

02-17-2021

Stephen Abbott, Chair of the DSU Oversight Committee

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

The following is a summary of our discussion regarding the documents submitted by the VPSL, as required by Council per the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the DSU Council:

Requested Documentation	Submitted Documentation	Notes
Agendas & a summary of discussion for every Healthy Minds NS meeting attended since the beginning of their term.	A total of 59 documents were submitted, some duplicates, both screenshots and word documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agendas for Healthy Minds NS committee meetings were included.</li> <li>- Records of discussion for two Healthy Minds NS meetings show that he was absent, contrary to what the VPSL has reported in Council reports.</li> <li>- Some documents submitted were from before the VPSL took office.</li> <li>- Submitted documents sufficiently evidence the content of the Health Minds NS meetings.</li> </ul>
Documentation of the work done so far to create a mental health committee, including the specific efforts to include diverse student voices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A screenshot of an email from the DSU Policy &amp; Governance Coordinator to the DSU executives with notes on the discussion during a Council prep meeting on 12-02-2021</li> <li>- A screenshot of a meeting invitation where the VPSL agreed to meet with the Policy &amp; Governance Coordinator on 12-06-2021 to discuss the mental health committee terms of reference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation shows that the VPSL did not begin tangible work on the Mental Health Committee until 12-2021, where this goal was set by the VPSL for Summer 2021 Term.</li> <li>- The documentation presented provides no evidence of efforts to include diverse student voices.</li> </ul>
Documentation for the mental health & wellness campaign hosted in the Fall term.	No documents were submitted which were assumed or identified as relevant to this request.	No documentation was submitted to evidence the VPSL's work on a mental health & wellness campaign, a goal set by the VPSL for Fall 2021 Term.

<p>Documentation of the work done so far this year on food insecurity, including the specific efforts to include diverse student voices.</p>	<p>An agenda for a 07-21-2021 meeting titled, "Student Food Insecurity Discussion X UASU"  A pdf document titled, "Can Nova Scotia Afford to Eat Healthy?" from 2015, prepared by Mount Saint Vincent University.  A document titled, "Food Insecurity Literature Review &amp; Study Outline". The document was not able to be opened; Word indicated it contained "unreadable" content.  A PowerPoint titled, "Student Food Insecurity Presentation". The document was not able to be opened; Word indicated it contained "unreadable" content.</p>	<p>The meeting agenda provided did not include meeting minutes, or an explanation of how this meeting was related to the VPSL's work for the DSU related to food insecurity. It is unclear what UASU refers to.  The pdf did not provide documentation of the VPSL's work for the DSU related to food insecurity, other than to support evidence of some research on the topic.  The documentation presented provides no evidence of efforts to include diverse student voices.  The VPSL previously explained during a Council meeting that their work on food insecurity would be evident in an honours thesis project they were working on. We are concerned that the only evidence of this is a literature review and study outline (which we were unable to view), when there should be more progress, or updates, on an honours study at this point in the academic year.</p>
<p>A list of accessible events/programming you planned and ran, and agendas and minutes from Student Life Committee meets where accessible programming was discussed OR record of other consultation with students on accessible programming.</p>	<p>A screenshot of an undated email from the DAL ASL society requesting marketing support for a conference they were hosting.</p>	<p>There is no documentation to support the VPSL's involvement in the planning of this DAL ASL society conference.  There were no additional documents provided that could be assumed or identified as relevant to this request.  We note that the Student Life Committee has not met during the 2021-22 term thus far.</p>

There was one piece of submitted documentation, a screenshot of an email that did not include a date, subject line, or who the email was sent by or to. The email included an overview of provincial resources related to health that Nova Scotia Health provides. We were unable to determine what this documentation was intended to support.

Based on our analysis of the documents provided by the VPSL, we do not feel that the VPSL has provided sufficient documentation, as mandated by Council, to respond to the Oversight

Committee's Fall executive performance evaluation. We are requesting the following from the VPSL by February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm AST:

- An explanation of the discrepancy between your recorded absence at Healthy Minds NS Committee meetings and your reports to Council stating your attendance.
- An explanation of why work on the Mental Health Committee did not start until 12-2021.
- Documentation for your work on the mental health & wellness campaign hosted in the Fall term.
- Access to the two unreadable documents, as well as details on how and when your work on food insecurity will be brought to the rest of executive and Council, including what impact or action items will result from this work.
- A list of accessible events/programming you planned and ran, and an explanation for why Student Life Committee has not met yet this year.

We will meet again on the 25<sup>th</sup> to review the VPSL's submitted documents and will then send them to Council for review, as well as Oversight Committee for any further response.

- Maddie & Stephen