

CAPILANO STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Capilano Students' Union

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dear Capilano students,

Welcome to the 2015 annual general meeting (AGM)! The year so far has been amazing for the Capilano Students' Union and 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 AGM 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](http://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

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### VICE-PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS – TAYLOR WILSON

The external relations committee has had quite the ride this year, holding meetings with the Ministry of Advanced Education in the early summer, coordinating "Get Out the Vote Capilano!" over the last few weeks, and testifying before the select standing committee on government services and finance regarding student housing in September. We even had a live results party on Monday for the federal election! Meanwhile in the spring, the external relations committee worked hard on getting students aware of the transit referendum, attempted to bring open textbooks to Cap, and met local politicians and stakeholders in the greater Vancouver area. In fact, the entire committee met every single MLA (and one MP) from the North Shore during one day! Some of the issues discussed with the MLAs included housing, transit, student debt, and open textbooks.

Wanna get involved in the cool, dramatic world of politics? Get started with the CSU external relations committee by emailing [vpexternal@csu.bc.ca](mailto:vpexternal@csu.bc.ca)!

## VICE-PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT – ZACH RENWICK

### Finance Committee

The finance committee has accomplished a great deal of work over the past few months. In the early summer months, an evaluation of the Society's insurance services was completed, and under our insurance provider we are now able to approve a greater number of recreational clubs so that students can keep active and have fun while under the CSU banner. Additionally, the finance committee set up a new CSU engagement award, which will help recognize student volunteers who help out at their student association. More recently, the finance committee conducted a RFP process and recommended the appointment of new auditors which will be voted on at the AGM by membership. As of this report writing, the committee is also analyzing and recommending a referendum to be conducted so that students may decide on the continuation of the UPASS program.

### Operations Committee

Last year, the Society underwent drastic policy changes as we rescinded an existing policy manual and introduced an all-new *procedures manual* (sounds fancy, right?). The operations committee has been working to regularly review the newly enacted *procedures*, and makes amendments as we continue the review process from beginning to end. Students are always encouraged to reach out the finance or operations committee chair, Zach Renwick, if they are interested in making change at their student society.

## VICE-PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE – KATE PHIFER

Since the last Annual General Meeting the current Vice-President Student Life has actively worked to fulfill strategic goal of the organization. Working with past VP Student Life, they hosted the first Rock the Boat end of the year party. Upon acquisition of the position on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the student life committee held three events throughout the summer. These events were well attended and united the campus during the quieter summer months. The student life committee worked all summer to prepare for the welcome back events. The CSU Welcome Back BBQ was a great success. There were forty tables featuring CSU collectives, CSU clubs, student associations, and community groups. The entire day featured the talent of the membership, highlighting student musicians and artists. The second annual Disorientation brought the students together at an off campus venue. The entertainment featured a Capilano University graduate.

Since the kick of the semester the student life committee has coordinated with the Human Kinetics club to host a Terry Fox Cause initiative on campus. Working with current and past MOPA students, the student life committee hosted a three-day long film festival showcasing past and present student films.

## **VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES – SACHA FABRY**

### **University Relations Committee**

The university relations committee works to ensure that the CSU is advocating for student's rights at all decision making bodies of the University and that students have proper representation and voices. With that mandate, we advocate for students on; the Alumni Association Board, the university's Senate and Board of Governors, monthly, as well as ensure that there are students appointed to each search committee of the university from the presidential search to the search for the deans of Business as well as Education Health and Human Development. Over the summer months the UR committee worked together with the University's IT department to advise on how and where WIFI improvements could be made to improve internet access across campus.

### **Services Committee**

The services committee on top of managing the CSU's Health and Dental plan and U-Pass contracts, had their hands full over the last year with renovations to the Maple lounge and conference rooms ensuring that students have access to new study spaces. The services committee also introduced a new service, the CSU app, with the intention of increasing student connections and engagement on campus. In partnership with other university stakeholders, the services committee took part in the search process for the new food vendor on campus, Chartwells.

Interested in getting involved in university governance or services implementation, contact the vice-president of university relations and services to find out when the committee are held.

## **ACCESSIBILITY JUSTICE COORDINATOR – JULLIAN KOLSTEE**

Over the summer I worked in an acting role as accessibility justice coordinator, and was lucky enough to have had the opportunity to work with our summer researcher. Highlights of the reporting period include an accessibility guide for students in our new CSU handbook; the development of some new potential tools and programs for the collective to use to engage with membership; gaining a new collective member, bringing our membership to three so far this year. Given that our collective continues to struggle to find members, this will again be our main priority for another year.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR – KAYLIE HIGGS**

The environmental justice collective has been an active campus group over the past year and has been involved in a number of campaigns, workshops, and projects since last year's AGM. Last fall, the collective discussed a number of issues, with a main focus being pipelines and the Burnaby Mountain protests that were happening at the time. Later in the year, the collective hosted workshops including one on activism through banner making; followed-up on the EarthWorks' screening of "Do the Math" to look into "divestment" and what it could mean for the campus; and worked together to spread awareness about the Site-C dam and the usage of plastic on campus by talking to students and launching petitions. Additionally, collective members worked with the external relations committee and other campus groups to encourage students to vote in the spring transit and transportation referendum and the recent federal election through

means including social media and classroom speaking. Finally, the collective name was changed from “environmental issues” to “environmental justice” to more fully reflect the connection between environmental challenges and justice and to better represent the scope of topics addressed through the collective.

## QUEER STUDENTS' LIAISON – JON KINSLEY

This past year the collective has been very active and had many success. These successes included having the unisex washrooms signage changed to be more inclusive, having the City of North Vancouver raise the Pride flag in unison with the city of Vancouver, and gaining a larger Queer Resource Centre. In regards to events on campus, over the last year we were able to repeat a variety of our previous events including testing on campus for World AIDS Day, National Coming Out Day stories in the Courier, Let's Talk about it dialogue sessions, Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life and marching with KPU & KSA in the Pride Parade. The most exciting event of the year was Capilano's first ever Pride Week on campus, we combined our third annual film festival with events all week long to engage students on campus. While I was away during the spring two collective members took over as deputy liaisons to carry out the work of the collective. Two collective members attended the Canadian Universities Queer Services Conference in Toronto expressing what an amazing opportunity it was to engage with other queer student organizations across the country.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR – TAYLOR SMITH

The Social Justice coordinator position at the Capilano Students' Union has been vacant for the 2014/2015 year. Since being elected in the Spring 2015 election, the collective has been keen to re-establish their activities and presence on campus. Over the summer, the social justice coordinator worked on rebuilding new resources and networks on social justice initiatives for the 2015/2016 year. The social justice coordinator was featured as a contributor on addressing housing inequality for the Capilano University student success manual back in August. The collective also focused on improving campus initiatives on sexual assault and consent in collaboration with the university. For the 2015/2016 year, we will continue to address community based approaches on social justice initiatives and well-being issues that impact students. For the Fall and Spring term, the collective has been a key participant for planning Sexual Assault Awareness week while working with various collaborators. For Spring, the collective is preparing to launch a series of events addressing housing inequality and homelessness.

## FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE – JONALD CHAN

Your elected Arts and Sciences faculty representative has been very active and have made great progress since he was elected last spring.

Jonald Chan worked alongside the Services Committee to bring about the installment of hand sanitizers around the Capilano Students' Union spaces. He also started campus wide outreach between the many faculties as soon as he was formally ratified to his position. He accomplished this by attending the many events held by the CSU, namely the CSU Welcome Back Week and interacting with fellow students. Additionally, he connected with many students of other faculties, domestic and international students, and through these interactions, he made the general student body more interested in the CSU and persuaded them to be more involved. This is most apparent

with the contesting of the remaining Arts and Sciences Faculty Representative position as well as some of the other CSU open positions in the CSU by-election.