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Contribution Hours: 172

Events, Meetings, and Conferences Attended:

- Executive Council
- New Student Orientation
- Introduce-U-Thon
- GFC Executive
- GFC
- Senate Executive
- Career Fair
- Lunch with Astronaut Doug Wheelock
- Welcome Back BBQ
- CAUS Meeting in Calgary
- Breakfast with University Executives
- General Assembly Meeting
- Destination Project Building Tour

Descriptions of Notable Meetings/Events:

New Student Orientation

This was my first NSO since my own four years ago (I'm old) and it really warmed my heart. It was lovely to see so many family members and new students engaging with the U of L, as well as learning about our campus and what we can offer them. I also had the honour of giving a speech at the NSO welcome, and it was a pleasure to be able to see so many new faces in the crowd. Then, I had the opportunity to engage with parents during the Family Booth Fair. I spoke with parents about the health and dental plan, the services we offer, etc. It was great to hear how both nervous and excited they were for their children. I really enjoyed being able to reassure them (or at least, try to).

Introduce-U-Thon

This was our first time hosting an Introduce-U-Thon the night of NSO, and in my opinion, it was successful. A number of students came to the Zoo to play games, interact with other students, and to participate in our "speed friending" initiative. It was also great to see the club collaboration we had with the Smash Club, which really drew in new students and showed them the benefits to joining a club on campus. Overall, I am happy that so many new students came out to enjoy the event, and also familiarize themselves with the Zoo.

General Faculties Council (GFC)

GFC is one of the governing bodies of the institution. This month, I, along with most of our other representatives who sit on GFC, attended its orientation for the new academic year. The orientation was followed by the monthly meeting, and then a reception that allowed us to interact with the faculty members with whom we'll be working throughout the year.

Career Fair

On the morning of the Career Fair, I had the opportunity to speak to participating employers and graduate schools about the importance of this event for students. It is always encouraging to see students engage with the outside world, and it is very important that students see what they can do after their time at the U of L has finished.

Lunch with Astronaut Doug Wheelock

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to sit and eat with Doug Wheelock, NASA astronaut, and his wife, Dr. Kelly Wheelock. They are an inspiring duo and it was lovely to be able to pick their brains and talk to them about their successes in life.

Student Position Interviews

Much of my month consisted of interviews for our four student staff positions. This year, we were able to budget for four student positions instead of two, and I love that we were able to give more opportunities for students to have paid work on campus. We hired our four students and I am very happy with the team that we have going forward.

Welcome Back BBQ

Every year, University administration hosts a Welcome Back BBQ for students. This year, they combined the event with the launch of their Shine campaign. The Shine campaign is an ambitious fundraising initiative for the University. I had the chance to speak about the importance of donating to enhance the overall quality of the student experience on campus.

CAUS Meeting in Calgary

On Friday the 21st, Victoria, Bailey, and I traveled to Calgary to participate in our in-person CAUS meeting at the U of Calgary. Our meeting discussion was largely dominated by each member school's individual plans for our upcoming Get Out the Vote campaigns. We each gave presentations on how our student unions and associations were engaging with students about the upcoming provincial election. Then, we talked with an external company who will be helping us to create a common message/marketing scheme.

Breakfast with University Executives

Our executive team met with our university counterparts. We discussed our priorities for the year, as well as potential points of collaboration. It was a fantastic occasion to sit with them in an informal setting and get to relax.

General Assembly Meeting

We had our first meeting of the semester. It was overall a very productive meeting, and we had great discussions about a few initiatives with which we're moving forward. In exciting news, we now have three new lovely members of our team as we completed our by-elections for our First Year, Fine Arts, and Health Sciences positions. I am so excited to have our team officially full, and to be able to bond as a complete team. Now that we're at full strength, it's full steam ahead for the next seven months.

Destination Project Tour

As an executive team, we had the opportunity to tour the new building. This building is incredibly beautiful on the inside, and I am so excited about the increase in student space. In particular, I am happy that there are gender neutral washrooms, as well as accessible lab stations. Overall, I am truly excited to see it open next fall as it presents a wonderful new addition to our campus.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding my report.

Very Best,

Laura Bryan
President