

Online Preparedness Task Force: Student Readiness Working Group

Communication Document: Student-Student Mentoring

Communication to raise with –

1. Department Chairs (HKIN, HNU, Nursing, Business, Engineering, BASch),
2. Society Presidents (through SU?), and
3. other pertinent groups where incoming through graduating students may connect.

Student-student mentoring has often been championed as a proven method to assist first year students with the transition to university, while supporting diversity and inclusion. Senior students comprehend the challenges of university life and can provide support to assist with facilitating a more positive and enjoyable university experience, which in turn impacts success. It is imperative, that first student's transitioning to an online university experience have a strong network of student-student mentorship support.

- part of the StFX experience is the community feel that is experienced by most of our students
- this community feel may require greater efforts to attain in a remotely delivered academic environment, especially with students living at home vs. on campus and/or in Antigonish

As such, we suggest, where possible, efforts be made to create a mentoring type relationship between incoming students and upper year students. Further these connections should be established as soon as possible after registration (HKIN, HNU, Nursing, Business, Engineering, BASch). It may not be possible to connect senior students in the Arts and Sciences with incoming students as incoming students generally have not decided their major. It is believed that once societies have started, this mentoring type relationship can be formed within the Physics, Chemistry, Social Justice, etc. societies.

It is believed that these kind of efforts will not only emphasize the StFX experience, it may also help with retention and ease some of the overwhelmed-ness that incoming students often experience when face-2-face and is likely to be enhanced with remote delivery.