot GOTV video to be shown in classes.
 - Scheduled classroom visits.
 - Trained PRC and Academic Coordinator to be point people for GOTV.
 - Leaders debate prep:
 - Coordinated with the Guardian
 - Organized live stream.
 - Organized audio.
 - Reached out to candidates and sent out invitations for Leader's Debate, Pints with Politicians, UPEISU Welcome Week bbq (assisted by Marketing and Communications Manager)

September (until September 19th):

- NSO events (vpax was present but did not contribute to planning and organization)
 - UPEISU and you
 - Scavenger hunt.

- Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC) meeting.

- Meetings:
 - Consul General of India and President Alaa.

- Government relations:
 - Minister Brad Trivers to discuss cooperative housing (President and acting GM sat in on the meeting)

- CASA:
 - MRC monthly meeting.

- Filmed meet your SU with Executive team.

- Filmed Toga video with Executive team

- Senate

- Get Out the Vote 2021:
 - GOTV Volunteer Training.
 - Worked with Marketing and Communications manager to put out graphics, social media posts, and invitations for GOTV events.
 - GOTV booth: PRC and Academic Coordinator at Clubs and Societies Fair.
 - Started classroom visits with VPFA, PRC, Academic Coordinator (9 in total)
 - Pre-debate Stu Neatby call and prep and decided on questions.
 - Leader's Debate
 - Ride to Advance Polls

- Sierrah's welcome week bbq (vpax did not contribute to the planning of the event): Green Party candidate, Liberal party candidate
- Pints with Politicians
- Trivia night: added and asked election questions as a part of GOTV.
- Elections watch party on September 20th
- Ride to polling stations on election day.