# September Constituency Reports

**Name**: Sydney Pagan

**Position**: Board of Governors Representative

Over the summer, we had one full board info session and meeting in June. The board info session focused primarily on the layout of our campus moving forward, including much discussion about the new Mulroney Institute of Government, and the adjoining Xaverian Commons. A push for more greenspace on campus and pedestrian friendly roads was a primary topic, which I believe to be very beneficial for the student body. At our meeting, two new members, Mr. Boguslaw Hass and Ms. Deborah Gillis, were appointed as members of the Board of Governor for a three-year term. The weekend also consisted of a reception and board dinner, as well as an annual general meeting which was open to the public for the first time. This AGM was a great way for the board to be more transparent to the campus and town community.

In mid-August, I also volunteered to vote on the Campus Affairs committee regarding the Students’ Union Emergency Grant Program. The Emergency Grant Program, created by the U this past year, is aimed at fulfilling the increased amount of 'asks' by students who require financial aid. The Students' Union budgeted $5000 for this program and was asking the Campus Affairs Committee to match this amount for the 2017-2018 school year. After voting alongside the other Campus Affairs members, the funding was passed unanimously.

With orientation week just wrapping up, I was pleased to attend a couple of events throughout the week, as well as volunteer on Welcome Day with the Health & Dental opt-out booth. I had the pleasure of assisting numerous parents and interacting with hundreds of new students.

On council, I also sit on the Bylaw and Policy Committee. At our meeting on August 30th, we reviewed a new Finance and Operations Policy, which we are hoping to pass through council at a later date.

As Board of Governors Representative, I am a member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee. The first meeting of this committee has not yet occurred, therefore I have nothing to report on this topic. However, our first meeting is set for September 27th, so more information to come after this date.

**Name**: Sasha Paul

**Position:** Equity Representative

**Committees**

* I have not sat on or met with any committees as yet.

**Interactions and Events**

* *Mik’maq Permanent Flag Installation*: Attended this event at noon on Thursday. The ceremony was full of exciting new announcements and beautiful song and drum performances in commemoration of the flag and its meaning. Left with positive feelings about the future and further co-learning and reconciliation between Canada and the First Nations.
* *LGBTQIA2S+ BBQ and Discussion Pannel*: Attended this event on Friday evening. Gained insight into the lived experiences of the constituents of this community at StFX, which were useful for learning more about the community and its needs. Had several personal questions of my own answered, creating more understanding for the purposes of my role in representing this constituency. Gained knowledge on how to assist people facing specific, commonly rising issues, which I am excited to put to use in the near future.

Sasha Paul, Equity Student Representative

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**Name**: Tanaka Chikwavaire

**Position**: Students of African Descent Representative

As many of you know Hurricane Irma has affected some countries in the Caribbean and some of the students in my constituency are from those countries and have family who have been affected. Jacqueline De Leebeeck Director of Student Life sent out an email to all the students affected and also asked me to check in with specific students which I have done, and the students seem to be fine. I have told them I am available at all times if they need me, but I’ve also pointed them to the other resources we have on campus. I have also interacted with a couple of students who were expressing concerns about the dismissal of Michael Fisher and what the next step is in regards to the position is. Throughout this past week I sat on an interviewing panel, with Ms. De Leebeeck and Ms. Sampson running interviews for the African Descent Student Advisor. They were a success and I’m pleased to say that after everything has been finalized my constituency should have an advisor by the beginning of next month latest. I haven’t told the students this yet, because there are still some logistics to consider. The students who have asked me, I’ve just reassured them that we are in the process of figuring something out and I’ll let them know soon as everything is final. With that said, I was planning on continuing the ‘games nights’ every last Friday of the month in collaboration with the Aboriginal Students office, but in regards to this month I thought it would be better to wait for our Student Advisor to arrive and then do it at the beginning of October as a meet and greet so that everyone can meet the new person who comes in. I’ve also been trying to find out a bit more about the study Halls that have been in place to help students on the sports teams with their academics and how they have worked in the past. I was hoping that I could possibly become a bit more in that and get some insight on how we could improve that too.

**Name**: Melissa Grant

**Position**: Education Representative

This week has been a busy one as B.Ed students have their own welcome week that is separate from the rest of the university. I was lucky enough to meet almost every single incoming student on our orientation day as I was working the welcome table, and I have continued to interact with members of my constituency throughout the week. We hosted a team building day at Crystal Cliffs, and I was selected as a “Hype Member” to raise the energy of the students as we were bussing over. I attended a social event at Cribbons Beach as well as a meet and greet BBQ, and have been actively engaged with my constituents.

Although I have not attended any events wearing a councillor t-shirt, I have represented the B.Ed faculty on numerous occasions. We have quite a few students who are new to the university and are a bit timid with getting involved, so I organized a meet up before the society fair so that we could go together as a group. I did the same thing for the LGBTQ+ BBQ and Panel, and a group of us walked over from Xavier hall together so that no one would have to sit by themselves.

**Name**: Alex Corrigan

**Position**: Board of Governors Representative

After 4 long months back home in Calgary, I finally returned to Antigonish on August 26 and couldn’t be happier to return! I spent my summer very involved with the StFX Board of Governors as a voting member of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Investment Committee and board itself. I took 8 conference calls and traveled back to Antigonish for meetings in June. I also read several hundred pages of board reports and preparatory materials.

My introduction to the board has been an incredibly positive experience. Sydney, Annie and I have been welcomed warmly and board members truly care about what we have to say. Everyone wants what’s best for StFX and student voices are clearly valued. We learned a great deal about StFX and how it is governed. We also learned about the university endowment and Xaverian Fund within it. Prior to this summer, I had never really understood what this fund was or why it is important, but I now know that it’s entire purpose is to provide financial aid to students. This fund is invested within the endowment and the interest it earns funds scholarships and bursaries given to students. This clearly benefits students, but it also helps the town of Antigonish because each student spends so much money on goods and services in town. Each additional student benefits the town and since more scholarships translates to more students, a growing Xaverian Fund is good for everyone.

Finally, I sat in on one full council meeting on June 16th and sat on a Bylaw and Policy Committee meeting on August 30th. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

**Name**: Bry Crabbe

**Position**: Graduate Student Representative

Recently within the graduate spectrum of things we are in the process of organizing our fall graduate orientation day, as well as discussions and gaining feedback on what potential socials or events we as a society would like to move forward with this year. I woke up this morning to many emails from second year graduate students responding to not receiving their X-Ring eligibility, to which an update will be provided at a later date. There have been no official committees I have sat on to report on. During orientation week I attended the following events; welcome day, playfair, faculty social, as well as the LGBTQIA2S+ BBQ. To which many of my conversations included reiteration of the actuality of graduate programs at STFX.