



100 College Drive, PO Box 5002
North Bay, ON P1B 8L7
Tel: (705) 474-3450 ext.4801 Fax: (705) 474-7732
Web: www.nusu.com

Nipissing University Student Union

AGM Report from the VP Student Life

Prepared By: Shannon MacCarthy

Tuesday, October 29th, 2019

This Report:

- Transition into this role
- Lakers Orientation
- NUSU Events
- Community Events
- Campus Events
- Warren's Reports
- Clubs & Societies
- NUSU Crew
- Other Relevant Meetings

Transition into Vice-President Student Life:

My transition into the role of Vice-President Student Life began shortly after I was elected on January 31st, 2019. For this position, it is required that you are actively involved in the role far before the official term beginning May 1st, as there are lots of planning aspects that need to be done in regard to Frosh Week. Because I was in the office so often meeting with Nicolai Mackenzie (previous Vice-President Services), Warren Lindsay (Director of Services) and the rest of the NUSU team, my transition was incredible. When May 1st came around, I felt very informed, in-the-know, prepared, and at ease.

Lakers Orientation:

Lakers Orientation Committee Meetings

The Lakers Orientation Committee is a committee comprised of a number of Nipissing University departments looking to work collaboratively to make a student's transition into the Nipissing University community comfortable and enjoyable. We work together as a team to create a diverse week full of events from students' move into Residence to their first day of classes. I find this committee to be incredibly helpful, as they provide insight that someone in my position may not have (as this is a year-long term, and changes each year), give feedback, suggestions, recommendations, and offer their own schedules to make sure that schedules are not conflicting. With this committee, we make sure that there are a wide variety of events for students to choose from available to different groups at different times of the day.



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New Student Orientation (NSO)

New Student Orientation took place this year from July 18th, 2019 to July 12th, 2019. For the entirety of the week, the NUSU was present for the Resource Fair, Opening remarks, Lakers to Lakers Sessions, Frosh Ticket Sales, and driving golf carts. The Resource Fair was a great opportunity to interact with incoming students and their supporters. We had the chance to talk about the NUSU and how we help students with some of the things we provide, as well as it was the first chance we had to sell tickets for Frosh Week. The Lakers to Lakers sessions were a great way to answer questions that some of the incoming students had. They were asking questions about student life, Frosh Week, classes, transportation, and everything about Nipissing University and North Bay. It was a good opportunity to promote the NUSU while answering all questions students had. Furthermore, during the day we had a table in the Nipissing entrance selling Frosh Tickets, and each day we drove golf carts around campus giving families tours and taking them to their vehicles as an added luxury. NSO was very successful, we were happy to be involved, and wish to continue the involvement of the NUSU in the week in the future.

Frosh Week

Frosh Week 2019 was an immense success, taking place this year from August 27th to September 1st, with training taking place August 21st to August 26th. This year, we sold a total of 383 Frosh Tickets, with tickets being available for purchase starting July 3rd, 2019. For the last three years, I have been involved in Frosh Week; once as a Froshie, once as a Frosh Leader, and this year as the Vice-President Student Life. This was by far the best Frosh Week I have ever experienced. The week was very well planned in collaboration with the NUSU Office staff and Executive team, the Frosh Week Coordinators, and myself. The Frosh Week Coordinators gave everything to planning and were incredibly dedicated to making the week as smooth as possible. We had planning meetings by-weekly in the summer months, progressing to weekly meetings in August, and meetings as often as every few days in the weeks leading up to Frosh. The Coordinators were well trained, dealt with situations that came up in the week professionally, discreetly and amicably, and really impressed me and the staff and other Executives. The Frosh Leaders also did incredibly. They were well-behaved, energetic, positive, and a great group of leaders to welcome the new students to Nipissing University. All team leaders clearly connected with their Froshies, gave good information, attitudes and this all resulted in great attendance for Frosh Week events. As the NUSU, we have been meeting



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regularly to review Frosh Week 2019. In these meetings, we are reviewing the following; what went well, what could be improved, how would we change the schedule, how many coordinators should we have, what dates should Frosh Week run, how many days should it run, what events can we remove, what events can we add, how are we going to collaborate with other departments, and so much more.

Education Orientation

The Education Orientation took place on Sunday, September 8th. Charlotte Foster (Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness), Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) and I attended the Education Orientation from 1:00PM-6:00PM. Sarah did an incredible job organizing the event in collaboration with the Education Department. Charlotte and I were able to speak to the incoming Education students at the beginning of the event, touching on each of our roles at the Student Union, and more specifically programming, events, getting involved, and opportunities for students. We also had a table where we talked about all things NUSU to students who were interested in learning more. We had students show interest in starting clubs on campus, learning more about the Student Health plan, volunteer and job opportunities, and more.

PhD Orientation

Hannah Mackie (NUSU President) and I attended the PhD Orientation on Tuesday, July 2nd. This event was held by Douglas Gosse. This was another great opportunity for the NUSU to interact with incoming students (incoming PhD students in this case) and talk about the NUSU and the great initiatives we do on campus and for Nipissing students. There were community members present to speak to North Bay, President Mike DeGagné to speak about Nipissing University as a whole, and great company from faculty and PhD students.

NUSU Events

Community Fun Fair

The NUSU Community Fun Fair took place on Saturday, September 21st from 11:00AM-5:00PM. I arrived at the university at 5:00AM to begin preparing for the day. Staff, Executives and Directors met X Events staff at 8:00AM to begin setting up the giant inflatable games they were bringing for the day. We had some great games like Inflatable Connect 4 Basketball, Giant Twister, Skee Ball, Archery, Chip Shot (golf), Cactus Ring Toss, and more. We had prizes available to families and children who played the games and winning tokens (to



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exchange for prizes). The police showed up, as well as a fire truck. Kiss FM also sent an employee to the event to take pictures to promote the event on their social media, and talked about the event on their radio show. The event was overall well attended, and we are hoping to continue to do this event in the future.

Student Block Party

The NUSU Student Block Party took place the same day as the Community Fun Fair; Saturday, September 21st. This event took place following a two-hour break after the Fun Fair from 7:00PM-11:00PM. This event had all the same inflatable games, tickets, prizes and food, with music, party-lights, and a fenced alcohol area added. The Boat North Bay came to the event and provided a bar for the students to enter if they were above 19. They had security checking ID's and bracelets to assure proper policies were followed. The event was incredibly successful, students were constantly complimenting the NUSU on a job well-done. We provided a bus to students who had attended the event, going from Lot 5 to The Boat North Bay for a bar night that we had planned in collaboration with The Boat. This event was incredibly successful, and I would recommend making this an event that takes place yearly to future people in my position.

Welcome Back BBQ

The Welcome Back BBQ took place on Wednesday, October 9th. Originally, the event was supposed to happen on Wednesday, September 25th, but was postponed due to inclement weather. The event was successful, with lots of students attending to receive free food with their Nipissing student ID. We held a BBQ serving hot dogs, hamburgers, vegetarian options, gluten-free options, and beverages (juice, pop, water). We also had tables set up for different community members to come and promote themselves and their services to students. The NUSU also had a table where we were giving away free NUSU merchandise.

Adult Fright Night

On Friday, October 25th, the NUSU attended the Adult Fright Night at Leisure Farms. We organized this event to allow students to attend. We received a bus to and from the event, purchased 45 tickets for students, and allowed students who have paid their NUSU Membership fee to attend for free, while tickets were \$20.00 each.

NUSU Membership Benefits



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Currently, Hannah Mackie (NUSU President) and I are working collaboratively with our office to “build the case” for students to opt into their NUSU Membership fee. This optional ancillary fee funds the Student Activities and Major Events budget line. We have started building the case to opt in with the trip to Leisure Farms for the Adult Fright Night. If students have opted into their NUSU Membership Fee, they are able to attend the event for free, saving them \$20.00CAN. If students opted out of their NUSU Membership Fee, they were required to pay \$10.00CAN for a ticket (still saving \$10.00CAN, but not as much as if they had opted into the optional fee).

Community Events

AIDS Committee Crown and Beaver Dinner Fundraiser

On Wednesday, May 1st, the NUSU Executive team and Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) had dinner at the Crown and Beaver for an AIDS Committee fundraiser event. 25% of the evening’s proceeds were donated to the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area for client services and outreach programs. This event was well attended by the community, and we were happy to have contributed to the cause as the NUSU. It was also a great opportunity for the Executive team to get to know each other and bond, as it was our first official day in office in our new positions.

Insight and Sounds

On Tuesday, May 7th, Hannah Mackie (NUSU President), Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) and I attended the Insight and Sounds event at Scollard Hall in North Bay. This event was to showcase the art culture of students at Scollard Hall through choir, instruments, and artwork. This event, again, was well attended by the community, and a great initiative to go and support.

McHappy Day

McHappy Day happens on the first Wednesday in May each year. This year, it took place on Wednesday, May 8th. McHappy Day is an annual celebration of giving to support RMHC and local charities. Tayler Sullivan (Vice-President Finance and Administration), Warren Lindsay (Director of Services), Allie Lishman (Summer Office Assistant), Charlotte Foster (Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness) and I attended the McHappy Day event at the North Bay McDonald’s to support the initiative.



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Chamber Business After-Hours

As the NUSU, we are members of the Chamber of Commerce in North Bay. The Chamber of Commerce organizes events that take place on Thursdays called Business After-Hours, where members of the Chamber of Commerce, community members, students and more are welcome to come, socialize with young professionals and businesses, eat, drink, and more. These events are incredible networking opportunities for the NUSU to attend.

Epilepsy Fundraiser

On Saturday, June 8th, North Bay held the 3rd annual Epilepsy Fundraiser at Indulge Restaurant and Lounge (540 Lakeshore Drive). At this event, people were encouraged to wear purple in support of Epilepsy. I was able to attend, volunteer, and wear my purple NUSU shirt.

Poutine Fest

Poutine Fest took place on Thursday, June 20th in Lee Park, North Bay. Hannah Mackie (NUSU President), Lee Rockburne (Sponsorship Intern), Nicole Seely (Office Administrative Intern), Warren Lindsay (Director of Services), Charlotte Foster (Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness), Tayler Sullivan (Vice-President Finance and Administration) and I were able to attend the event and support North Bay and the poutine trucks present.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day was on June 21st, 2019, but as the NUSU, we attended events in support of the Indigenous Peoples on June 20th. There was first an event organized by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at Nipissing University taking place in the courtyard. Following that evening, there was an event at the Kennedy Gallery where we were able to appreciate artwork from Indigenous artists, and watch a short film titled "Reconciliation on Bay Street" at the Capitol Centre. The film featured Indigenous and Non-Indigenous leaders sharing insight and opportunities. The film was written by local author Maurice Switzer, and produced by award-winning Canadian filmmaker Andree Cabazon.

North Bay Pride March

Hannah Mackie (NUSU President) and I attended the North Bay Pride March on July 20th, 2019. We were able to represent the NUSU and Nipissing University, wearing Nipissing University pride t-shirts, holding the Lakers Pride flag and more. It was great to get



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out into Downtown North Bay to support the LGBTQ2SA+ community.

Campus Events

Faculty of Arts and Science Retreat

Taylor Sullivan (Vice-President Finance and Administration) and I were thankful to attend the Faculty of Arts and Science Retreat on Thursday, May 23rd at Average Joe's. The NUSU was invited by the Dean of Arts and Science, and were happy to have the opportunity to attend and socialize with the faculty to represent the student voice and opinion.

Alumni Advisory Board Announcement

On June 13th, 2019, the NUSU attended the Alumni Advisory Board Announcement in the Library. At this event, the Alumni Board donated \$20,000 to open a group study room in the Harris Learning Library. The NUSU is incredibly grateful for the continued support of student social and academic growth.

Convocation

Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) and I attended the Convocation Ceremonies that took place Tuesday, June 11th to Thursday, June 13th. Arts and Science Convocation was on Tuesday, June 11th, Nursing and Applied and Professional Studies Convocation took place Wednesday, June 12th, and Education and Consecutive Education Convocation was on Thursday, June 13th.

Ontario Universities Fair (OUF)

Hannah Mackie (NUSU President), Taylor Sullivan (Vice-President Finance and Administration) and I attended the Ontario Universities Fair in Toronto, Ontario from Thursday, September 26th to Sunday, September 29th. This was a great opportunity for the NUSU to attend and have representation at, as we were able to speak to potential students interested in clubs, the coming student centre, and more.

Homecoming

The Nipissing University Homecoming took place Friday, October 4th to Sunday, October 6th. This weekend was packed full of athletic games and events. This was the first year that the NUSU was involved in Homecoming, and it was a successful first year. We were responsible for



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selling tickets to the Women's Hockey game, Homecoming bundles (which included a NUSU hat, NUSU pop-socket, face paint, and whistle), and planning and executing the Homecoming Bar Night at The Boat North Bay.

Warren's Reports

May Report

Something I am excited to introduce to upcoming board meetings is including a quick report from Director of Services, Warren, to breakdown what he has been working on for the month. I feel that through this, the board will be more aware of the hard work Warren does and the specifics of his role. As there is another board meeting at the end of May, I will be including his comments in that report as opposed to this one, as it will begin a habit of commenting on the month at the end, and what to look forward to in the months to come.

This is a breakdown of what Warren worked on for the month of May. In addition to the following list, there are several items he ensures are completed every month including; making sure the food bank is stocked and clean, all of the items in the lounge are in working order, keeping things in the office generally organized and operational, making sure the Tahoe is well maintained, and keeping the building project on task and moving forward.

- Met with Katie Sills to discuss training sessions during Frosh Week for Consent + and Bystander.
- Met with Courtney Meyer and Lynne Cotie to discuss potential collaborations for Frosh and Residence.
- Sourced quotes and purchased new tires for the Tahoe
- Reached out to Canada Summer Jobs program to transfer account from Erin's name into Warren's so he could get information and make changes to our account.
- Worked on Ancillary Fee descriptions with Sarah and the Executive Committee to be sent to Casey Phillips, we agreed upon signing a one year MOA in lieu of an MOU as we do not have the time to execute a full MOU before the Ancillary Fees take effect.
- Warren met with Nipissing Facilities Director, Dave Drenth and the Canadore Director of Campus Safety Michael Miscio regarding security services for the new student centre including fire and lockdown systems, parking, snow removal, and alarms.
- Worked with Shannon to order Frosh Kit items and plan details for the week, as well as brainstorm and gather quotes from the Block Party event



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- Attended the Corporate Partnership Conference in Toronto on May 14th and 15th, it was a very informative conference with a lot of tips for us to improve our sponsorship program. I am still working on my report.
- Reached out to city hall to book fields for Shinerama softball tournament
- Reached out to Canadore facilities to book Lot 5 for the Block Party

There maybe some smaller tasks that Warren has not mentioned but that is the majority of what he has accomplished in the last month.

June Report

- Went through the interview process and hired our summer intern positions on June 10th. Lee Rockburne - Sponsorship Intern and Nicole Seeley - Office and Administration Intern
- I've had Lee working on sponsorship outreach for Shineball, Shinerama, and Frosh
- Assisted Sarah with designing the first Bay and Area ad and drafted a service agreement
- Began reaching out to Shinerama and Amazing Race locations
- Picked up 10 helmets from Health Unit for Bike Share Program
- Reached out to selectomatic to get more information on a digital jukebox system for the
- new student centre
- Increased number of Frosh kit items from 330 to 440, and placed orders for additional items.
- Ordered Shinerama and Frosh shirts and had to make some design changes to Frosh team logos before ordering
- Ordering Mira new business cards and name tag
- Attended a lunch with the Minister of Economic Development on June 18th with Sarah, Shannon and Mira
- Secured insurance coverage for Shine Ball
- Received event food permit from Health Unit for Shine Ball
- Received signed permits from city of North Bay
- Received liquor permit from AGCO
- Met with New Ontario to secure beer for tournament



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July Report

- Planning, preparation and execution of Shineball tournament
- Review resumes received for Office Administrator position
- Working on finalizing insurance requirements for Frosh and Shineday
- Booked rentals for Frosh week (ie. Tahoes)
- Booked buses for Frosh

September Report

- Cleaned up and organized office after Frosh
- Assisted with education orientation
- Sent info to the university re: cost saving measures on Student centre
- Prepared, organized and facilitated Fun Fair/Block Party event
- Met with external security company about Student Centre Security System
- Worked with Sarah on election debate planning
- Worked with Sarah on Ilead intern positions for office
- Attended Homecoming meetings with NU to coordinate weekends events
- Organized colour selection meeting at MJA for new Student Centre
- Met with RBC & Sarah RE: Wellness week
- Final Canada Summer Jobs payment submission and work completed forms filed
- Updated account info with our insurance provider
- Booked Tahoe in for winter maintenance
- Lakers Orientation Frosh follow up meeting

October Report

- Homecoming planning, purchased bundle items.
- Frosh review to discuss & address issues moving forward
- Attended 22 Wing Influencer Tour with Sarah at Armed forces base Sept 24th
- Attended opening of Sparrow Family Experiential Learning Centre
- Building meeting with NU I.T dept for building network requirements
- Cleaned & organized office after Block Party & BBQ
- Met with Hannah & Interior design consultant to discuss furniture in Student Centre
- Prepared and ran Student BBQ Oct 9th - Fed approx 984 students
- Regular bi-weekly building walkthrough and meeting with contractors



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- Tahoe Service - Winter maintenance, tire change, oil change, brake module repair.
- Attended One Kids Place business after hours event
- Booked bus trip to Leisure Farm Oct 25th & Purchased tickets
- Selected security camera system for new Student Centre
- Received donations for Food Bank from NU HR Jeans day

Clubs and Societies

Changes to Club Policy

Something that took a lot of time and consideration this summer was changes and updates to the Club Policy. The amendments to the Club Policy was approved by the NUSU Board of Directors on September 9th. The Club Policy is posted on the NUSU website (nusu.com) under Policies for any student or club to review.

Club Summit

The Club Summit meeting took place Wednesday, September 11th. This meeting takes place at the beginning of each semester to inform clubs of all the updates, changes, and rules and regulations of clubs. The first semester Club Summit meeting was mandatory, as there were lots of changes to the Club Policy that clubs needed to be aware of before operating for the year and recruiting new members at Club Days.

Club Days

Club Days is a week long event that the NUSU organizes for clubs to RSVP, and recruit new members, promote their club/society, and get their name out to students. Club Days takes place like the Club Summit meeting, happening both in the Fall and Winter semester. The Fall semester Club Days took place from Monday, September 16th to Thursday, September 19th, 2019. There were lots of clubs who RSVP'ed to attend the event in the NU Hallway.

Executive

Meetings

During the month of October, I have been meeting with the Executive Members for each Club and Society. In the Club Policy, it states that all Clubs and Societies need to meet with the Vice-President Student Life once a year in addition to the Club Summit meeting, and that is



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the purpose of these meetings. In these meetings, I am reminding Clubs and Societies and the rules and regulations, guidelines, requirements for bookings and events, and more.

NUSU Crew

Restructure of NUSU Crew

During the summer, Hannah Mackie (NUSU President) and I reviewed the NUSU Crew and how it has operated in the past. Upon detailed review, we decided to restructure the NUSU Crew and how it functions. We decided that it would be a group of volunteers helping to plan and execute the NUSU events. The NUSU Crew is given a budget to work with (with funds coming from the Student Activities budget line) to organize events for students at Nipissing University. The NUSU Crew is given a budget of approximately \$800.00 each year to either plan several small events for students, or one larger event using the full budget.

Meetings

The NUSU Crew have meetings bi-weekly to discuss plans and volunteer opportunities. In these meetings, I begin with socializing activities (ice-breakers, etc.) to familiarize the students with each other and create an informal, comfortable and friendly space. Then I present upcoming volunteer opportunities that the NUSU Crew members can participate in for benefits. Following, we open the floor to discussion about upcoming events that we are planning and participating in. These meetings typically get good attendance.

NUSU Crew Events

Some of the events that the NUSU Crew are responsible for are the Santa Claus Parade taking place Sunday, November 17th, and an event taking place in the Winter semester for students on campus, that has not been planned entirely at this moment. To date, the NUSU Crew members have volunteered in events like the Community Fun Fair, Student Block Party, Federal Election Debate, Homecoming Ticket Sales, Welcome Back BBQ, and more.

Participation

Benefits

Much like we are trying to build a case to opt into the NUSU Membership Fee, I am trying to build a case to become involved in the NUSU Crew. To do this, I am providing the NUSU Crew members with benefits and rewards for each thing they participate in. The following are some of the examples on how the NUSU Crew members have been rewarded;



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- Free dinner at the Introduction Meeting on September 20th
- \$10.00CAN gift card to Tim Hortons at the Community Fun Fair/Block Party on September 21st
- Free Homecoming Hockey Ticket for volunteers who sold Homecoming Hockey Tickets on October 4th
- Free NUSU lanyard at the Welcome Back BBQ on October 9th
- Snacks and drinks at the Planning Meeting on October 9th
- Free Fright Night Ticket to the NUSU Crew members on October 25th

Other Relevant Meetings

Canadore Student Council (CSC)

Hannah Mackie (NUSU President), Sarah McGowan (Director of Communications) and I attended a meeting with the Canadore Student Council (CSC) in the summer. In this meeting, we talked about our two organizations, our goals, financial plans, and event collaboration opportunities. Cory Hobbs (Vice-President Student Life for CSC) and I discussed events that we were both planning, and how we could help each other out and make these events open to both Canadore and Nipissing students. Since, we have had meetings with Cody Hobbs to further discuss these collaborative opportunities.

Laurentian Student General Association (SGA)

On Friday, July 5th, 2019, the NUSU and SGA (Laurentian Student General Association) met at the NUSU Office to introduce our two teams and talk about upcoming plans for the years. Tomas (SGA Vice-President Student Life), Eric (SGA President) and Katlyn (SGA Vice-President Education) are Executives on the SGA team for this year. Tomas and I were able to talk about events we both had planned for the year, and opportunities to collaborate. From this meeting with SGA, I have had the opportunity to engage with their team and Tomas in a professional setting, making professional “bets” on the Homecoming Women’s Hockey Game where we played Laurentians team, attend their Student Centre grand opening, and more.