

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

March 26, 2015



Capilano Students' Union

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Capilano Students' Union membership,

Welcome to the 2015 semi-annual general meeting (SAGM)! This year has been amazing for the Capilano Students' Union and we sure are glad you came along for the ride. As students, we know that every minute of the day count 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 number of events that we have put on throughout the year.

From starting the year off under our new governance model to renovating the CSU Maple Lounge, we have made a number of structural changes that help us serve our membership better. 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 a role in shaping your educational experience here at Capilano University.

Thank you once again for attending our SAGM, we hope to see you again soon!

– your CSU board of directors



BRITTANY BARNES
President & Vice-President,
External Relations



ZACH RENWICK
Vice-President, Internal
Development



ZOFIA RODRIGUEZ
Vice-President, Student Life



SACHA FABRY
Vice-President, University
Relations and Services



SCOTT KNOWLES
Environmental Justice
Coordinator



TAYLOR GEORGE-HOLLIS
First Nations Students Liaison



RHITA HASSAR
International Students Liaison



JON KINSLEY
Queer Students Liaison



ROMILA BARRYMAN
Students of Colour Liaison



JULLIAN KOLSTEE
Accessibility Justice
Coordinator



TAYLOR SMITH
Women Students Liaison



KEVIN ADAM
Arts and Sciences
Representative



DAVID FRYER
Business and Professional
Studies Representative



EMILY SOLOMON
Business and Professional
Studies Representative



TAYLOR WILSON
Fine and Applied Arts
Representative



BEN GLASSEN
Global and Community
Studies Representative



KATE PHIFER
Global and Community
Studies Representative



CALVIN DEGROOT
Senate and Board of
Governors Representative



NATAHSHA PRAKASH
Senate and Board of
Governors Representative

NOT PICTURED:
JONALD CHAN (ARTS AND
SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE)
AND ALEXA HOULE (FINE AND
APPLIED ARTS REPRESENTATIVE)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President & Vice-President,
External Relations**
Brittany Barnes

The External Relations Committee has been very active in lobbying all levels of government on post-secondary education related issues. Prior to municipal elections we developed Youth in the City, a campaign to raise awareness about housing and transportation issues affecting youth and students. We also hosted two all-candidates forums on campus as well as advanced voting stations.

At the end of November we attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Advocacy Week in Ottawa and met with over 140 members of the Canadian House of Commons and Senate to discuss post-secondary education issues at a federal level. This was followed by a provincial week of advocacy with the Alliance of British Columbia Students where we met with over 40 members of the provincial legislative assembly and cabinet ministers.

The committee has also met with government individually to discuss Capilano-specific issues, especially student housing, and believe that we have made progress in several areas.

We are currently in the middle of the Capilano wing of the Vote Yes to Better Transit

campaign and have already registered over 100 students to vote while discussing the benefits of voting yes.

**Vice-President, Internal
Development**
Zachary Renwick

Since the last annual general meeting, the vice-president of internal development has been involved in a number of projects to help improve the organization. In January, the VP-internal brought forward the newly created procedures manual to the board of directors, where it was approved and implemented. With this, the CSU's internal operating procedures and policies were completely overhauled, which will constitute a massive change in the way that the organization conducts business.

The VP-internal also helped open the CSU to greater consultation and engagement with the membership by creating student-at-large positions on standing committees. Now, students may apply to one or more of the six standing committees with which they would like to be involved. Starting June 1, students-at-large may also be remunerated for participating in these standing committees.

Most recently, the VP-internal has been busy working with the Finance Committee preparing the annual budget and the accompanying budget report document, which will



Members of the Alliance of British Columbia Students pose for a group shot in Victoria.

This standing committee application for students-at-large allows for greater levels of student participation.



Two of over 25 riders grind a rail at the third annual Uncapped Rail Jam, one of our most successful recent events.

be presented at the SAGM.

Students are encouraged to explore the procedures manual and standing committee application documents, which are publicly available on our website.

Vice-President, University Relations and Services

Sacha Fabry

The vice-president of university relations & services (VP-URS) directs and implements the strategic goals of the Capilano Students' Union regarding its relations with the university and other stakeholders. He also leads the development and expansion of student services and programs for the 7,000+ members of the Capilano Students' Union.

Recent accomplishments for the Services Committee include finishing the Maple building renovations so that students have new and comfortable study and recreation areas and signing onto a students' union app that will enhance student life and connectivity on campus.

In addition to attending monthly meetings of the Capilano senate, board of governors, and alumni association, the VP-URS is involved with the presidential search committee, tasked with finding and recommending Capilano University's next president; and the food services committee, tasked with finding a new food services vendor for

the cafeteria, as Aramark's contract comes to a close.

Vice-President, Student Life Zofia Rodriguez

The vice-president of student life, along with the Student Life Committee, has been hard at work this year. We ended last semester with some holiday fun at the CSU Holiday Celebration, where students were welcome to drink hot chocolate, eat cookies, build gingerbread houses, and watch Christmas movies. This was a huge hit with all of our students!

The first week back to school we hosted a licensed event that also served as an open house for our collectives, clubs, committees, and other initiatives. Following the CSU Open House, we hosted the third annual Uncapped Rail Jam. We had over 25 snowboarders and skiers participate, as well as entertained over 400 spectators and gave away over \$4,000 in prizes.

COLLECTIVE LIAISONS

Environmental Justice Coordinator Scott Knowles

Since the last annual general meeting in October, the Environmental Justice Collective has been busy. November was a

crazy month in the Vancouver area for environmental justice organizing. There was a standoff on Burnaby Mountain between concerned citizens and Texas-based oil company Kinder Morgan, which is trying to build a tar sands pipeline through the unceded Coast Salish Territory commonly referred to as Burnaby. Collective members voted to support an open letter in solidarity with those standing on the mountain and some of us spent time up there ourselves.

After winter break we regrouped and got back at it. We are now focusing our efforts on building the foundations for a fossil fuel divestment campaign here at Capilano University, and working with the External Relations Committee in campaigning for a yes vote in the upcoming transit referendum.

If you are interested in getting involved with the collective, send Scott Knowles an email at environment@csu.bc.ca.

First Nations Students Liaison

Taylor George-Hollis

No report submitted.

International Students Liaison

Rhita Hassar

The International Students Collective has been very active since the last annual

general meeting. Since the last general meeting, the collective has already met six times and discussed many exciting events as well as issues concerning international students on campus.

The collective has used the Facebook page and the Facebook group to connect with its members and to promote the collective's events.

The International Students Collective's highlight was the International Education Week in collaboration with the Centre of International Experience from November 17 to November 21. This week-long event helped students get together and share their culture and traditions with the rest of the student body. It was a way to celebrate their own culture and customs. The event included movie screenings, food buffets from all over the world, and dance performances such as belly dancing, salsa dance, and African dance.

The collective was also involved in the spring semester's new international students orientation, where we reached out to new students and welcomed them to Capilano University.

Finally, the International Students Collective not only engaged in organizing great events, but also promoted the collective to all students on campus and worked on international students related issues such as facilitating the registration process and creating an endowment fund/emergency fund for international students.



Former Cap student Tamo Campos can be seen in the background while David Suzuki speaks at the protest against the pipeline on Burnaby Mountain.



International Education Week celebrated countries and cultures spanning continents and time zones with live music, dance, treats, and refreshments.

Queer Students Liaison

Jon Kinsley (David Fryer and Liva Du Hamel acting)

The Queer Collective has been busy working on a few different initiatives on campus. They have worked on a Blood Is Blood campaign surrounding the blood ban on donations from men who have sex with men as well as a gender-neutral washrooms campaign to bring awareness to these issues.

The biggest accomplishment of the Queer Collective has been the implementation of Pride Week, which happened February 23-27.

This was an enhanced version of the Queer Film Fest that has happened on campus for the past two years. There were still a number of films playing during the week, but there was an information session and a few other events such as an open mic night to add to the experience of pride on campus.

Students of Colour Liaison

Romila Barryman

The Students of Colour Collective has grown steadily since September and has been working with self-identifying students of colour on campus in putting on various workshops, events and presentations that encourage dialogue around racial awareness.

In the months since September, the Students of Colour Collective has held semi-monthly meetings on every first and third Tuesday at 11:30am. These meetings have been vital to the democratization of events, concerns and stances at current issues.

In January, the Students of Colour Collective held its first event, called There Are Too Many Dragons Here, with Vancouver historian Naveen Girn, who shared archived documents and photos on the history of ethnic solidarity in the Downtown Eastside.

Black History Month was honoured with a week-long event featuring movies, debates, and discussions all selected by self-identifying black students on campus. Vancouver writer and founder of the Hogan's Alley Memorial Project Wayde Compton provided a presen-

tation on the hyper-local history of the black community in Hogan's Alley that was demolished to create the Georgia Viaduct. These events were open to all students and received support from the Africa Great Lakes Networking Foundation as well as alumni who visited the events with much interest.

We continue to be an open and understanding community dedicated to providing a safe place for self-identifying students here on campus.

Accessibility Justice Coordinator

Jullian Kolstee

This is the first report of the new Accessibility Justice Collective since the membership approved its name change from the Students with Disabilities Collective.

While the changes toward the new collective have helped address attendance issues, we are hoping to welcome more members to our collective meetings and engage more of the membership around accessibility.

Highlights of the reporting period include continued progress toward new collective materials and identity, a fact-finding mission to CanAssist at the University of Victoria, a collective re-launch in the form of the Accessibility Justice Info Week, as well as a Friday evening social.

The collective will continue to endeavor toward engaging with the membership into next year.

Women's Collective

Taylor Smith

In the spring term, the Women's Collective has been keen to host events on a variety of issues that impact women. This semester, we successfully collaborated with female communication students to create a networking event centered on empowering women that featured speakers, prizes, and food.

We also got to work with various faculty departments to raise awareness for International Women's Day, and also facilitated a workshop

on sexual consent for Pride Week.

For International Women's Day, we hosted a workshop on allies in the women's movement with various faculty members and students. We followed up our week by contributing to a panel on online gender harassment.

The Breaking Stigma: Women Refusing Marginalization panel discussion featured prominent writers and speakers Maggie De Vries and Mercedes Eng.

In support of students participating in the Five Days for the Homeless campaign, the Women's Collective has sought to expand the discourse on the injustices that women experience through displacement, poverty, and housing inequality.

This semester has proven to be not only highly active for the collective, but also rewarding as we continue to create new experiences for our students in the Capilano University community.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Arts and Science Representative

Kevin Adam

Kevin Adam's role this year has largely been that of oversight and support for other board members and their initiatives. He looks forward to carrying out the rest of his term as effectively as possible.

Business and Professional Studies Representatives

David Fryer and Emily Solomon

The business and professional studies representatives make it a priority to serve as a direct link between the board of directors and the surrounding student body. They have spent a great deal of time visiting classrooms and attending different events to conduct outreach with students to familiarize themselves with members concerns.

They have emphasized tabling at events like the CSU Open House to make students aware of the numerous ways that members can become more involved with the CSU. In

these activities, the faculty representatives strive to fortify connections with a reinforced sense of community and communication on campus.

Fine and Applied Arts Representatives

Taylor Wilson

Your fine and applied arts representatives have been incredibly active this year, having private discussions with dean Jennifer Moore; relaying student concerns from certain programs; being invited to faculty meetings with administrators, instructors, and staff; or just generally giving various CSU committees a voice from the fine arts.

For example, one aspect of Capilano's student life that quite a few fine arts students find is a sense of disconnect from the rest of the university. Indeed, we're more likely to see a relationship between a business student and a sciences student than we are to see a relationship between someone from motion picture arts and one from communications.

As your fine and applied arts reps, Alexa and Taylor have been working hard to bridge the gap between faculties: the promotion of Rock the Boat and classroom talks regarding the transit referendum in the Bosa building are but a few of these instances.

Global and Community Studies Representatives

Ben Glassen and Kate Phifer

The global and community studies faculty representatives have been very active and have made a great deal of progress since the fall annual general meeting.

Ben Glassen attended the Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) Lobby Days in Victoria alongside the vice-president of external relations, working together to lobby government on behalf of students. He also continued campus outreach at the regional campuses.

Kate Phifer has worked closely with the vice-president of student life to plan events

like Rail Jam, a faculty initiative now in its third year.

Glassen and Phifer have both worked hard to establish relationships, in their capacity as student reps, with both faculty and students. It has through these relationships that they've been able to create awareness of the CSU to the point that students and professors now reach out to the faculty representatives for support in student engagement. This engagement was most apparent in the recent students' union elections in which all global and community studies faculty representative positions were contested.

SENATE AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Senate Representative

Natahsha Prakash

Since fall of 2014, Capilano University has adopted the strategic plan that was released for December 2014. In this process, a student elected representative was involved heavily in the process to ensure a student voice was recognized in the theme of student success.

The student success theme includes goals in wellness, student services, strategic enrolment, and program assessment. The full strategic plan and academic plan are listed on the Capilano University website.

Discussions at senate are focused heavily on policy and the new implementation plan, and committees and ad-hocs have taken on additional roles to measure the impacts of possible reduced faculties, program discontin-

uance, and program assessments.

The largest of concerns rests on the possibility of reduced faculties, if adopted for the future it may have a devastating impact on the voice of faculty members at senate. The university is facing a \$1.2 million deficit, with continued decreased government funding, updated funding requests are still pending and waiting for government's response.

Board of Governors Representative

Natahsha Prakash

The board of governors has adopted the strategic plan and is looking forward to senate's advice regarding the number of faculties. Meeting times for the board have been few, but will return to a regular schedule for policy reviews, and recommendations regarding the implementation plan. The board has approved the implementation plan in principle, but requested that the process move forward with campus community consultation; this process is currently underway.

The university is facing another deficit, this year \$1.2 million. Requests to access reserves have continued to be denied, regardless of the tireless efforts of Kris Bulcroft and Shelley McDade, who have been diligent in meeting with government officials.

For early 2015, the board has been focusing on development of the implementation plan, focusing priorities on accountability for both board members and university administration. Current goals include more community engagement, professional development and support for senate, and maintaining positive press.