Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: June 13 - July 10

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Weekly Operations and Research & Outreach Meetings
- Staff Meeting, July 03rd
- Ongoing meetings for Orientation planning
- Executive Committee Meetings:
  - June 15, discussions on O-Week graphics, Tiger Patrol vans
  - June 22, discussions on staff return to office, banking info, motions made in last council meeting, O-Week, Anti-O training for staff/exec/committees, Black is Gold event, DSUSO/E&A
  - June 25, vote on VPSL suspension extension, discussions on Licensed Operations assets, legal update
  - June 29, discussion on Halifax Pride, Anti-O training, VPSL, Annual Survey, office hours, government volunteer program
  - July 06, discussions on foodbank, VPSL, O-Week, Senate, Residences, MMIWG2s installation
  - July 09, vote on VPSL suspension extension
- June 18th, DSU Council
- June 03rd, DSU Council Electronic Vote
- June 15th: Events and Campaigns Commissioners Hiring Committee met to discuss applications
- June 18th: Meeting with DUES President Alex MacDonald to discuss year-long planning and Orientation
- June 19th: Interviews with applicants for Events and Campaigns Commissioner positions, successful applicants hired the following week
- June 29th: Judicial Board petitioned to produce advisory opinion on any breaches of DSU policy/code/bylaw in relation to the allegations against the VPSL; ongoing communications with the Judicial Board
- June 30th: Health and Safety Committee meeting to discuss reopening and COVID protection, return to office plan for July 06th
- July 07th-09th: Events Commissioner onboarding and training
- July 09th: T-Room management meeting to discuss yearly programming
University Affairs and Committees

- **June 17th**: Return to Campus meeting with Leanne French, Karin McLary, Laura Neals, VPAE to discuss SUB reopening plan
- **June 24th**: Executive meeting with University Senior Admin (Deep Saini, Ian Nason, Frank Harvey, Cynthia Murray)
  - Agenda: Introductions, BoG meeting, Student Ratings of Instruction, tabled items
- **July 08th**: Dal Libraries meeting with VPAE and senior libraries staffers to discuss reopening of Killam, Sexton Library, James Dunn, and current open facilities; Dal Reads program connection
- Ongoing committee meetings for Dal's virtual orientation and online communities (multiple times a week)
- Ongoing communications with Vice Provost, Student Affairs about return to campus, orientation, ombudsperson, and COVID

External and Broader Community

- Arrangement of meetings with Shinerama, RBC, and additional contact with potential sponsors for Orientation
- Job description for O-week leaders developed & posted
- Search for Dal Block Party talent
- Ongoing communication with other SU presidents and executives about orientation, COVID, and transition

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- **June 16th**, meeting to discuss upcoming Annual General Meeting
- **June 23**, Annual Board of Governors Meeting
  - President's Report (written) attached
  - Link to President's Report (video) on DSU Website

Upcoming Dates

- Maritime Student Congress, **July 13th-17th**
- Student/Government Roundtable, **July 15th**
- **July 30th**, tentative date for extraordinary meeting of council to be called to discuss the advisory opinions provided by the Judicial Board in regards to the VPSL
Dalhousie Student Union Report to Board of Governors
Madeleine Stinson, President
dsupres@dal.ca

As the newly elected Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President, it is an honour to sit amongst the members of the Dalhousie Board of Governors. As the world around us shifts, I find myself increasingly humbled to have this opportunity to represent my peers. It is my promise to the Board of Governors to act as a steward for the University's best interests with the perspective of its most valuable stakeholder in mind - the student body.

DSU Executive Priorities
The executive has identified several key topics that will guide the DSU's actions and governance over the next year:
- Organizational & environmental sustainability
- Student mental health & well-being
- Affordable & meaningful post-secondary education for all students
- Student engagement & community connection
- Campus consent culture & survivor support
- Support & representation for Queer, Trans, Two Spirit, Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour (QTBIPOC), and other marginalized student populations

These themes represent the needs and wants of our diverse student population as they relate to the DSU, its mandate, and the greater Dalhousie community.

DSU Internal Planning
The DSU is committed to continuous learning and growth as an institution. This year the executive and staff are taking the opportunity to look through and reform our policies to ensure that they operate on frameworks of harm reduction, survivor-centrism, equity, accessibility, sustainability, and inclusion.

The executive has also agreed to allow for an organizational audit of the DSU in order to identify inefficiencies and allow for optimization of our operations.

The DSU also acknowledges that it cannot be removed from its own history, or the colonial, racist, and oppressive histories of Dalhousie, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
and Canada. The DSU is taking steps to become an actively anti-oppressive organization. These steps include anti-oppression training opportunities for staff and better support for employees and councillors of the DSU who identify with marginalized communities. Initiatives to better support QTBIPOC students and other marginalized members of the DSU community are ongoing and/or under development.

**DSU Covid-19 Response**

**Student Survey: Covid, Campus & Costs**

In response to the Dalhousie Board of Governor's recent decision to increase domestic and international tuition during a period of global crisis, the DSU has consulted with students to see what they think about the university's approach to learning and fees during the Covid-19 pandemic. From this, we created the campaign, #RejectThe3.

The DSU maintains the position that if there ever was a year to *not* increase tuition, that the 2020/21 academic year would be it. While we understand that the university is acting in accordance with its vision to deliver world-class academics, we do not believe that institutional prestige should be valued over the wellbeing and security of students.

The DSU stands in support of students and calls for the Board of Governors to rescind their decision to increase tuition for the 2020/21 academic year, to decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees related to on-campus learning, and to issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 terms. We urge members of the Board of Governors to consider the long-term sustainability and well-being of Dalhousie university, students, and the academic community at large.
**DSU Orientation Week**

The preparation for this year’s O-week is underway. Considering the impacts of Covid-19 and the University's decision for the fall semester to occur predominantly online, the DSU has remodeled orientation to include a blended itinerary of online and in-person events. This year's theme, “Dream Big,” is a nod to those who choose to embrace the undefined possibilities of the future, and to challenge the world around them.

Due to the fiscal constraints many students and families are facing as a result of Covid-19 and the fact that our orientation cohort will consist of individuals located across the globe, this year's programming will be delivered at no cost to participants. The DSU plans to substitute the usual schedule of large gatherings for various socially-distanced outdoor events and interactive, online programming.

Depending on the university's decisions for the Winter 2021 semester, the DSU hopes to welcome students back to campus with more substantive “Frost Week” programming.

**DSU Prospective Membership with CFS**

The Dalhousie Student Union remains in a prospective membership with the Nova Scotian chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Over the past year, the DSU's membership has voiced both support and concern regarding this prospective membership and the DSU's developing relationship with CFS.

This year's executive team has decided to proceed with a referendum vote to allow the members at large to decide what relationship the DSU will pursue with CFS. Until the time that a neutral, information-based referendum can be held (tentatively, Spring 2021), the DSU executive has decided not to engage in any long-term or large-scale partnerships with the CFS.
Dalhousie Student Union Demands for Equity and Student Fees
June 23rd, 2020

To: Members of the Board of Governors and Senior Administrators at Dalhousie

This document has been created in addition to the Dalhousie Student Union President’s Report presented at the June 23rd, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors to communicate the DSU’s demands for the university to act in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and the impact of Covid-19 on students.

We request that the following demands are given a formal written response no later than June 30th, 2020. This response must include identification of actionable next steps and plans for senior administration to meet with the DSU and relevant student representatives.

Demands for Equity
- The collection of race-based data related to all aspects of the student experience at Dalhousie;
- Prioritization of mental health services for Black, Indigenous, and POC students including (but not limited to) the hiring of BIPOC counsellors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, and medical practitioners;
- Support in the creation of a collaborative committee including Senate and the DSU to oversee the integration of values of harm-reduction and anti-oppression into the university’s academic curriculum;
- Divestment from fossil fuels and private prisons; and
- Mandatory anti-oppression training for all members of the Board of Governors, Senate, senior administrators, and faculty at Dalhousie.

Demands for Student Fees and Experience
- Rescind the decision to increase tuition for the 2020/21 academic year;
- Decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees related to on-campus learning;
- Issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 terms; and
- Further consideration of academic accommodations for all terms when the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are felt by students.

Signed,

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President
dsupres@dal.ca
Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: June 13th – July 10th

Council Date: July 16th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Finalized questions and released the Annual Survey; continuously noting responses and working on collecting data appropriately.
  - Working on write-up for an Annual Survey report. Summary report will contain only Annual Survey data.
  - Survey took a majority of a weeks time. Data collection will likely take a majority of time as well.
  - Opened on July 2nd; will close on July 31st
- Society Expo Meeting on June 19th and June 26th with the Member Services Coordinator and Rigel Biscione Cruz, Coordinator with Dalhousie.
  - Reviewed incentives and logistics for full-online.
- Finalized Commissioner hiring with Events Commissioner Hiring Committee: June 19th with President and VPAE.
- Completed VPI Ratifications. See Society Review Committee Updates for ratified list.
- The Student Accessibility Fund Committee is continuously approving rolling applications, meeting every 2nd Friday to match the cheque run schedule.
- Completing constitution checks for SRC approvals on a rolling basis.
- Drafting and brainstorming a Crisis Flow Chart for DSU and services usages.
- Planned a stable, long-term solution with E&A Office, NSPIRG, and DRO for Anti-Oppression Training.
  - E&A Office with NSPIRG are creating an online module system for accessible Anti-O training. It has been agreed that Brightspace will be the platform.
  - Release date some time in August.
- Attending & Supporting “Un-Learn with the DSU” meetings with Communications team, E&A, BSR, and DRO: July 2nd.
  - Working on Social Media releases and content for anti-racism information for allies and support for marginalized communities.
- Chairing the Office Steering Committee meeting: July 10th.
• Approved an extension for the E&A Bursary extension for up to September.
• Configuring Society Offices Spaces for the Fall Semester; reviewing locations and current availabilities.

University Affairs and Committees

• Classroom Planning Committee Cancelled: June 22nd.
• DSU and Dal Senior Administration Meeting: June 24th.
  o Made requests in line with MOTION 2020-06-18-11.6 moved by the Black Students’ Representative at our last Council meeting; discussed tuition and requested decrease; called for race-based data release and collection.

External and Broader Community

• N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

• Ratified Societies from the July 8th Meeting:
  o Dalhousie Commerce Society
  o Dal Law Students’ Society
  o Dalhousie Management Society
  o Dalhousie University Computer Science Society (CSS)
• VPI Ratification list:
  o Japanese Society
  o Dalhousie Chess Club
  o Surgical Exploration and Discovery (SEAD)
  o Dalhousie Anime Club
  o DalDance Society
  o Dalhousie Women's Rugby Football Club
  o Dalhousie University Rugby Football Club (DURFC)
  o Dalhousie Students Supporting Sick Children (DSSSSC)
  o YESS- Your Environmental Sustainability Society
  o Art For Everyone Society (AFE)
  o On Their Shoulders: Women in NS Politics
  o Sqeeeeze
  o Dalhousie Women in Engineering (WiE)
  o Dalhousie Oceanography Undergraduate Society (DOUGS)
  o Dalhousie Kinesiology Society
- Dalhousie Undergraduate English Society
- Dalhousie University Computer Science Graduate Society (CSGS)
- Dalhousie Renewable Energy Society (DRES)
- Dalhousie Association of Law, Justice and Society Students (DALLJS)
- John E. Read International Law Society
- Dalhouse Youth Legal Education Society (DYLES)
- The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students in English (DAGSE)
- Islamic Relief at Dal – Halifax Chapter
- Greater Love
- Dawson Geology Graduate Society (DGGS)
- School of Information Management Student Association (SIMSA)
- Public Administration Student Society (PASS)
- PhD Health Student Society (PhD HSS)
- Dalhousie Christian Students on Campus (DCSC)
- Applied Scientific Coding (ASC) Society
- Dalhousie Baseball Club
- STEM Fellowship Dalhousie
- Dalhousie University American Concrete Institute (ACI) Student Chapter
- Dalhousie Southeast Asian Nations Society (DSEANS)
- Dalhousie Oceanography Student Association (DOSA)
- Rowe Women in Business Association (WIBA)

**Upcoming Dates**

- Co-Curricular Record and Ratification combination Meeting: July 14th.
- Ombudsperson Meeting with Ivan Joseph, VPAE, and VPFO: July 16th
Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: June 13 – July 10

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- DSU Health and Safety Committee met on June 30 to discuss reopening plans for the SUB this fall. Decisions around re-opening the SUB are in development and will relate to the University’s plans for re-opening residence and campus spaces.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings
- Preparation for collective bargaining with the full time staff union next week
- Made a map of the quad in preparation for O-Week! (see appendix A! Hand drawn, because I’m not very tech-savvy, BUT it’s to scale and has been very helpful for planning out socially distanced events in the quad.)
- Support for Offices Steering Committee including budget revisions
- Communication with full-time staff and operational departments about budget revisions
- Food bank support – deliveries and pick-ups on Monday morning, working on MOU with Dalhousie for food bank funding with the goal of long-term sustainability for the food bank.
- Financial and investment policy review, including reviewing bank account access policies for responsible fiscal management
- Society support: completing audits, reviewing outstanding invoices to Shadow Security from residence council and societies, recording treasurer training videos for the website
- Working on updated financial projections for fall, involving ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. These numbers will continue to fluctuate over the summer, so additional budget revisions may be necessary in the fall.
- Reviewing inactive society levies and creating plans to support current levy initiatives.
- Signage and protocol for COVID-19, preparation for safe re-opening and events support in August.
- Coordinating return to office for E&A, DSUSO, CKDU and possibly the Loaded Ladle.
- O-Week event planning, including obtaining necessary municipal permits
- International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on July 2, we awarded $1850.00 in International Student Emergency Bursaries. We also met on June 18, where we gave out $7810.00 in bursaries.
• Audits passed this reporting period: Dalhousie Urban Garden Society, DalOUT, Loaded Ladle

University Affairs and Committees

• Transportation and Security Committee, June 30, 2020: Discussion of parking costs, Committee is recommending NO increase for this year, but Finance department at Dal will likely increase them. Potentially looking into monthly parking permits to adapt to COVID-19.
• President’s Advisory Council on Sustainability: no meetings scheduled this period.
• Conversations with VPAE and Student Affairs regarding the hiring of an ombudsperson – this has been ongoing since last year.

External and Broader Community

• Deliveries for the Loaded Ladle food box program every Tuesday afternoon
• Coordinating Dodge Caravan donation to Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia’s program in Membertou First Nation, just waiting for them to obtain a temporary permit!
• Reached out to SUNSCAD re: removal of NSCAD President, and have offered support to them while they navigate procedures with their Board of Governors. We also posted a solidarity statement on July 3.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

• Received no applications in June.
• Next meeting:
  o Deadline of at July 22 noon, Committee meeting on July 24
Appendix A: SUPER FUN map of the quad!
Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: June 18, 2020- July 10, 2020

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee: June 30, 2020
   a. The committee discussed long-term planning and individual member’s concerns, then identified the following areas of advocacy:
      i. Lowering tuition
      ii. Creating an Indigenous language and culture course(s) at Dalhousie

2. I sat on the Hiring committee for our new Campaigns Commissioner: June 19, 2020, June 22, 2020
   a. The committee hired Krystal Mutyabule
   b. Their first task was to develop a budget for a potential rally as an escalation of our RejectThe3 campaign.

3. Developing educational content for O-week

4. Ongoing work with RejectThe3.
   a. Following up with the list of demands
   b. Providing input on where changes can be made to the budget to better serve students
   c. In the process of determining the most impactful escalation

University Affairs and Committees

1. Meeting with the admissions department: June 30, 2020
   a. Discussion on publishing all their demographic information gathered and including more specific questions
   b. Unfortunately, they are not able to publish this data: “Any diversity data collected and stored by the Registrar’s Office happens at the point of application, with language on the application form around why we’re collecting it as per the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) act, to assist in admission and scholarship decisions, where applicable. It’s voluntary action on the form.” (email with admissions team). The
FOIPOP act prevents them from publishing or using admissions data for anything other than admissions decisions.
c. They are open to collecting more specific and comprehensive demographic information from students in an informal form. I will remain involved in these conversations as that form develops.
d. They admissions site is very limited and run by a third party. They are in the process of redoing this site and updating it to meet current standards, including more comprehensive language and LGBTQ+ options. They expect this development to take about a year. However, they have limited ability to manipulate the existing site. We tentatively plan to make smaller changes to the LGBTQ+ options by adding more gender and sexuality identities into the existing question structure and including a disclaimer that the incoming site will be more comprehensive.

2. Open Education Resources (OER) committee: July 8, 2020
   a. Encouraging professors to use open access (free) resources
   b. Reaching out to Universities with strong OER systems to ask for input

3. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
4. Worked with Dalhousie administration to solve a grading issue in the School of Architecture
5. Code of Student Conduct Review Committee work is ongoing
6. Discussion with the University surrounding their Return to Campus plan
   a. Encouraging them to give students with access needs that make it difficult for them learn from home priority when accessing learning spaces on campus
   b. Encouraging the University to open as many study spaces as possible

External and Broader Community

1. Consultation with DISA to discuss developing a Statement of Solidarity with Yemen, Opposing Violence and, consequently, the sale of Military Equipment to Saudi Arabia

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Reached out to all groups that require representation
   a. All 14 members must be appointed by their society/council and submitted as soon as possible. A formal deadline will follow shortly. The original deadline provided by Senate was not feasible.

Upcoming Dates

1. Government Student Roundtable: July 15, 2020
   a. Opportunity to discuss student issues with the government
i. Increasing tuition
ii. Accessibility barriers caused by remote learning
iii. Addressing systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism at Dalhousie

2. Maritime Student Congress: July 15, 2020
   a. Discussing the work other VPAEs have been completing and challenges they may be facing