Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: December 09, 2021 – January 05, 2022

Council Date: January 10, 2022

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings
N/A

Additional Meetings

*December 10, 10am:* performance appraisal meeting for a full-time staff member.

*December 10, 12pm:* meeting with DSU Women’s Representative councillor to discuss women’s week programming.

*December 10, 4pm:* Student Senate Caucus (attended, but meeting cancelled a few minutes in due to lack of attendance & students requesting time to study for exams).

*December 13, 7pm:* DSU Council meeting.

*December 27, 11am:* meeting with the Directors to discuss implications of Omicron variant (of COVID-19) on DSU operations.

*December 30, 11am:* follow-up meeting with the Directors to discuss implications of Omicron.

*January 05, 2:30pm:* meeting with Director, Research & Outreach and VP Internal to discuss Winter Pride programming.

University Affairs and Committees

*December 13, 3pm:* Senate meeting.

*December 15, 9am:* meeting with DSU executives and Dalhousie Senior administration.
Discussion on Campus Check program and vaccine compliance for 2022, residence compliance for 2022, international student support, and an outgoing university memo regarding exams and winter term.
December 16, 11am: meeting with Dalhousie President to discuss divestment and student experience.

December 20, 1pm: meeting with Dalhousie governance review consultant.

External and Broader Community

December 09, 1:30pm: Government-student roundtable with the Minister of Advanced Education and other Nova Scotia student unions/organizations.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

N/A

Announcements

In-person office hours, including Sexton Office hours, suspended due to Covid-19. Virtual office hours are M-F, 9-6, by appointment (email dsupres@dal.ca).
Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Truelee Love

Reporting Period: December 09, 2021 – January 5, 2022

Council Date: January 10, 2022

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Winter Pride Meeting January 5, 2022 – We met to decide what events to move online, postpone or hold in person. Majority of events will be moved online and if restrictions lift we will look at holding some events in person later in the semester.
2. Virtual Society Expo Updates Meeting January 6, 2022. – Moving Society Expo set for February 1, 2022 to an online format similar to last year’s expo.

University Affairs and Committees

1. FASS Faculty Meeting December 14, 2021
2. DSU Executive and Senior Administration Meeting December 15, 2021

Upcoming Dates

Society & Volunteer Expo set to take place on February 1st has changed to a virtual format. The DSU website will host Teams links created by registered societies so that students can hop on and interact with society members from noon to 2pm on Tuesday, February 1st. Societies also have the option to be shared on DSU socials and to include digital sign-up lists for interested members. Registration is still open until the 17th and you can register here: dsu.ca/expo.
Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Frey Verth

Reporting Period: November 25 – December 8, 2021 and December 9, 2021 – January 5, 2022

Council Date: January 10, 2022

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Dec 03: International Student Emergency Bursary Committee meeting

Some follow up ongoing regarding current policy preventing access to funds for students who mention tuition in their application. This could be the difference between a successful and unsuccessful applicant according to current practice, even if the student can demonstrate the transitory / emergency nature of their funding request and fits all other criteria. Looking into whether these applicants can apply again and have their application reconsidered, and will be proposing a policy change if not.

Dec 07: Housing bursary design meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator

- Design phrasing of motion (now passed) regarding emergency housing bursary and clarifying available funds / relevant restrictions tied to bylaws.

University Affairs and Committees

Dec 01, 06, 20: Ratification of Academic Integrity cases

- Large number of cases, with attempts to process further work during holiday period.
  - Some uniquely bleak student statements should make the psychological strain students are under readily apparent to anyone affiliated with this process.
  - Expectations regarding disciplinary action are wildly non-standard across departments, unclear methodology for determining severity of response.

Dec 01: Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) meeting

- Student Feeback on Learning Experiences Questionnaire (SLEQ) subcommittee made for trying to rework the questions.
Through the works of local reps, we moved from only one student rep to one undergraduate and one graduate rep present on this subcommittee.

If any councillor is interested or knows any student that would be interested in sitting on this committee, please refer them my way. Please note that this committee will have a significant amount of readings regarding methodology.

Dec 02: Another SLEQ meeting (question phrasing / specifics for subcommittee)

Dec 07: Executive / student affairs meeting

- Discussion of aiming to adjust timeline for university budget approval.

Dec 15: Executive / senior admin meeting

- Predominantly focused on the recent COVID-19 outbreak and speculation regarding measures and communication regarding exams.
- Some discussion regarding vaccine hesitance and current travel advisories.

Jan 05: SLTC meeting

- Two significant discussions:
  1) Protocols for exams / discussion of online proctoring
  2) Yet more SLEQ conversations
- Online proctoring discussion was a follow up on a subcommittee which highlighted contemporary contention surrounding online proctoring, student concerns, current negative feedback and media attention, as well as more practical / logistical concerns regarding data management and privacy.
- Regarding SLEQ: Functionally the third iteration of the same acknowledgement of limitations of the questions. Some highlight of unfortunate behaviour from students end that is still shaping the discussion.

External and Broader Community

Nov 30: Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee

- Attended Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee as DSU rep to a sitting committee of NS Legislature.
- Highlighted barriers to access for the designed “bystander intervention” modules for general public.
- Through follow up: obtained access to full “Waves of change” module files for open redistribution among interested members (contains general “spectator intervention“ focused coaching / educational materials).

Dec 09: Government Student Roundtable
• Meeting with provincial Advanced Education Minister.
  o Predominantly follows party line (Supply side approach to remedying housing / cost of living issues facing students IE: Divert public funds to private business rather than direct funding for students / training and use companies as intermediaries in the forms of subsidized employment.)
  o Highlighted the government’s choice of a fixed election date in June coinciding with the absence of full-time students from out of province / students with summer placements, and the choice’s resultant disenfranchisement of students in NS elections.

Senate Caucus Updates

Dec 13: Senate Meeting

• Predominant discussion focused on “Opt in vs Opt out” for sharing results of student feedback from the SLEQ.
  o Remarkably robust amount of faculty complaints on an issue which most senators could not clarify or elaborate on the specifics / mechanisms of feedback, but rather were tied to sentiment regarding how things were read or perceived.
  o After discussion at least a quarter of voting members abstained, which was unique in my tenure.
    ▪ It is still being discussed in SLTC. Feedback process requires extensive revision.

Upcoming Dates

Emergency Housing Bursary

• Students interested in joining the Emergency Housing Bursary Committee can submit an interest form by January 20th. Interest forms can be found at dsu.ca/committees.
• Promotion of the Emergency Housing Bursary will be included in the DSU Newsletter on January 14th and will be promoted on social media during the following weeks.
• Deadline for students to apply for the first round of bursaries is February 11th.