



MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION

Executive Newsletters
August 22, 2016

PRESIDENT & CEO, RYAN LEBRETON

INTRODUCTION

As President, I act as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mount Allison Students' Union (MASU). My job, along with my fellow executives, is to make day to day decisions on behalf of MASU and Students. I chair the Executive committee, and oversee each of their portfolio. I am the official representative of the Union and the primary spokesperson for Students.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Mount Allison Students' Unions (MASU) last strategic plan ended in the 2014-2015 academic year. A strategic plan is important for any organization to ensure it has goals and a vision as to where it is headed in the near future. It is my responsibility, as President, to work towards creating a strategic plan. This summer, I have worked on a document outlining the process which will be taken during the academic year. The ultimate goal will be to have a plan, at the end of the year to take effect from 2017 to 2020. I will be striking an ad-hoc committee which will help me with this project. If you are interested, application to be on the committee will open at the Club and Society fair.

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

VP Student Life, Anthony Maddalena, and I are working with the Department of Student Life and the Keep it Social campaign to create an education strategy for safe consumption. In response, we will also be working on making some much needed changes to The Pond. We will work with various parties in the university to ensure The Pond is a safe space for all.

NBSA/CASA

I co-chair two committees within the New Brunswick Students' Alliance (NBSA). One of Physical Accessibility and the other on a Mental Health Fund for Post-Secondary Education. Both committee are working toward improving and establishing good policy for Advocacy Week. I will also be working with the UNB Students' Union President, Travis Daley, to improve the Accessibility Policy of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). We will be separating the single policy into two policies; one on physical accessibility and one on learning disabilities.

If you have any questions about any point, or would like to be involved with any project, do not hesitate to contact me.

Ryan LeBreton
MASU President

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, MARY EMMA MACNEIL

INTRODUCTION

My name is Mary Emma MacNeil and I am going into my fourth year here at Mount Allison. This is my second term as the Vice-President Academic Affairs for the students' union. I am responsible for all things related to your academic experience, including academic policy, fees, as well as the student services available to you! I have outlined a few of the projects I have been working on this summer.

EXTENDED LIBRARY HOURS

I have been in constant communication with Laura Landon and Marc Truitt (University Librarian) and Andy Hebert (Manager, the Pond) to discuss our plan for Extended Library Hours this upcoming year. We have decided to switch from 1 Emergency Service Staff (ESS) and 1 Library Assistant to 2 ESS employees. This is an effort to make the logistics of opening and closing of the library easier. This will not cost the MASU more money. We are hoping that when our plan is solidified, we can present our year's worth of data and refined logistics to the Provost's office in an attempt to receive some funding for this service.

U4 LEAGUE ADVISORY BOARD

The U4 League has begun gathering feedback from students through the advisory board run by the U4 League's Executive Director, Dr. Katie Edwards (St. FX). In our first few meetings we have discussed everything from the relationship between the Faculty and Administration at each university, to the level of student satisfaction. Dr. Edwards spoke about building a bridge between each of the schools that are members of the U4 (St. FX, Bishops, Acadia and Mount Allison). This education bridge will rely heavily on the U4 classroom where correspondence courses will be taught. Each university will designate a room on campus with the video conferencing equipment, and each classroom will be set up identically. The hope is that this classroom will create a unique learning environment and allow for students from each university to seek out new learning experiences within the U4.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW MOCK TESTS

This year, we will have two mock tests available to students each semester. This will allow for students to take a mock test before their official LSAT/MCAT test. We will also be offering a mock DMAT. If you have any questions or are interested in registering for the above mock tests, send me an email at: masuacademic@mta.ca



Mary Emma MacNeil
VP Academic Affairs

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TINA OH

INTRODUCTION

It is with great excitement to be returning back to the Mount Allison Students' Union's (MASU) Executive team, in my new position as Vice-President External Affairs. I have the privilege of working with several external bodies alongside diligent councillors, senators, staff, and home office. For the purpose of this inaugural newsletter, I will be dividing my portfolio into three expanses.

INTERNAL

While my position in the MASU falls primarily *outside* of our campus, I have several staff members under my portfolio that delegate services to the student body. I have thrilled to announce that our new Sustainability Coordinator, Jessica Grant; and Joanna Perkins and Katelyn Gordon (whom are returning to their positions as Social Justice Coordinator and Community Services Coordinator, respectively) will accomplish great achievements this year. Early this summer the Bike Co-Op went through a rebranding –you can catch us at the Sackville Farmer's Market.

MUNICIPAL (TOWN OF SACKVILLE)

The Town of Sackville and the MASU have built a dedicated relationship over the years to coordinate Town and Gown events. Over the summer, we have been working together to organize the upcoming Fall Fair, and Community BBQs. We are excited to bring to you *Plants & Animals* in September!

PROVINCIAL (NBSA)

As Vice-Chair of the New Brunswick Students' Association (NBSA), I have the pleasure of representing over 12,000 students across the province on student issues. In June we had our Policy and Strategic Planning Conference where we decided our priority pillars for the year ahead.

FEDERAL (CASA)

As the Vice-Chair of Federal Policy for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), I have the responsibility to represent over 250,000 students across the province. Currently, we are updating expiring policies, and researching new ones in preparation for Advocacy Week in November.

Tina Oh
VP External Affairs

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE, ANTHONY MADDALENA

INTRODUCTION

The VP Student Life is responsible for representing the educational, social and personal concerns of students with the goal to improve student life at Mount Allison. The Entertainment Director and Coordinator positions fall under the Student Life portfolio; these positions help to organize social events and more specific projects throughout the year. A student life committee will be brought together and chaired by the VP Student Life; this committee will consist completely of students and works on projects/promotion of student life initiatives as well as assisting Coordinators when needed.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

There are a couple different projects that are currently underway regarding student's health and wellness. One being the condom service, which is a service run by the MASU where condoms and other sexual health products/information is made available to students. Over the course of the summer, work has been done to secure said products/information from a supplier.

The second project focuses on finding a way to improve the Mental Health and Wellness services here at Mount Allison university. There are different avenues for finding a potential solution, whether that's through more counselors on campus or online services or a combination of the two. Research has been done on various online services and planning for student consultation has started, so stay tuned!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Part of the VP Student Life's portfolio is to organize and assist the MASU Clubs & Societies. One of the biggest ways this is done is through the MASU Clubs & Societies Fair! This year the fair will be held on September 11th in the Athletic Centre gymnasium from 2-5pm. The Clubs & Societies Fair is a great opportunity for students to discover the variety of groups on campus they can be involved in during their time at Mount Allison. The registration form can be found on the MASU website (www.MASU.ca).

Anthony Maddalena
VP Student Life

VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE & OPERATIONS, ALEX LEPIANKA

INTRODUCTION

For many students, summer is the time when curricular and extra-curricular life grinds to a halt, while summertime work take precedent. In a different kind of way, this is also true for my office. While most of the big decisions relevant to the Vice-President, Finance & Operation (VPFO)'s, such as approving the budget, take place at the end of the school year, my summer work shifts from administering many organizational functions, to important behind-the-scenes projects. This kind of timeline is especially useful for me as a returning VPFO: over the course of last year, I got to watch as the policies and procedures I had developed over the course of last summer (relating to human resource management, elections, and student governance advocacy) got tested in real life—adjusting them as needed.

The most interesting part of the VPFO's role is how aware they need to be when things aren't going smoothly. Because the VPFO takes care of many internal procedures and administrative functions, they need knowledgeable about the organization, and have an awareness of exactly how the MASU's procedures are being stressed. The VPFO's year is spent thinking about how successes, hiccups, and inefficiencies are correlative with internal policy. One of my overarching priorities, which I first took on last year in my first term, is helping our staff do the best that they can. A big part of this relates to helping support our positions through written procedure (how-to's) so that, when new individuals enter their roles, the advocacy and work that they do is able to carry the momentum from year to year. This summer, I've focused on how to make our positions as accessible as possible to our membership; the success of the MASU depends on the commitment of its members, but also on our ability to make sure that those members are able to participate fully—meaning that we need to pay them fairly, so that an interest in working at the MASU is not constrained by financial status.

FUNDING WITH VALUES!

My belief in the ability of the MASU to enrich its community, and my profession duty to make things work better both led me to another key project this summer: reconsidering how the MASU funds its members. For many years, the MASU has allocated over \$20,000 in Academic Enrichment and Clubs and Societies funding to make our members curricular and extra-curricular lives more rewarding. Up until this summer, our funding applications didn't consider financial need—something that caused a lot of problems because equity wasn't considered a concern.

I am now happy to announce that our funding process will consider the social impact of its decisions, with the ultimate goal of helping *any* member access a diverse set of opportunities. I encourage you to check out our funding sources, information about which is available through our website—the MASU is really committed to helping its members participate in any activity they care about.

Alex Lepianka
VP Finance & Operations

VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS, SARA CAMUS

INTRODUCTIONS

The VP Communications is responsible for communicating news, updates, and event information to MASU members.

AGENDA

It is the responsibility of the VP Communications to design the complimentary student handbook/agenda. It provides students with a plethora of useful information regarding MASU history, the MASU Health & Dental Plan, S.H.A.R.E. and much more!

MEDIA

One way to increase transparency and engagement with MASU members is to maintain activity on all relevant media facets. The MASU is active on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, CHMA, Snapchat and YouTube. The Instagram follower count has increased by approximately 300% over the course of the summer months. An initiative that began this summer is "Meet Your MASU Monday". Every Monday, an exec member, councilor, or staff member is featured on social media to provide an opportunity to have an inside look at the individuals who are filling positions on your students' union. This year the MASU will have a radio show through CHMA on Tuesdays at 7:00PM. "What's New at the MASU" will broadcast relevant updates and upcoming events and will only play Canadian music and songs recorded through Conduct Becoming.

PRESS RELEASES

There have been two press releases over the last four months. The first press release was regarding VP External Tina Oh's position on the NBSA as Vice-Chair. The MASU has full confidence that Tina will effectively advocate for students federally. The second press release discussed a new policy that was recently released by Mount Allison University. The MASU played a large role in engaging student participation and discussion for the new policy, titled "Sexual Violence Prevention and Response".

ART SUBMISSIONS

The MASU will be accepting student art submissions in the fall to be displayed throughout the MASU office. The MASU will be accepting artwork as donations, but will be responsible for having the artwork professionally framed. The selected artists will also receive free admission to all MASU events for the year.

Sara Camus
VP Communications