

Nipissing University Student Union

Introduction

This is the 2016 summer report for the post of Vice-President Services of the Nipissing University Student Union. This is the first year that the Vice-President Services has been established under the umbrella of NUSU Executives, having replaced the position of Vice-President Student Life, which ceased to exist as of April 30, 2016.

The Services position encompasses a combination of the duties and responsibilities of the former Vice-President Student Life, Vice-President Internal, as well as the Vice-President External, respectively. Because of the combination on these portfolios, the position of Vice-President Services has been handed the reigns for NUSU Clubs, as well as NUSU's annual Shinerama campaign, on top of the stated duties of Orientation (both Frosh Week and NSO), as well as student activities throughout the academic year.

Transition Into Office

Having been successful in the 2016 NUSU Executive elections, I was eager to begin shadowing Andrew Deugo, the former Vice-President Student Life, shortly after. This process began with shadowing Deugo on daily routines, and following up on email when given access to the vpstudentlife@nusu.com email, and actively working with my fellow successful candidates and beginning to plan for the summer months and upcoming year.

Starting the implementation of my goals for the next year, my schedule became more independent of Deugo, spending hours in the office, working and learning the roles of the Vice-President Services, and becoming more comfortable in this new position, setting and the duties that came with. Much of this process was learning to effectively communicate with my fellow executives and staff, meeting strict deadlines, and fulfilling the expectations of my position all whilst working in a team setting.

There were certainly struggles and challenges in this transition period, though that is to be expected of settling into any new or foreign role. I do find that my previous position on the NUSU Board of Directors was key in learning how NUSU runs, and well as becoming familiar with day to day operation of this corporation.

Frosh Week Planning

The majority of my time from May – August 2016 was occupied with the orchestrating of Frosh Week; this year titled "Frosh Week's Greatest Hits". A lot of this planning was undertaken by both myself, as well as my staff counterpart Warren Lindsay, our Director of Services. Warren was absolutely

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instrumental in Frosh Week planning, as his wealth of knowledge and previous experience with Frosh at Nipissing was valuable. Furthermore, all of the staff within the NUSU were a phenomenal help in pulling off Frosh Week successfully; I would like to acknowledge that we could not have made this event run without their dedicated hours of work both prior to, and during the week.

The planning of Frosh Week has been something I have looked forward to for many months, and have wanted to get my hands on for even longer than that. I was, and still am ecstatic to have been able to seize this opportunity fully, and to host an amazing week to welcome new students to the Nipissing Lakers community. That having been said, the amount of planning completed this summer, and all of the little details that go into Frosh have been a huge learning curve for me. I very much look forward to passing on everything I have learned to the next student to follow in my position.

Much of my effort in planning Frosh this year was making sure that we stayed within the budget that Markus had suggested in his capacity as Vice-President Finance, and had been approved by our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The allotted budget this year is \$50,000; a hefty amount but considering all we had to order and pay for, we could not be freely throwing the budget around. It is important to consider that this year's Frosh Budget is severely significantly less than the budgets for both 2014 and 2015 – which represents a significant savings for our students, and moving toward the direction of being financially responsible and having future Frosh Week's make money instead of loosing it.

This year, I made steps to making sure that our students really got their money's worth out of the Frosh Week Kits; this included a lot of number crunching and heavy consideration in to what went into these kits, the quality of team t-shirts, the kits (duffel bags) themselves, and what events and meals were offered to students who bought Frosh Kits. This years Frosh Kits included the following: chill towels, power banks, lanyards, water bottles, Shinerama t-shirts, Frosh Week t-shirt, and many goodies from several of our sponsors. Much of the feedback we received indicated that frosh students, leaders, and NUSU/Nipissing University staff were impressed with the Frosh Kits.

I am pleased to announce that we made several changes to our events during Frosh Week, but geared the overall week schedule to build momentum and hype as we progressed toward the latter half of the week – an idea that I think worked very well for us, and will be suggested in the future. Listed below are all of the day-to-day events of Frosh Week, broken down for better understanding:

1. **Frosh Leader Training:** this year, leader training was hosted by the Vice-President Services and the Frosh Week Coordinators, as well as the NUSU Staff & Executives. Our training this year included Consent, Social Media, Anti-Oppression, Team Building Exercise, Residence Move-Ins, Leader Retreat, Bringing in the Bystander and Dance Training. Training did go over really well, and all of our staff and leaders were very receptive to it.

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2. **Opening Ceremonies:** welcoming students to the Nipissing Lakers community, this was the opportunity for students to pick up their Frosh Week Kits and get to know their all of their fellow teammates, as well as all of the Frosh Leaders. This also included an introduction of the NUSU Staff and Executives, notable community members, and the President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University.
3. **Scavenger Hunt:** organized this year by Brittaney Kent (Vice-President Communications) and Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) this event was geared toward further integrating and familiarizing frosh students with the Nipissing University campus to smooth their transition and bond frosh teams together without taking them too far out of their comfort zones.
4. **Movie Night:** intended as a collaborative event with Residence, the movie night was initially to be hosted under the stars at lower residence. Due to inclement weather we bumped this event into the small gymnasium and still offered free popcorn to all students who came out. Due to the weather, out turnout what as large as we had initially hoped, however we did still have a good group of students out.
5. **Dean's Lunch & Mock Lecture:** an opportunity for students to hear from the Deans of Nipissing University and to receive a mock lecture from Dr. Sarah Winters of the English Department. The intended design of the lecture was for students to get to know what they can expect from a lecture prior to beginning their first classes.
6. **Amazing Race:** during this event we loaded students on to school buses as they raced across North Bay completing challenges and tasks with their teams and met with community sponsors. This was a great opportunity for students to become more familiar with their new home city and visit the businesses that cater more specifically to them.
7. **Beach Day:** this event takes students down to Marathon Beach for the day, again to get students out into the community. The majority of our games on Beach Day are concentrated of course in the water or around the water. This was slightly concerning the day of as the temperature was lower than we would have hoped, however our turnout was still very impressive.

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- 8. Yoga Session:** this Yoga Session, hosted by both NUSU and Lefebvre's Source for Adventure did not turn out as well as we had initially hoped; a last minute field change was required, and unfortunately the sprinkler system did come on prior to yoga beginning. That having been said we did still have a small group of student attend who enjoyed this event.
- 9. Muddy Olympics:** easily one of the most hyped events of the week, Muddy O's was a crowd favourite again this year. We did hit a few hiccups in the lower residence field booking and preparing washrooms for students; however some quick work on the part of residence, largely on the part of Genevieve de Bruyn, helped us to resolve these issues and Muddy O's went off very successfully.
- 10. Shine Day:** having occurred on September 3rd this year, our annual Shine Day was undertaken with a large measure of success; this is largely thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers who came out to make this day a success. Our overall Shinerama goal this year is \$20,000 and I am pleased to announce that our Shine Day raised just over \$12,000 – more than 50% of the way to our total!
- 11. Food Drive:** the annual NUSU food drive occurred this year on the very last day of Frosh Week, and is our campaign to stock the shelves of the NUSU food bank to accommodate all of our students who will make use of it over the coming months. Thanks again in part to our staff and volunteers, the food drive ran very smoothly this year.
- 12. Closing Ceremonies:** the closing ceremonies of Frosh Week included a closing cheer-off between all of the Frosh Teams and utility leaders, Frosh Week awards and the opportunity to have all of the frosh and leaders submit feedback forms.

New Student Orientation:

A significant portion of my role over the course of the summer was working collaboratively with Student Development and Services (a department within the university) for the planning of New Student Orientation, as well as fall orientation. Much of my role was representing NUSU in orientation meetings with S.D.S, and moving towards having NUSU prepared for NSO. During the course of the week of NSO, most of the NUSU executives represented on discussion panels with students, and were active at the information fair in the Surtees Athletic Center. Much of our efforts revolved around the promotion of opportunities for students to become involved on campus, the advertisement of Frosh Week, and promoting all of the services and events that NUSU runs for students.

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Shinerama Campaign

As this is the very first year that the Vice-President Services had functioned, it is also the first year that the planning for all Orientation events (Frosh, NSO) and Shinerama have all fallen into the portfolio of the same executive. Despite the challenges that this presented, our goal for Shinerama this year was set at \$20,000 – which although it does seem to be a daunting goal, is attainable with a total budget of \$10,000.

Following the completion of a very successful Shinerama day on September 3rd, and the total donation count completed by our staff and several volunteers, it was determined that we raised just over \$12,000. Having reached over 50% of our goal is extremely encouraging and we further work toward meeting our goal.

The one mar on our Shinerama campaign was the cancellation of our Softball Tournament. The tournament was initially planned for September 10 and 11 but did not go through due to a significant lack in registration.

Fall Concert

This summer, Warren Lindsay, my staff counterpart and the Director of Services, has put in a considerable amount of work in taking the lead on planning a concert in partnership with the Capitol Centre. This concert is geared toward both Nipissing University and Canadore College students, and will also be open to the public. The details of this concert will be announced soon, and ticket prices are student friendly.

Academic Year Activities:

Events that are geared toward our student population have begun to roll-out on all of our social media platforms and have been advertised on posters around the university buildings.

So far this year, we have hosted the following:

1. Clubs Summit : September 13, 2016
2. Club Days: September 19 – September 23 2016
3. Pokemon Go Lure Party – September 27, 2016

100 College Drive, PO Box 5001
North Bay, ON P1B 8K9
Tel:(705) 474-3461 Fax:(705) 474-7732
Web: www.nusu.com

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In the upcoming weeks and months students can look forward to the following:

1. Halloween Haunt – October 22, 2016
2. Financial Literacy Session – October 25, 2016
3. NUSU/Capitol Centre Concert – October 29, 2016
4. Dirty Bingo – November 2016
5. Frostbite – January 2017