

CAPILANO STUDENTS' UNION SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Capilano Students' Union

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Capilano students,

Welcome to the 2016 semi-annual general meeting (SAGM)! The year so far has been amazing for the Capilano Students' Union and we are glad you are here with us. As students, we know that every minute of the day counts towards getting homework done, working, commuting to and from campus, and a number of other things that contribute to the hectic life of being a student.

We would like to thank you for dedicating some of that time to attending the CSU's SAGM as well as any of the other events that we have put on throughout the last few months. We are proud to be the voice on campus that unites and represents all students and are always looking for ways to expand on that!

If you have an idea for an event, service, club, or any other adventure we could embark on, please get in touch with us at www.csu.bc.ca. Throughout this report you will find information on committee- and collective-specific initiatives that have taken place throughout the year.

Please feel free to ask questions about them or contact the director responsible for that area. We encourage all of our members — that means you — to get involved with the CSU and play an active role in shaping your experience here at Capilano University. Thank you once again for attending our AGM!

— your CSU board of directors

DIRECTOR REPORTS

VICE-PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS – TAYLOR WILSON

As my last term in student politics slowly encroaches to an end, I can't help but feel proud, humbled, and inspired by the external relations committee and the work they have done. Busier than a bee in Spring time, the committee was responsible for all sorts of interesting advocacy and campaigns throughout the past year. This included trips to Ottawa to meet with local federal MPs and policy makers in collaboration with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (C.A.S.A.); the biggest student vote campaign in Capilano University history, "Get Out the Vote Capilano!"; three meetings with the Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson; #Ilovecapu, a campaign designed to bring back good vibes and a healthy environment to our school; and preparations for the Alliance of BC Student's (ABCS) Lobby Days 2016, in which the CSU will be joining five other BC schools as we advocate for a more accessible, affordable, education for all. Interested in the external relations committee and wanna be a part of this super cool bunch? Fire off an email to vpexternal@csu.bc.ca for more info!

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT – ZACH RENWICK

The President has been working on a variety of projects over the last few months, including the preparation of next year's budget, implementing online elections for next year, executing a marketing implementation plan for the Society, and bringing to fruition a consultative plan for a new student union building (SUB) on the North Vancouver campus.

On the budget front: the finance committee assists the VP internal in preparing the CSU's \$2 million total organizational budget every year. It is also presented at the SAGM and uploaded to the website for members to review.

SUB Project: In the coming months we will be holding a series of consultation sessions with students to brainstorm what is possible for us to create on campus. We know that student life is something that could be improved at Capilano University and the CSU is leading the charge forward to be the catalyst for this positive change.

These are very exciting times; the CSU has gained a lot of momentum over the last few years and we want you to participate. Have you considered running in the elections? The last day to submit your nomination package (and thereby have your name included on the ballot), is March 3rd.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE – KATE PHIFER

Since the last annual general meeting the Student Life Committee has been very active in engaging membership and bringing student run activities to campus. The last week of November the Student Life Committee hosted De-Stress Week. A week of events coordinated with members at large and CSU clubs. The Music Therapy Association and the IDEA Library club both hosted themed days eg. musical de-stress and art therapy. Twelve professors offered their time to be pied in the face to help members relieve their pre-exam nerves. The St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs once again brought joy to all the members.

Upon returning from winter break, the 2nd annual CSU Open House was held. This event was an opportunity for CSU clubs, committees, and other university organizations to showcase opportunities to membership. Twelve clubs were present, eleven collective and committees represented, and three university groups.

January 21st was the 4th annual uncapped rail jam. Once again this event was met with huge community support. All three local mountains were present. Over \$600 was raised for local charity The Project Change Foundation. This event was organized in collaboration with the Student Life Committee and the Ski and Board Club. Over fifteen contestants participated and over 50 members volunteered their time.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES – SACHA FABRY

The University Relations and Services committees are tasked with growing and maintaining working relations with the University and other stakeholders as well as developing and expanding the student services and programs for the 7000+ members of the Capilano Students' Union.

Directed by the vice-president of University Relations and Services, those two committees have been working towards many of the CSU's strategic goals since the AGM in October.

Recent accomplishments of the Services Committee include: managing the beginning phases of renovations to the CSU's administrative spaces, conducting a full yearly review of current services (highlighting potential areas for growth), and approving a contract with Stantec Architecture to begin stakeholder consultation on a potential student union building. These projects will allow the CSU to be more effective at serving our members and to meet their various needs.

The vice-president of University Relations and Services has the duty to attend monthly meetings with Capilano senate, board of governors, and alumni to be able to advocate on behalf of all students at Capilano and collaborate with the university on all shared strategic goals of the CSU and Capilano University. The VP-URS also sits on the search committee for Capilano University's next President (a yearlong search that is in its last week before completion).

ACCESSIBILITY JUSTICE COORDINATOR – JULLIAN KOLSTEE

Since the Fall AGM the collective decided we would focus on holding one substantial campaign this Spring. We came up with a few ideas, and decided on the CSU Mental Health Forum, held on Monday February 29. The goal of the forum is to produce recommendations from members on the development of a CSU mental health strategy. Although mental health is a campus wide issue, concerns have historically been referred to our collective on an ad hoc basis, and our intention is to instead make mental health a student life priority for the CSU. Our hope is that our forum will draw in members that are invested in mental health on campus, and want to continue to engage with the CSU on a mental health strategy. We are always looking for members to join our committee, and they need not have a disability to do so.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR – KAYLIE HIGGS

This term, as in the previous term, the environmental justice collective has been actively meeting to talk about and collaboratively take action on environmental justice within our communities.

Since October, the collective has worked on a number of initiatives including: hosting a ChatLive that focused on how the environment is closely tied to justice issues; supporting two applications to the Chartwell's Campus Project grants (one of which, for an aquaponics system, was chosen as a grant recipient); and hosting a documentary screening and talk on pipelines, activism, and the recent 2015 Paris Climate Talks.

Most recently, the collective had an open discussion between students and university members regarding environmental justice on campus. This event was positively received and sparked a multitude of ideas to build on in the coming months.

Beyond this, the collective is currently working on an ethical purchasing policy for the CSU and on planning a number of upcoming initiatives — please keep your eyes open for these events!

Finally, the environmental justice collective is always open to having new members join and new projects started; please contact environment@csu.bc.ca if you're interested in learning more!

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVES – JAZICA CHAN AND JONALD CHAN

Your Arts and Sciences Faculty Representatives, Jazica Chan and Jonald Chan, have been working hard to engage and represent students of the faculty within the university campus. We have directly promoted many events planned by the CSU, to the faculty, so that students are more aware of them. An example was the transit referendum, which we have promoted by handing out flyers, giving classroom talks, and giving students a chance to ask questions. Concerns have also been relayed from the arts and sciences students to appropriate levels of the CSU and university, so that they are quickly addressed. For instance, students' concerns about cafeteria food and prices have been forwarded to the Food and Beverage Committee. In addition, we have met with the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Julia Denholm, who supports the ideas brought forth by the students regarding campus housing and a new student union building. The faculty representatives have been fully engaged in the planning and attendance of the Arts and Sciences Open House for new and incoming students to Capilano University. Jazica and Jonald will continue to increase and strengthen connections with students, the CSU, and Capilano University.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES REPRESENTATIVES – MICHELLE GERVAIS AND EMILY SOLOMON

The business and professional studies representatives have been active since the AGM last October. In addition to their regular committee work, the two have provided support and continued outreach through classroom talks and tabling for events, such as De-stress week, CSU Open House, and the federal elections. Additionally, Emily and Michelle attended a Student Leadership Conference this February, developing skills varying from environmental sustainability, to reciting volunteers, to lobbying decision makers.

They are also active in various search committees. Michelle sits on Associate Vice President of Student Success search committee while Emily sits on the Presidential Search Committee. Additionally, Emily acted as the point of first contact in the search for Chief Returning Officer for the upcoming elections in May.

Michelle also worked to collect warm clothes for the Syrian refugee crisis and then again for National Sweater Day, a WWF initiative to reduce electrical waste. Together with the Social Justice Collective and CapU Power Works, over five bins full of donations were collected. She was also very active in helping organize this year's Rail Jam, collecting sponsorships from the community for a silent auction that rose over \$600 for the Project Change Foundation..

FACULTY OF GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY STUDIES REPRESENTATIVES – SABRINA OUELLETTE AND KYLE LEGROW

The global and community studies faculty representatives have been very active with the board of directors and have made it a priority since the fall annual general meeting. Both Sabrina and Kyle have been engaged in various campaigns and events on campus, such as the Welcome Back Week, Back to Cap Run/Walk, U-Pass referendum, CSU Student Film Festival, Volleyball Pre-Game Rally, and Improvisation Night. These were great ways to reach out to students and establish relationships while promoting the CSU.

They have been giving a voice from their faculty while sitting on various CSU committees (operations, services, student-life, and university relations). As your faculty reps, Kyle has also been working with students and relaying concerns to the faculty, like with weekend and evening courses. Sabrina has been greatly involved with the board and worked on the executives' performance and remuneration review, the CRO search committee, and the CSU volunteer registry. Your faculty reps strive to reinforce the sense of community on campus by increasing their engagement and communication with students and faculty.
