



MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION

Executive Newsletters
February 7, 2017

PRESIDENT & CEO, RYAN LEBRETON

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The yearlong strategic planning exercise is just about to be completed. The ad-hoc committee which was created is just about ready to conduct the final round of student consultation. We have decided on the following three pillars; Advocacy, Internal, and Services. In the weeks to come, we will be seeking specific feedback as to what exactly students would like to see their union understand over the next three years.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT REVISION

Whereas a number of our governing documents are out of date and in some areas contradictory, the operations committee and I will be undergoing a full review of both our Bylaws and Operating procedures. This projects will be to fix all inconsistencies and update them to current practice.

POLITICAL POLICIES

In early October, the majority of MASU's political policies have expired. Additionally, at the end of last term, the Students' Administrative Council approved a new operating procedure which will allow our policies to be much more substantial. Therefore, Lily Falk, the Policy Research, and Archiving Officer and I will be reviewing and re-writing the current and a few of the old policies. We will be revising the Residence Staff Compensation and Mental Health Resource Information on Couse Syllabi. Additionally, we will be proposing new ones in the portfolios of academics and accessibility.

Have a great semester!
Ryan LeBreton

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, MARY EMMA MACNEIL

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) ON THE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The PAC is slowly but surely working to come up with a format for integrating all of the documents for the University's Strategic Plan. So far, we have received updates on the Academic Plan, the Campus Master Plan, the University Advancement Plan, and the Research Plan. In each of these plans the "size and shape" question has been proposed- what kind of university does Mount Allison want to be, and how are the choices we make about our services affected by the number of students who are enrolled. In our next meeting we are going to further discuss shortening the synthesized document in hopes that the Strategic Plan will reflect the important actions that the Mount Allison community wishes to take.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY TEAM (NAT), CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

In our last meeting we reviewed a Draft/Approval process for student unions across the country looking to run specific campaigns on their respective campuses. This included the involvement of the NAT in executing the campaigns and funding for the campaigns which will be done on a case- by-case basis. This Draft will be presented to the CASA board this month. NAT members will be doing some local lobby work throughout the months of January and February which will include phone calls and meetings with local MP's.

UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee met on January 11, 2017 to go over two Academic Unit Reviews (AUR) and to discuss the proposed Tenure Track Hiring Plan put forth by Dr. Ollerhead. The AUR that were conducted were of the Philosophy and Sociology departments. The Draft Tenure Track Hiring Plan will allow for positions to be advertised earlier, which will hopefully increase Mount Allison's pool of potential applicants and better organize course offerings for students.

NEW BRUNSWICK STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (NBSA) & THE CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS (CASA)

During the Fall Reading Week, I was asked to present the NBSA's Advocacy document to Mount Allison's administration. Following Reading Week, myself and President Ryan Lebreton attended our national advocacy organization's Advocacy Week in Ottawa. CASA has representation from 21 student unions across the country who represent over 250,000 students studying in Canada. The week was very successful, and we have already seen some of CASA's recommendations being put forth and prioritized by the Standing Committee on Finance.

All the best for a successful Winter semester,
Mary Emma MacNeil

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE, ANTHONY MADDALENA

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The MASU has been working with the Mental Health Educator, Melissa Baxter and the Department of Social Development to organize a Mental Health Summit for Mount Allison students. The summit will run during the day of March 11th, 2017. Kayley Read, the CEO and Director of Wear Your Label will be one of the keynote speakers for the summit! It will be open for all Mount Allison students to register so keep an eye out for information regarding that over the next few weeks.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The student life committee has been working hard on developing a student handbook. This will act as a go-to guide for on/off campus living with a detailed list of University/Community resources. The committee will be looking to gather student testimonials on various topics so to provide real life examples of university living. We are aiming to have this handbook completed by the end of this semester.

STUDENT CONSULTATION

As mentioned above the Student Life Committee will be looking for input for the student handbook. There are a few other areas that the MASU Student Life Office will be looking to gain students' opinions on. We will be sending out a questionnaire regarding study space and habits at Mount Allison, so that we can implement a plan to make improvements. The Residence Life Code of Conduct will be going through its one-year review so the Student Life Office will be looking for feedback from students in residence. This will be a great opportunity to help improve residence life!

Anthony Maddalena

VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS, SARA CAMUS

ADVOCACY WEEK

Over the fall reading week, I participated in the New Brunswick Student Alliance Advocacy Week in Fredericton. There were eight official issues identified in the NBSA lobby document – which can be found on the NBSA website. Over the next few days, the provincial budget should drop. After the budget drop, we can conduct further analysis and adjust how these eight issues should be addressed and solved.

OFFICE ARTWORK

The Communications Committee attended the Fine Art Show & Sale in December and purchased seven pieces of student artwork for the office. The artwork was purchased from student artists: Jen Frail, Jennifer McKelvey, Savannah Harris, Louis Sobol, Gabrielle Johnson and Kevin Melanson. The MASU is working with the Owens Art Gallery to have the pieces installed.

MASU WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS

The MASU worked with members of the Association of the Chronically Ill and Disabled to identify key concerns regarding the accessibility of the MASU website. Issues regarding colour, font, contrast, symbolism and layout were considered. Changes have been identified and we will continue to work with Norex (the MASU's website firm) to make the MASU website more accessibility for individuals with visual impairments.

PROMOTIONS

The Communications office will continue to publicize events and services through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, CHMA, Snapchat, MASU Events Calendar, and posters. If you need assistance in promoting your event, please email masucommunications@mta.ca.

UPCOMING MONTHS

In the upcoming weeks, the Communications office will see the establishment of a Humans of Mount Allison page and information videos regarding several aspects of the union. I will also be transitioning my successor and transitioning into my new role as President of the Mount Allison Students' Union.

Please keep in touch!
Sara Camus

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RACHEL HOWLETT

Hey Mounties!

Thanks for voting me as your Vice President Academic for the 2017-2018 year! My major campaign points for next year are focused on providing academic support to students and communicating academic updates of the university. I want to support first-year students by continuing to fund resource centers across campus like the writing resource center and the math resource center. I'd like to work with the University to create specific workshops for these first year students and also introduce workshops geared towards graduating students in regards to what they need from the university for graduate school. I'd also like to continue to adjust the Academic Mentors training so we can continue to help students in residences through these positions. I want to promote more study space around campus and I want to continue to advocate for extended library hours. I will continue to offer free practice standardized tests like the LSATs, MCATs and others if there is interest. I also recognize the importance of the work that gets done in committees. I want to make sure that any students serving on academic committees within the MASU and within Senate feels prepared and ready to contribute.

Academics are the foundation of our experience at Mount Allison University and I hope to improve student life academically for next year. I care a lot about academics, learning and growing and that's what I hope to carry with me next year in this position.

Thanks!
Rachel Howlett

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DANICA GARNER

Hi everyone,

My name is Danica Garner, and I am so excited to serve as your next year's VP External! I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote—I am grateful not only for the votes in my favour but for everyone's time and participation.

I have a number of focuses for next year, and many concrete ideas. My platform revolved particularly around transportation, housing and landlord-tenant relations, and strengthening and expanding relations with external entities. I will also dedicate attention to pedestrian safety on the perimeter of campus, as well as accessibility advocacy at the provincial level. More concretely, I plan to make the airport shuttle service more affordable and fight for a Maritime Bus stop on campus. I will raise awareness about housing options and landlord-tenant relations through information sessions, pamphlets, and presentations by a representative of the Office of the Rentalsman. I will strengthen and expand relations with external entities by scheduling meetings with members of the administration, members of town council, government officials, and anyone else who is willing to meet with me to build relationships. For pedestrian safety, I plan to fight for a crosswalk leading from the Student Centre to the stairs by the library (for when the fence is taken down). Finally, when it comes to accessibility, I plan to work closely with MASU President elect Sara Camus at the NBSA, while working collaboratively with ACID to make sure that we are fighting for Mount Allison students' needs.

Before my term begins in May, I will be transitioned by Ryan LeBreton. I will dedicate my time to learning the ins and outs of the MASU by talking to past and current members, as well as Joy Estabrooks, the General Manager. I will continue to schedule meetings with faculty members, members of the administration, and town council members, who may have valuable knowledge and insight to share. I am also participating in a number of committees to further my knowledge about MASU processes and procedures.

I am greatly looking forward to starting my term, and would love to hear from students with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or anything else.

Thanks!
Danica Garner

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE, EMMA MILLER

Hello Mounties!

My name is Emma Miller and I am beyond excited to be next year's Vice-President Student Life on the Mount Allison Students' Union. I am currently a second year student studying Political Science, Spanish and French and cannot wait to see what my third year has to offer. The platform points I plan on looking into include reforming the newly implemented Residence Code of Conduct, developing mental health on campus and strengthening the connection between the MASU and the residences, clubs and societies on campus.

The portion concerning sexual violence on the Residence Code of Conduct has recently been looked into and appropriate changes have been made. This progress can be seen with the new posters that have been put up in residences that clearly outline the process of dealing with an act of sexual violence if it were to occur in residence. I plan on continuing to look into this new Code of Conduct while consulting students to better overall student safety and security in residence.

I plan on developing mental health on campus through new initiatives, resources and overall awareness. I plan on looking into making Mental Health First Aid training more available and advertised, so that a larger amount students can be equipped with this type of education. I also intend on looking into the MASU insurance plan and figuring out what mental health coverage is provided. With the intent to make its services more student oriented, this would hopefully in turn provide more mental health assistance to those who need it on campus. I also plan on working with the Wellness Centre, VP External and President to find a way to provide immediate assistance to residents when having a mental health crisis, as this type of resource isn't always as readily available. Another initiative that I believe would benefit students are more de-stressing activities during the exam period. When the schedules for course reviews are released, I hope to release a schedule for de-stressing events alongside it so that students can find release during this stressful time.

To strengthen MASU's connection with other entities on campus, I plan on being involved in residence events and facilitating constant communication with the clubs and societies. I plan on working alongside the incoming VP Communications to create a contact database. When it comes time for the clubs and societies resubmit their constitutions, they would also submit a contact person for their given club or society. I will then compile this list of contacts into a public database that would be available on the MASU website. This way new students can get involved and information can be readily accessible to any student that should require it.

I am so grateful to have been elected into this position. From now until May, I plan on conversing with students and finding out what they are passionate about on campus. This way I can incorporate more of what the students want into Student Life at Mount Allison.

Thanks!
Emma Miller