Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

Council Date: March 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

February 26: Motion passed to approve $11 purchase made on the Visa. Motion passed to allocate an additional $30,000.00 to the Mental Health Fund and $80,000.00 to the Student Emergency Fund. VPFO and VPI to propose motion to council to allocate an additional $30,000.00 to the Accessibility Fund. Discussion and agreement that Ascension’s tenancy cannot continue on a month-to-month basis as they proposed due to DSU’s budget structure – proposal made to Ascension for a one-year lease term. Director Research and Outreach provided information on the Health and Dental Plan and identified urgency in bringing motion back to Council. VPSL gave update on hiring of new Residence Director and plans for 2021 fall orientation. Director Research and Outreach gave update on laptop record keeping. Motion passed to allocate capital projects funds to conduct any necessary construction for the temporary repurposing of Campus Copy (this project won’t continue without Council approval, but the motion saves the funds from moving to retained earnings in case we do need them). VPFO asked question about the Mental Health Fund.

March 01: Discussion on the tuition fee increase and potential responses. Director Operations provided information of the Health and Dental Plan and the proposed fee increases. VPFO raised questions about the new part time staff payroll system and the Member Services assistant hiring.

March 05: Director Operations announced purchase of 24 barstools for the T-Room. VPSL gave update on end of year programming and Impact Awards. VPI asked question about gambling event approval and provided an update on ongoing conversations with the Loaded Ladle, DUES, and Dalhousie about addressing food insecurity on Sexton Campus. Discussion on potential Council motion to allocate budget surplus to capital projects so it doesn’t go to retained earnings. Discussion on how to temporarily repurpose the Campus Copy space while consultation occurs to determine whether printing services are desired by the membership.
Consultation on the DAL Accessibility Plan. Director Operations gave update on T-Room info and Tiger Patrol insurance. Director Research and Outreach provided an update on International Women’s Day programming and asked about creating an independent email for questions related to bursaries. VPFO asked question about DSAS budget for 2021/22. VPI asked about status of Council motion related to additional funds for the Accessibility Fund – VPFO to report directly.

**Other Meetings/Tasks**

*February 24, 1pm: Time Entry Training to understand new pay system for part time DSU employees. Attended because part time staff are included in the President’s Office budget.*

*February 24, 3:30: Society Event Approvals meeting.*

*February 24, 5pm: Council prep meeting.*

*February 25, 7pm: DSU Council <3*

*February 26, 10am: Meeting with new Policy and Governance Coordinator to do introductions and discuss perspectives on current policy initiatives, places for improvement, and strengths of the position.*

*February 26, 2pm: Meeting of the Working Group giving feedback on Dalhousie’s Accessibility Plan.*

*March 05, 10am: DSU Staff meeting.*

*March 05, 3:15pm: Meeting with DSU Council BoG Rep #2 to discuss motion related to tuition fee increase.*

**University Affairs and Committees**

*February 23, 4pm: Meeting of the Governor’s Awards Selection Committee.*

*February 24, 9am: DSU Exec/Senior admin meeting. DSU President discussed Fall student assessment data on mental health and asked for an update on actions taken to holistically address mental health on campus. Dalhousie admin says an email has been sent to faculty and staff to tell them to take care of their health and well-being. DSU President iterates that we have to build holistic measures so faculty and students can limit conflicting priorities for addressing health and wellbeing issues. Dalhousie admin gave an update on the Budget Advisory Committee Report and DSU executive pointed out lack of student centricity and issues with fee increases. Dalhousie admin gave an update on winter term student assessments.*

*February 24, 10am: Meeting of the President’s Advisory Committee on Sexualized Violence. Updates from several staff regarding the annual Sexualized Violence report, data collection, and ongoing and new initiatives. DSU President made comments on the lack of actionable items mentioned in the SV Report – there is no evidence that Dalhousie is committed to addressing
the issue beyond data collection. The lack of actionable items makes the report feel like a ‘box-checked’ rather than meaningful action in support of survivors and community.

**February 25, 10am:** Meeting with Dalhousie Return to Campus Steering Committee representative to discuss complex society event request.

**February 25, 1pm:** Meeting with Advancement Office to discuss partnership on connecting DSU society leaders and volunteers who are graduating with the Alumni Network.

**February 25, 1:30pm:** Meeting with President Saini, Provost Harvey, and Assistant Vice-President (AVP) Human Resources to discuss issues that occurred in the Board of Governors, including offensive actions and the use of time dedicated to student representatives to critique the student perspective on the University’s response to sexualized violence.

**February 25, 4:30pm:** Return to Campus Executive Committee meeting. Notes circulated to the DSU executive. Summary available upon request.

**March 02, 12pm:** DSU Exec/ Student Affairs Office Meeting. Fall 2021 priority-setting discussion with the Registrar and Assistant Vice-President (AVP) Academic – points included addressing the impact of tuition fees (including the need for better identification of where student’s fees go, how they are used, and why they rise), Senior Administration (SA) and DSU membership on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), and clarity of Taskforce responsibilities. VP Student Affairs to provide written comment on DSU feedback on the SA Strategic Framework and Dalhousie’s Consultation Policy. Check-in on a few residence related discussions.

**External and Broader Community**

**February 25, 11:30am:** Interview with Dalhousie Gazette to discuss the allocation of ~$9.5 million in public funding from Nova Scotia to Dalhousie.

**March 04, 5pm:** Interview with the Nova Scotia Advocate regarding tuition fee increase.

**March 04, 7:30pm:** Interview with CTV Atlantic regarding tuition fee increase.

**Board of Governors Caucus Updates**

N/A

**Upcoming Dates**

March 16: DSU/DAL President’s meeting

March 17: DSU/SA Office meeting / Return to Campus (RTC) Exec Committee meeting

Week of March 22: Candidate Interviews for the Provost & VP Academic

March 25: RTC Exec Committee meeting
Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Feb. 20th - March 5th.

Council Date: March 11th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Member Services Assistant (MSA) Hiring Committee
  - MSA’s have been hired and begun working.
- Society Events Approval Meeting – Feb. 25th
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee – Feb. 26th
- Student Accessibility Bursary Fund Meeting
  - Approvals and issuing bursaries.
- Emergency Bursary Committee – Feb. 26th
  - Lots of bursaries issued! A very full bursary week.
- Society re-ratification!
  - Creating the society ratification forms for next year and figuring out the logistics of society training days has taken a large majority of my time recently in order to prepare for the new season come May 1st.
- Unlearn Meeting – March 2nd
  - We discussed new content and next steps for the Unlearn project that the DSU Equity and Accessibility Office and DSU Communications team have been working on.
- Anti-O Meeting – March 2nd
  - Finalizing content & delivery of Anti-Oppression Workshop for societies. Working on final feedback collection and working on submitting requests for website changes.
- Staff Appraisal – March 4th
- Loaded Ladle at Sexton Conversations
  - Next steps have been established. Consultation process beginning.

University Affairs and Committees

- N/A
External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC has not yet met in this time frame.

Upcoming Dates

- Annual Survey Closes March 15th.
- Society Survey Closes March 18th.
Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Isa Wright

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

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Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Regular Executive Committee and staff meetings.
- Preparation of the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.
- Adjusted the elections reimbursements process with the CRO for more efficient candidate reimbursements.
- Met with societies regarding society audits, banking information, bank account options, and signing authority transitions.
- Arranged for a continuation of Pride Week with another round of massages for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, which occurred on February 21.
- Support for the Mental Health Bursary Committee.
- Support for implementing anonymous bursary review processes in the Accessibility Fund Committee.
- Support of new payroll and time tracking system for part time staff.
- Budget and Finance Committee has recommended the adoption of the 2021-22 DSU Budget.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: issued a total of $4,150.00 in this reporting period, for a total of $9,150.00 this year.
- DSU Student Emergency Bursary Committee: issued a total of $78,500 in Emergency Bursaries in this reporting period, for a total of $90,500 this semester.
- Society Grants were issued to the following societies at the last Grants Committee meeting:
  - Dalhousie Hygiene Equity Society
  - Atlantic Lighthouse Society
  - Dalhousie American Sign Language (ASL) Society
  - Cryptocurrency Research & Investment Society
  - Dalhousie Birding Society
  - Dalhousie Students Supporting Nepalese Children
  - Rotaract Club of Halifax
  - Dalhousie Black Law Students’ Association
University Affairs and Committees

- Attended the first Name Changes in Dalhousie Systems Committee meeting to discuss need for improved access to name change options in Microsoft Suite, Brightspace, and Dal Online. Beginning consultation with affected students and student groups in the coming weeks.

External and Broader Community

- Arranging sponsorship of the following organizations:
  - Avalon Sexual Assault Centre
  - Delmore ‘Buddy’ Daye Learning Institute
  - Treaty Truck House against Alton Gas
  - Mi’kmawey Debert Cultural Centre
  - No One is Illegal Halifax

Upcoming Dates

N/A
Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

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Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
   a. Two of four translations are now complete.
2. Student Senate Caucus (SSC) met on March 5th to discuss Senate’s agenda for the March 8th meeting.
   a. We appointed students to Faculty Award Selection Committees
   b. We discussed ways to make Senate more accessible to the greater student body
   c. We were consulted by the University about an online exam toolkit
3. The Accessibility Fund Committee met on February 26th to review applications.
4. On March 3rd we began developing our campaign strategy to respond to Dalhousie’s draft budget, which shows another increase in tuition.
   a. We are trying to develop a unique plan considering previous actions have been unsuccessful.
5. Ongoing work on my transition report for the incoming VPAE.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
   a. A special meeting of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee is scheduled for March 18th. We will vote on the SRCCs and other amendments to the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) policy.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. We are discussing how to make the language and limitations of the code clearer.
3. On March 2nd I attended an Academic Quality Taskforce meeting and encouraged the group to increase communications with students so students can know about the conversations that are taking place.
4. On March 3rd I attended an Exam Regulations Working Group meeting to discuss long term changes to exam policies.
5. On March 4th I attended one of the final meetings of the Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer and Termination (AuCRETT) Taskforce. Policy was finalized and will be brought to Senate.

Upcoming Dates

N/A
Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

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Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Black Student Grant Committee
   a. Feb. 22nd: Reviewed grant applications and aided in the distribution of funds.

2. International Student Emergency Bursary Committee

3. Student Life Committee
   a. Feb. 24th: SLC met to discuss various jobs, possible event opportunities, and volunteer plans.
   b. March 3rd: SLC met to discuss details for upcoming events/initiatives.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Impact Awards
   a. Feb. 24th: Aided in the committee’s planning of this year’s Impact awards.
   b. March 3rd: Various key members of the committee met to discuss the script for the videos.

2. Residence Life Director, Search Committee
   a. Feb. 25th: The first round of interviews was conducted with 3 of the 4 candidates.
   b. Feb 26th: The 4th candidate was interviewed. Committee decided on 2 candidates to move forward to a second round of interviews.
   c. March 2nd: The second round of interviews was conducted with the finalists.
   d. March 3rd: The committee met to debrief and determine a plan of action.

3. 2021 Orientation
   a. Feb 26th: Met with Dalhousie Student Engagement Coordinator to discuss volunteer needs for the upcoming orientation.
   b. March 4th: Met with Dalhousie Orientation Committee to discuss possible action plans for the upcoming year.
External and Broader Community

1. Nothing to report

Upcoming Dates

1. Mental Health Fund
   a. Deadline to apply is March 14th and any student can apply to offer holistic aid in a time of mental health adversity.