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Nipissing University Student Union

Vice-President Finance's Report - AGM

Prepared By: Andrew Wood

Tuesday October 30th, 2018

Summer has passed, and school is well underway. It has been an eventful six months in office. The learning curve has been extensive for me this year and has been able to push myself to new heights. I have been able to evolve as a person and this job has completely shaped me to be who I am today. It was a juggle at first learning how to transition from the summer months into the academic year. This is where our staff has been tremendously helpful and amazing to work with. They have stepped up and helped us transition into this period and allow us time to settle into our studies as well as continuing to serve our students. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far in office and cannot thank the students enough for believing in me and giving me an opportunity to represent them and build Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU) as an organization. I look forward to continuing to work as a NUSU Executive and see the organization prosper.

This Report:

The following report contains the main things I have accomplished during my last six months in office; starting from when I entered in May through to our October Annual General Meeting. I have been extremely happy with the number of things I have been able to accomplish so far in my first half of being in office. During this report I will breakdown what I was able to accomplish during my months in office and what I will be continuing to work on moving forward into my second half of my term. There are many things I will not cover in this report that I complete on a regular basis. Tasks such as emails and student advocacy are things that all executives complete on a regular basis as students come in to speak to us throughout the day. Myself and our Bookkeeper, Mira Hotte, deal with all the payments out of the organization and are in control of the club's accounts as well. I cannot stress how much Mira means to my position and the amount of effort she has put in to helping me throughout my time in office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. I have been in contact with auditing firms in North Bay to complete our audit for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. We



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have received official quotes a few financial companies to complete our audit. As a team we have been working extremely hard to provide this to our students and be prepared to present my work over my time in office. Laurie Bissonette, Partner of the auditing firm for the 2017-2018 audit, has been contacted to present our audit from the previous fiscal year. She has been helping us all understand the numbers given and will provide this information to the students as well. I look forward to seeing all the students attend our AGM and get a better understanding of what I have done for NUSU and the accomplishments that NUSU has done during our time in office.

PARTNERSHIP PACKAGE/PARTNERSHIPS

The first task I have encountered when entering office was our sponsorship package. We, at NUSU, are trying to bridge the gap from our University to the downtown community. For the most part, we have a dilemma with the students only making it to the end of McKeown Avenue and the rest of the city goes unnoticed. Tapping into this market will be a big step for not only the University, but the businesses that make up our North Bay community. Our economic potential here is currently untouched and I spent time looking into this. The Economic Impact Statement will be released soon which clearly outlines the impact our students have on our community. This can help our students out tremendously as it can create discounts and open them up to too many options when looking to go to a business for any of their needs. Also, we will be able to advertise and allow students to know more about potential business opportunities they can give to our students. Warren Lindsay and I took the lead on this as he has experience with sponsorship in the past and he has a prior relationship with our partners in the community. We created a new package this year that may have been more intriguing to future partners. The package is very customizable to service the needs of the partners and will hopefully attract new partners in the community.

We started by reaching out to all local members in the community and have confirmed some of our major food sponsors from previous years. These are usually some of the tougher sponsors to attract as the value of the food is so high. Courtney and I created a Donation Request form to start connecting with larger corporations (ie. David's Tea). We would like to reach out and invite these corporations to benefit from our students through Frosh Kits and during our Wellness weeks. We found this to be a tough task, but should not be given up on moving forward in NUSU's future. We continued to meet with community members and have received positive feedback from our partners that have joined the NUSU family either for the first time or for another year. We thank them for all that they do because without their



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support, NUSU would not be the organization we are today without them.

Below are the 2018-2019 Partners;

Diamond Partners:

Burger World Algonquin, gd2go

Gold Partners:

Canada Nutrition/Nature's Harvest, Casey's, Twiggs, East Side Mario's

Silver Partners:

CIBC, Shoppers Drug Mart

Proud Sponsors:

The Algonquin Regiment, Bay Truck Stop, Grounded Studios, Kia North Bay, Mike and Lori's No Frills, The Moose Cookhouse, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Parkers Independent, Popeye's, Rebuilt Recourses, Sobeys, Yogurtz, Sugar Daddy Cupcakes, Freshii

Thank you again to all our Partners.

2018/2019 BUDGET

During my transition, Shane Dunstall and I discussed a bit about the previous budget line to help set my year up for success. After speaking to multiple staff members, as well as Board of Directors members, we decided to dissect it down further. Our proposed budget is now completed and agreed upon by the current executive team as well as the staff members of NUSU. This was broken down and compared to how much was used in previous years as well as using our goals moving forward. This gave the whole team great insight into their budget line and the money being used at an optimal level. This was a team effort and I would like to thank all those who contributed their opinions as it is not an easy task. Furthermore, we did our best to align the budget with what the team would like to host throughout the year. This includes; reallocation of budgets to different priorities, reallocation of the budget line in their respective roles and creating more realistic amounts for the budget. This will be discussed in further detail at the Annual General Meeting.



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STUDENT ADVOCACY

During our time in office, we had an executive step away from his position. This left our group one member down. We persevered through this and had managed to spread out the obligations of the VP GLA to all other executives. I had taken on the advocacy side of the vacant Governance and Legal Affairs position. I was helping students with any academic, online learning, or general inquiries. With the recent change to Nipissing's Distance Learning exam policy, we have had a large number of students reaching out to NUSU to resolve this situation. I had met with faculty and Dean's to discuss our course of action moving forward. This is a busy time for student advocacy as students are getting informed to the fees that need to be paid and academics that may seem unfair to them.

Hannah Mackie has now been elected into the open executive position, Vice-President Governance and Legal Affairs. She has been able to take over the student advocacy spot at NUSU. I have some final issues that I am working to resolve moving forward as I had previously started these before her entering office. It was a great opportunity to speak with students and understand what issues are around the school that I might not have been previously aware of. I hope I was helpful to all students as I did my best to rectify all different types of situations.

CLUBS

The school year is now well underway. Clubs have been slowly getting started from a financial aspect. Nicolai MacKenzie and Erin Edge have been working extremely hard as new clubs are looking to start up and the other clubs are looking for room bookings. They have been doing an amazing job together and have helped me understand everything I need to know about the clubs.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTRE

On Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018 Warren and I went to Mitchell Jensen Architects to receive our Request for Proposal (RFP) for our building tenders. During this time, we received four potential bids. We were only able to open three of the four possible bids. W.S. Morgan Construction had placed their bid into the registrar's office instead of Mitchell Jensen's office. As well to handing the bid into the wrong place, they received the bid back to take to facilities which is not allowed either. This created a great amount of legal issues and for that, it was not opened. The offers we received were:



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- Kenalex Construction – \$14,780,000
- Praztek Construction – \$15,000,000
- M. Sullivan & Son Limited – \$15,597,000

Over the next couple of weeks, we had to meetings to go over these numbers and discuss what our best option is going to be moving forward. There was a lot to consider and we need to sit down with Nipissing University and our architects before concluding a decision.

On July 20th, 2018, we received confirmation from Kenalex on a 30-day extension to give us more time to either find money or find any cuts we can make to reach a price we are able to afford. This is a busy project being taken on and we are doing our best to find a way to put a building in place.

After many years of work and countless hours from staff and executives, we have finally reached an agreement with Kenalex Construction. I am extremely proud of my predecessor's and my coworkers this year who have made this building possible. We are continuing to complete the last steps to start construction as soon as possible. This an absolute honour to be a part of and I look forward to seeing this project start taking place.

External Funding/Student Centre Loan

TD Student Centre Loan

The Loan agreement has been officially signed by the members of NUSU and the members of TD Bank. The total of this loan is 6.5 million dollars. We have signed our papers stating we are a Canadian Not-for-Profit company as well as our Cross-Border agreement, so we can secure the best loan interest possible. We are continuing to work with TD to finish our papers and prepare ourselves to secure the interest rate. We have been working alongside our lawyer, John D'Agostino. He has been incredibly helpful during this time and has been an asset to the NUSU organization.

Northern Ontario Heritage Funds Corporation

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Grant (NOHFC Grant) is well underway. We are working alongside Len Gemache. He, and the University, helped us complete stage 1 of the application. This was submitted on August 15th, 2018. This is to be



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reviewed and to be returned within 5-10 business days. From that we either get denied or move onto stage 2. Stage 2 is a more in-depth look at our project and the breakdown of how the building is to be used after completion. This is very important to show the true colour of our building and know that it is more than a Bar/restaurant; this is a space for our students to strive and expand their knowledge and reach new potential. Moving forward this is what we are going to be working on if we are accepted by NOHFC.

Warren, Sarah and myself have met with Len Gamache and Ian Hall surrounding funding for our building. Ian has a high understanding of governmental procedures, and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

THINGS TO COME

The building project will always take up most of my time as we are in the middle of getting everything set and started. I believe the team has been working incredibly hard to make the most for our students and provide them with an unforgettable student experience. I will continue to monitor and stress the importance of knowing our spending and making sure every purchase is needed and fully thought out. Once again, I appreciate the student body for believing in myself and the rest of our team.