Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: July 11, 2020 – August 07, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Ongoing meetings with the Operations team, Research and Outreach team, Graphics team, Council working group, and Health & Safety Committee
- VPSL retook office on July 31st, ongoing meetings to orient, update and plan O-Week
- Ongoing meetings to plan O-Week and prepare talent, O-Week leaders, logistics, and programming content
- **July 13, 20, 27, August 06**: Executive Committee Meetings
  - Ongoing discussion on Ombudsperson – close to reaching an agreement
  - Decided to support SUNSCAD and Friends of NSCAD in their advocacy work
  - Closing the Community Closet due to COVID-19
  - Wellness Room and Prayer Space will be moved to separate locations. Decisions around where each space will be located are underway.
  - Agreed to donate the depreciated Tiger Patrol Van to Sipekne’katik First Nation.
  - Approved the hiring of limited part time staff in Members and Events Services, and Facility Operations departments.
  - Working on plans for Sexton Campus spaces, changes to theDSU Health Plan, and return to work plans for SUB.
  - Approved capital expenses for the Student Union Building; new fridges in the Grawood & gate around Campus Copy.
  - Working on ensuring that international students will have access to health insurance in the fall in light of COVID-19.
  - Reviewing Residence Council bank accounts and placing them under the authority of the VPFO.
  - Ongoing discussions about University relations (admin, DFA, etc.).
- **July 16, July 30**: DSU Council
  - July 30th extraordinary meeting served as the official notice of the lapse of the VPSL’s suspension, and therefore his reinstatement to office.
- **July 20**: closed Judicial Board hearing
• **July 21, 27: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Meetings**
  o *July 21:* Discussed Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Terms of Reference Packages, approved it with no edits. Discussed the election of the LGBTQ+ Rep on Council and agreed to do some consultation.
    ▪ Consultation occurred with Dal Out president and changes are reflected in the policy noticed on July 30th.
  o *July 27:* Discussed the Elections and Referenda Policy and approved with possible edits, later resolved by the Policy and Governance Coordinator.
    ▪ Ongoing follow up meetings with the Policy and Governance Coordinator to prepare for policy notices on the 30th of July.

• **August 07:** Investment meeting to place me on as a signing officer, discussion on ethical investments and the types of accounts we hold.

**University Affairs and Committees**

• Ongoing meetings with the Dal Orientation planning working group, programming sub-committee, and Virtual Sense of Belonging Committee.
• Ongoing meetings with Student Affairs office to plan O-Week and discuss fall campus experience.
• **July 14:** Board of Governors Special Meeting
  o Review of the 19-20 Operating Budget Report
  o Review of the 19-20 Audited Financial Statements
  o Appointment of the External Auditors for 20-21
• **July 14:** Employment Equity Council Meeting
• **July 15:** Meeting with Residences team to discuss isolation and move-in rules and student numbers.
• **July 16:** Meeting with the Director of Dal Health and Wellness, David Pilon
  o Discussion on programming for the year, Mental Health Forum, O-Week, and international student care and insurance.
• **July 22:** Interview with Dal Magazine
• **July 28:** AM & PM Town-halls with senior admin and incoming students/families

**External and Broader Community**

• **July 13, 16, 17:** Maritime Student Congress
  o Met with President Caucus, VPSL Caucus, and had a general feedback day.
  o Discussed common issues, plans for the year, adaptations for Covid, O-Week, managing internal executive relations, handling administration, accommodating students, and making events fun during a pandemic.
• **July 15:** Provincial Government Student Roundtable
  o Present: Duff Montgomery, Deputy Minister Labour and Advanced Education (LAE); Labi Kousoulis, Minister LAE
Discussions on the MOU/tuition, NSCAD BoG, supports for professors and quality of learning, financial supports for students international and domestic, wage subsidies, co-ops. Update on the Healthy Minds Committee and sexual violence prevention working group.

- Relatively un-eventful, Minister wasn’t there for long.

- **July 16**: Meeting with RBC for potential sponsorship agreement
- **July 16**: Meeting with Shinerama Coordinator and Shine Representative to approve plans to move DSU’s Shine Campaign to the winter semester due to COVID and its impact on influx of donations, and changes to O-Week.
- **July 22**: Meeting with Katie from Halifax Cycling Coalition to discussion O-Week promotions and ongoing sustainability collaborations.

### Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- No meetings of the BoG Student Caucus

### Upcoming Dates

- **August 13**: Presentation to the Return to Campus Committee on events, bar services, societies, and O-Week
- **August 22**: Residence open for isolation
- **August 22**: Orientation programming begins online
- **September 2-5**: General residence move-in
- **September 5-11**: O-Week & in-person events
Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: July 11th – August 7th

Council Date: August 13th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- **Crisis Flow Chart** finalized and sent for feedback to the UnLearn with the DSU team.
  - Flow chart is meant to guide organizations (primarily Student Union focused but can include societies & others) in how to respond to situations that affect their marginalized communities while putting emphasis on consultation. It is not meant to serve as an all-encompassing checklist but rather a guide to emphasized the need for community and internal consultation & the need for a meaningful & timely response. It is currently in its roughest draft – before feedback and input.

- VPI ratifications being completed periodically, roughly 3-4 times a month. Latest date of approvals: August 7th, 2020.

- Constitution template: midway through creation. Finalizing projected for the next following two weeks. Being made to support societies with the creation and review of their constitutions to not delay ratification processes in the future.
  - Have been using Constitution Checklist for VPI use and good constitutions as references for additional information.

- Society Offices Spaces are being discussed by SRC to make room for BUSA. Reconfigurations have societies supporting marginalized communities in priority.
  - Decisions are very preliminary. Request for information has been sent out to those societies with 2019 office spaces.

- Graduate Student Working Group reviews and revamping. Working on creating a proposal for discussion with appropriate bodies. If approved, will be proposed to Council.
  - In very early stages. Not in a place to be ready for discussion.

- Grants *Funding How-to’s* document mostly finalized and released during Treasurer trainings. Made with the intention to guide societies of how and why to apply for Grants from the DSU. Will hopefully prevent societies from incurring debt and being able to appropriately fund their events/projects. Finished on August 5th.
• Also offers Non-DSU Grant how-to’s
  • Waiting on How to get Sponsorship excerpt from our Sponsorship Coordinator to add.
• Campaigns Commissioner assisted Annual Survey data collection work for the past two weeks.
  • Sorted feedback in the open-ended questions into topics for better overall viewing.
• Student Accessibility Bursary Committee: Met on July 17th and July 31st to continue to approve bursary applications.
• Equity and Accessibility Bursary Committee: Met on July 16th, 23rd, 30th and August 6th to approve in-coming bursaries.
• Offices Meeting with DRO and Executives on July 28th.
  • Routine check-in with DSU Offices.
• Logistical Society Expo Planning Meeting on July 31st,
  • Continuing to iron out wrinkles that arise with an online event.

University Affairs and Committees

• AUCRETT Taskforce First Meeting: July 29th, 2020.
  • This committee is the Academic Unit Creation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer, and Termination Taskforce which is in its preliminary stages of collecting policies from external sources to base the committee’s policies of off.

External and Broader Community

• Attempting to help guide NSPIRG and E&A office into collaboration for Anti-O training creation.
  • Sorting out payments, timeline, and finding solutions for short term for society training.

Society Review Committee Updates

• Society Review Committee met on August 6th last and approved the following applications:
  • Students’ Association of Health Sciences (SAHS)
  • MBA Society of Dalhousie University
  • Association of Health Administration Students (AHAS)
  • Tentatively approved: Dalhousie Medical Students Society
• Approved the decision for CCR training to be incorporated into next years society trainings, for all societies. Motion is yet to be voted on but all are currently in favour.

**Upcoming Dates**

• Annual Survey Data Meeting – August 12\textsuperscript{th}
• DSU Executive and Dal Student Affairs Admin Meeting on August 12\textsuperscript{th}
• Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting with Susan Spence on August 21\textsuperscript{st}. 
Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: July 11 – August 7, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Continued discussion with the Operation/Health and Safety team 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.
- Continued work with collective bargaining with the full-time staff union.
- Offices Steering Committee: support for part-time offices staff, budgetary and donations support, met to update on quarterly goals and projects.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have had one session so far, and it went very well! Got some good feedback from the attendees. There are eight upcoming sessions – many in August as there is high demand right now and starting in September they will be biweekly or monthly as needed.
- Events support for our reservations department, working some evening hours as well as weekends to accommodate an external booking.
- Investment Review: in progress, the new President has been added to the account and I am in the process of reviewing our July investment statements. Planning to meet with the Budget and Finance Committee at the end of August to discuss.
- Food bank support: have finalized an MOU with Dalhousie for food bank funding, with the goal of long-term sustainability for the food bank.
- Society support: completing audits, ensuring that winter disbursements have been received, writing some bank letters to transfer signing authorities to new executives. Coordinating hand-over of physical documents between outgoing and incoming society treasurers.
- 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.
• Support for coordinating returns of products from Grawood and T-Room, as we will likely be closed this fall.
• Continued review of inactive society levies and creating plans to support current levy initiatives.
• Have coordinated office access for E&A, DSUSO, and CKDU. Currently working on logistics for Loaded Ladle operations in the fall.
• O-Week event planning and budget support.
• Review of International Student Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference.
• International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on July 16, we awarded $1050.00 in International Student Emergency Bursaries.
• Audits passed this reporting period: Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society, Dalhousie Computer Science Society

University Affairs and Committees

• Transportation and Security Committee did not meet this period.
• President’s Advisory Council on Sustainability: no meetings scheduled this period.
• Conversations with VPAAE and Student Affairs regarding the hiring of an ombudsperson – this has been ongoing since last year.
• Big win: worked with Student VIP to ensure that international students studying outside of Canada will be able to access mental health services in their home countries. Advocated with Dalhousie Student Affairs, and Health and Wellness, and the Remote Health Plan will be offered at no cost to students studying in their home countries!
• Met with executive members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association on August 6th to collaborate on some of our mutual goals and discuss upcoming issues that will affect students and faculty, including tuition fees, the need for increased fiscal transparency at Dal, online learning issues, and fair working and learning conditions for faculty and students.

External and Broader Community

• Deliveries for the Loaded Ladle food box program every Tuesday afternoon.
• Waiting on a date to deliver the Tiger Patrol Dodge Caravan to Sipekne’katik First Nation, who will be able to use the van at the First Nations school and for other band activities.
• Looking into possibility of financial literacy workshops organized by BMO Pennydrops (Dalhousie chapter).
• Met with NDP MLA Kendra Coombes on July 21 to discuss postsecondary education and COVID-19 issues, and to lobby for the concerns of DSU members.
• Continued advocacy at the government level for CEWS updates and increased students benefits.
• Met with Taking It Global on July 24 to gather more information about their grant programs. Currently working to disburse this email to societies and encourage them to apply for funding for projects they are already working on.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

• Due to committee member scheduling, the July meeting of the Grants Review Committee meeting was postponed to August 12, 2020. We have received several applications and look forward to assessing them.
• Next review period:
  o Deadline of **September 16 at noon**, Committee meeting on September 18.
Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: July 10, 2020- August 7, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee
   a. Introductions for new members
   b. Discussing ways to begin pushing for more Indigenous courses and content in the classrooms
   c. Discussing tuition increases and brainstorming how to address the problem with the provincial government

2. Developing content for O-week
   a. Your Education Your Rights Video
   b. Welcome to Halifax Video

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing work with the admissions department discussing immediate changes that can be made to make to the language on the application page more inclusive and larger changes that can be made to a new application page that is in development and will be completed in about a year.

2. Open Educational Recourses (OER) committee
   a. Met with UPEISU to discuss their OER initiative -July 22, 2020
   b. Developing a plan to make a similar proposal to the government requesting a grant start a similar program at the DSU

3. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs

4. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee

5. The Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination, or Transfer (AUCRETT) Taskforce met for the first time. - July 29, 2020
   a. I will be a co-chair of this taskforce

6. Ongoing with Senior Administration andFaculty about developing an “Equity SRI”
   a. Would provide an opportunity for students to flag oppressive or racist content in their classes and be in a format similar to the existing SRI
b. The goal is to have Dalhousie launch this initiative and have BIPOC students as part of the committee that would review the responses and provide recommendations for improvement

External and Broader Community

1. Developed a statement in solidarity with Yemen. Publishing date is to be determined.
2. Ongoing work addressing tuition
   a. Preliminary development for a community NS Needs Students event

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Reached out to all groups that require representation
   a. Have received responses from 14 of 18 groups
   b. I am currently waiting on the remaining appointments and missing written confirmation for recently made appointments.

Upcoming Dates

N/A
Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: July 3- August 7

Council Date: August 13

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week
   a. July 31st: Reviewed and edited O-Week graphics and merch
   b. Aug. 4th: Filmed Halifax tour video as part of O-Week
   c. Aug 4th: Filmed interview for O-Week exec introductions
   d. July 31st- Aug. 7th: Met with exec and staff in order to be brought up to speed.
      i. Answered/ Read 400 emails.
      ii. Attended numerous meetings with Exec and Staff

2. ESRI Initiative
   a. Aug. 6th: Joined VPAE on Equity SRI initiative as member of the BIPOC community

3. Shine Planning
   a. Aug. 6th: Made contact with Commissioners regarding organizing alternative Shine Fundraiser for CF.

External and Broader Community

1. Dal Gazette Interview
   a. Aug 7th: President and I attended interview with Lane Harrison regarding returning to office, as well as future plans

Upcoming Dates

1. O-Week Dates
   a. O-Week programming begins Aug. 22nd with online activities and content.
   b. In-Person activities begin after out-of-province students complete 2 week quarantine on September 5th