Hey y’all!

Happy February :) the last two weeks have been very busy for our team. Before I get into my updates, I want to talk about ASLS. Last week Emily and I were on an ASLS panel about gender and governance. Christian and Abner gave a presentation about leading during challenging times, and Rowan gave a presentation about effective advocacy. All the sessions were really interesting are very applicable to our work. They were all recorded so you can still check them out if you haven’t yet!

This is a (bad) photo from Emily and I’s presentation! —>

Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator

THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATOR HAS FINALLY BEEN HIRED! I can't express how massive this win is for students! The hiring of this position only happened because of continued advocacy of student leaders, including the previous VPSLs Andre, Jared and of course Katie who did so much work last year to make this a reality! I can't wait to see the changes made with this new position.

Deb Eerkes is the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator. She is an expert in SV prevention and response. She is focused on changing how we think about and respond to SV on campus. Rowan and I have met with Deb to discuss how we will work together moving forward and what matters most to students. We will be meeting every two weeks, and I will be working with her to set up student consultation meetings, evaluate students concerns, and make sure that her work is student-focused. I am looking forward to working with Deb.

The Family Lounge

As I mentioned during our last meeting, I have been working with DOS and Libraries to create a Family Lounge in Rutherford. This has been a goal for the SU for a long time. The lounge will give
student parents space to study with their kids, breastfeed or pump, and hold meetings, among other things. Over the past two weeks, I have been consulting different student groups and reading over old consultation/planning documents to ensure that this space is being created for student parents and that it meets all their needs.

I am excited about how the space is coming together! It should be ready to go by Fall 2022.

**Hiring a New Executive Director for the Campus Food Bank**

I am on the Campus Food Bank board. About a month ago we were made aware that Cory Rianson, the previous Executive Director of the Campus Food Bank would be stepping down from his position to pursue a new opportunity. I was part of the hiring committee for a new Executive Director. The hiring committee worked collaboratively to review applications, interview, and select a candidate. The selection isn't public yet but once it is I will let you know!

**Sexual Violence Prevention and Response in Residence**

In early December, residence services committed to improving its Sexual Violence Prevention and Response efforts. In late December, residence services formed the SV Response Communications Working Group. This working group is composed of CORA, myself, and Residence Services staff. Over the past month, this group has been creating resources for an SV awareness campaign. This campaign includes resources for residents about what SV is, what supports exist for survivors and much more. Residence Services should be launching this campaign later this month!

Residence Services has also assembled a group to start discussing RAs/staff training. We haven't met yet, but I look forward to those meetings so we can start improving the training that RAs/other staff members receive.

**Period Equity**

As we mentioned last week, Emily and I are working with AUFSJ to install a period product dispenser at CSJ! This dispenser will be part of our pilot program. Over the past two weeks, we have been speaking with August about ordering their sustainable period products. Unfortunately, they are experiencing supply chain disruptions, so it looks like our order might be a little delayed from early March to late March.

**Indigenous Celebration Week**

Indigenous Celebration Week is really starting to take shape. We are now working to sort out the smaller details of the events like resources for volunteers. If you haven't already please mark your calendars and make sure you come out! You can view the schedule [here](#).
Health and Dental Plan Committee

Last week we finalized our selections for the Health and Dental Plan Committee members at large. We are now looking for two members of Council to serve on the committee. The terms of reference can be found [here](#) or in the Council order papers. If you have any questions about the work of this committee please let me know!

Best,
Talia Dixon

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