Report of the President

Aparna Mohan

Reporting Period: May 1, 2022 – September 14, 2022

AGM Date: September 27, 2022

Goal Progress

1) **Summer 2022**: Build an outreach strategy to increase student engagement with DSU advocacy, policy & governance for implementation in Fall 2022 & Winter 2023
   a) **Rationale**: Low student engagement undermines our credibility as a representative body within and beyond the University community and affects our ability to continuously improve on our policies and governance.
   b) **Metrics**: AGM attendance, October 2022 By-Election Candidate Pool & Turnout, March 2023 General Election Candidate Pool & Turnout, etc.
   c) **Status**: I have fully laid the foundation for my online outreach strategy this academic year which will comprise an Instagram account (@aparnadsupres), Twitter account (@aparnadsupres), Dal Mobile account (@Aparna Mohan) and Reddit account (@aparnamohan). Each platform’s unique strengths will be leveraged in service of increasing engagement from students with the DSU and raising the DSU’s profile with other stakeholder groups like Faculty members, administrators, journalists, government officials and the public. For my in-person outreach strategy, I have identified class talks before major DSU events, attending DSU society events and major society meetings (e.g. AGMs) as formal outreach touchpoints.

2) **Fall 2022**: Increase access to skills, knowledge & competencies necessary to build a sustainable, decentralized movement against tuition increases.
   a) **Rationale**: The rising costs of a post-secondary education are the most frequently discussed and important barrier facing students at Dalhousie. But many students are too frustrated, tired, and exhausted by the strains created by rising tuition to engage with advocacy against it despite a desire to. There is strength in numbers though and we need to create capacity within every pocket of the community through increased access to training on relevant competencies and knowledge.
   b) **Metrics**: The number of opportunities/workshops + attendance, amount of grassroots-level advocacy, participation in DSU campaigns, etc.
c) **Status:** This Fall, I will be using my training and the outreach strategy built over the summer to increase knowledge on tuition history and adjacent issues. Our VP Academic & External is organizing a Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Townhall this October 19 that I will be supporting with presentations and discussion facilitation. The DSU has also pursued a formal observer status with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) which is a national coalition organization of student unions that advocates to the federal government about post-secondary issues. I have also been taking many 1on1 meetings with societies and students looking to get more involved in advocacy.

3) **Winter 2023:** Increase access to supports for student leaders to cultivate a compassionate culture within the Union and adjacent student leadership spaces.
   a) **Rationale:** Any organizational undertaking must be accompanied by a culture that is supportive of that undertaking. Advancing student issues will require fostering a culture of compassion within student leadership that does not always exist when leadership positions are viewed solely as resume-building opportunities rather than community-building opportunities.
   b) **Metrics:** Burnout levels within the executive, the staff, broader student leadership spaces, turnover frequency, etc.
   c) **Status:** Returning staff members have already commented on how they feel that there is a warmer atmosphere this year under the new executive team. Returning student volunteers have also shared similar remarks. I have been intentional about integrating opportunities for bonding and socialization within the team throughout the week while still holding the team to high expectations. I have also had conversations with the executive team about their longer-term personal goals to help design work expectations that are appropriately rewarding and challenging. We have candid conversations about our workplace needs and have experimented with setting up supports like body-doubling. Executives have commented that they feel genuinely excited about coming into work and feel supported.
Internal Affairs & DSU Committees

Executive Council Meetings (ECMs)

The ECMs are a weekly touchpoint during which the DSU Executive team makes important administrative decisions that facilitate the day-to-day operations of the Union within the framework and direction provided by the DSU Council and broader DSU membership. During these meetings, we have been able to coordinate our team’s preparation for key meetings with university administration, coordinate attendance of key community events, as well as complete housekeeping tasks like setting standing meeting times and determining office hours. For example, one important summer development was the review of our contract with food vendors at the Student Union Building to facilitate key equipment upgrades (e.g. Iced Capp machine at Tim Horton’s). I also facilitated professional development for our team on government relations by inviting DSU executive alumnus and Ottawa lobbyist Rob Leforte to deliver training on how to lobby different levels of government.

Bylaw & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)

As President, I chair the BPRC. The foundation of the work to be completed by the BPRC has been completed by way of an External Governance Review commissioned by the DSU Executive in 2020. The delays in filling BPRC appointments over the summer and the delays in receiving this external governance review ultimately limited my capacity to set up the BPRC to constructively engage with the DSU’s policy and governance over the summer. By the time these foundations were completed, the DSU’s capacity had to be fully directed to welcoming students to campus and outreach through our orientation week activities. The BPRC will be engaged this fall in revising the DSU 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and reviewing policies for any revisions to be submitted to DSU Council.

Student Board of Governors & Senate Caucus

Our student caucuses inform student representation on the University’s senior decision-making bodies. Both the Student Senate Caucus and Board of Governors caucus have been trained and informed on the structure and dynamics of university governance as well as the key issues that have been discussed on these bodies. As President, I chair the Board of Governors Student Caucus and serve as deputy chair for the Student Senate Caucus. The main ongoing development on both Senate and Board of Governors is the discussion and implementation of an external governance review that was commissioned by Dalhousie in response one of the commitments in the 2021 Strategic Plan: Third Century Promise. As well, the DSU has submitted a motion to approve academic amnesty for students attending the Global Climate Strike in Halifax on September 23 which is still in the process of being approved at the time of writing. Within the reporting period for this report, there have been three Senate meetings (May 9, June 13, & September 12) and one Board meeting (June 28) which was accompanied by the Annual Board of Governors Dinner.
DSU Services & Advocacy

This summer, I worked with our Communications Director and Graphic Design Coordinator to update our housing resources webpage and advertise these updates to the broad student community in response to the continuation of the housing crisis in Nova Scotia. I also initiated a motion and statement to signal solidarity with the unhoused residents of People’s Park and resulted in a $1000 donation to service providers in the city. Based on our capacity and historical usage data, I directed our Survivor Support Centre (SSC) to use this upcoming year to audit the phoneline as well as the SSC’s overall operations to inform future upgrades. I will be supporting this audit through monthly check-ins with the SSC Coordinator. I also initiated a motion and a statement to signal the DSU’s solidarity with CUPE 3912 which represents TAs and other precarious academic workers at Dalhousie.

University Affairs & Committees

Student Affairs Bi-Weekly Meetings

The DSU Executive team has been successful in building strong rapport with the Student Affairs team with particular attention to its newer additions, Vice Provost Student Affairs Rick Ezekiel who started in June 2022 and International Centre Director Adam Christie who started in August 2022. The main touchpoint with Student Affairs is our bi-weekly meeting through which we have informed and consulted on responses to key issues affecting students such as but not limited to: the housing crisis, the rise of unsanctioned street parties, and specific challenges experienced by international students. One main product of our strong partnership with Student Affairs over this summer was our contribution to conversations facilitated within the Dalhousie community about unsanctioned street parties. We will also be co-facilitating student consultations this Fall to supplement the other community consultations completed over the summer.

Ombudsperson Advisory Committee

The Ombudsperson Office was jointly created by the University and the DSU to provide independent, impartial & confidential support to students who want to resolve any university-related concerns. As part of its advisory committee, I support strategic planning, and discussion on trends and themes to make appropriate recommendations to the University. Over the summer, I had the opportunity to see and provide feedback on the 2021-2022 Annual Report. This report is a valuable opportunity for the Ombudsperson to make recommendations for changes in university policies and procedures based on observed trends and patterns.

Community Events

The DSU Executive team is regularly invited to University community events and under my direction, we have intentionally maximized our attendance at all of these events to signal visible leadership and capacity for civic engagement. As President, I am also additionally invited
to speak at events. To date, the DSU Executive team has attended the Summer & Spring 2022 Convocation ceremonies, the Pride Flag-Raising Ceremony, Halifax Pride (as part of Dalhousie’s entry in the parade), the Community Strategies Lab and the Fall Induction Ceremony. I was invited to speak at the Pride Flag-Raising ceremony and Induction ceremony on behalf of the DSU. I was additionally invited to a Convocation Dinner at the President’s Residence on May 29th in recognition of 2022 Honorary Degree recipient Dr. George T. Mencher. This provided a valuable opportunity to build rapport for the DSU’s key strategic priorities this year.

**External & Broader Community**

**Government Relations**

Over the summer, student union leaders across the province received an orientation from the Department of Advanced Education on their quarterly roundtable discussions. We have since represented Dalhousie students at the June Quarterly Roundtable and the Annual Partnership Meeting in September. Coalition organizations, CASA and CFS have more dedicated capacity for government-related advocacy whereas student unions do not have the same resources. Since the DSU is currently not a member of any coalition organization, we sought observer status with CASA over the summer to access knowledge and resources of the larger organization. We have also initiated a series of meetings with elected officials at different levels of government starting with MLA and Advanced Education critic Lisa Lachance. We attended the Annual Partnership Meeting to hear from Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) and the Government about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)’s implementation across the province. We were also able to speak to the work the DSU has done to support students and strongly emphasize that current conditions are unsustainable.  

We also met with Lisa Lachance to discuss the political climate under the new government and what the treatment of Post-Secondary Education has looked like under the Progressive Conservative Government. The meeting reinforced our assumptions that the new government has a strong emphasis on healthcare, with less attention and care paid to student issues. The government’s lack of transparency has forced the other political parties to be reactive, as opposed to proactive in their work. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to advocate for student issues and set up future executives for success in the upcoming 2024 MOU renegotiation. The Post-Secondary Education Townhall on October 19 will be an excellent opportunity to meet with and hear from key stakeholders in the PSE community and to build our capacity to engage with issues affecting students. I encourage Dalhousie students to attend and engage with the Townhall in whatever capacity they are able.

**Conferences**

The DSU VP Academic & External and I attended the 2022 Maritime Student Congress (MSC) held this year in Wolfville at Acadia University. MSC brings together student union leaders from across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI together to facilitate professional development,
knowledge-sharing and discussion on contemporary post-secondary issues. We also had the opportunity to attend part of Students Nova Scotia (SNS)'s Policy & Strategy Planning conference which facilitated more focused professional development and discussion. Both these conferences have been critical relationship-building opportunities that have increased our visibility into other jurisdictions to help better inform our leadership here within the Dalhousie community.

Media Engagements

As the designated spokesperson for the DSU, it is my responsibility to determine which interviews we accept and delegate them between myself and the rest of the executive team. Typically, it is the DSU VP Academic & External that takes interviews if not me. To date, I have endeavoured to accept as many interviews as I can, especially from our campus newspaper, to promote transparency and accountability within the DSU. My media engagements so far include but are not limited to: CTV Atlantic TV, CBC Radio, Postmedia, Canadian Press, Saltwire/Chronicle Herald, All Nova Scotia, Brunswick News and the Dalhousie Gazette. The topics on which we have represented students include the housing crisis, inflation, cost-of-living concerns, Dalhousie administration pay, and Homecoming at Dalhousie.

Upcoming Dates

Dalhousie Board of Governors Meeting – October 18, 2022
Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Townhall – October 19, 2022
Dalhousie Senate Meeting – October 24, 2022
Dalhousie Mental Health Forum – October 26, 2022
CASA Advocacy Week – November 21-25, 2022
Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: May 01 – September 14, 2022

AGM Date: September 27, 2022

Executive Goals

**Summer**: Update the DSU website to help students engage more with societies, by the end of the summer term.

- Organize the societies list to help people find societies relevant to their interest
- Highlight and update resources for students who are looking to create, revive or take over a society
- Create additional resources for society execs (e.g. transition report templates, running society finances, etc.)
- *Metric*: Increase total ratified society numbers by 15%

This goal was based on my experience as a Society executive during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, I experienced issues with retention and recruitment within the Society, as well as issues with day-to-day operations of the Society due to my lack of knowledge on what supports the DSU could provide for us. I was also aware of how important certain tools I received to do my job better (for example, a transition report) were integral to the success of my goals, and I got to see firsthand with other people I worked with how the lack of said tools made their work more difficult. These are the issues I set out to solve with this goal.

Over the course of the Summer, I worked with our Societies and Programming Coordinator and our Communications Team, especially our Graphic Designer, to find a way to materialize my ideas. We isolated specific areas on the website that needed updates and decided on how to integrate additional resources within its overall structure, in an attempt to mitigate interface restrictions. On the website, I have laid out how people can join a Society or ratify it with the DSU, depending on whether it is a new or returning one. I have also outlined all the steps
needed or recommended for executives to follow to ensure they are up to date with their responsibilities to the DSU.

I have also created two resources in slide deck form, one about writing a transition report, in an attempt to make it less daunting for people to provide this tool to their successors and ensure the passing over of institutional knowledge. The other has to do with Society finances, a subject that personally caused me headaches and anxiety as an executive. I consulted our VPFO and my personal experience while in office to isolate which questions from Societies kept popping up and tried to explain them as best as I could in accessible terms.

In terms of what still needs to be worked on, the Societies directory is still out of date, since updating it is a task that needs to be done manually for each Society, and there has been little capacity so far to get that done from all involved parties. I will be looking more into what can be done about the matter, since the Societies directory is an important advertisement tool for Societies.

**Fall:** Coordinate relations with societies, attend regular meetings and communicate with people what it is the DSU can do for them and what they need to do in return (e.g., on advocacy issues)

- **Metric:** Facilitate at least two collaborative events between the DSU and a society and/or between two or more societies, by the end of the Fall semester

- **Metric:** Create and distribute a society-wide email informing societies of advocacy the DSU is responsible for, and what the DSU can provide society execs (beginning of October)

The DSU has over 250 active Societies, all of which are composed of highly motivated, passionate, and intelligent people. Though Societies can accomplish a lot by themselves, together they can find strength in numbers and take on bigger projects and initiatives. As well, a lack of coordination between Societies can create situations where they end up competing for the same resources and people interested in interacting with their initiatives. As an overarching structure, I believe that the DSU has the power to facilitate collaborations between Societies (either with each other or with the DSU) and foster a bigger community on campus.

To achieve this goal, I have internally promoted and encouraged collaboration between the DSU and our Societies. I have also sent out open invitations to Society executives to come visit me during office hours as an opportunity to get to know me, get questions answered, and get projects on my radar that I could refer other people to. I also coordinated outreach from the executive team to Societies, with the aim to encourage people to join our AGM. All other parts of this goal are still in the works.
Winter: Draft a suggested Equity Policy for societies and guidelines on creating an Equity Officer position in a society

- Contact HRES, advocacy related societies on campus (for an honorarium), the Equity and Accessibility Office, and/or hire a law student with experience in mediation
- Have it up on the website by the end of April

One of the projects I worked on with other people during my time in Sodales, the Dalhousie and King's Debate Society, that I'm most proud of to this day, is the creation of our Equity Policy. This policy is meant to create a safe space for people within the Society, while outlining clear and tangible mechanisms by which members can be held accountable for their actions in a way that promotes restorative justice and education wherever possible. I want to help other Societies, once they have (hopefully!) recruited their members, to be able to give them reasons to stay, by knowing they will always be welcome and safe. That is why this is my final goal.

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

This year the VPI has been added as a representative for the executive to the Health and Safety Committee, which meets every so often to discuss relevant matters about the operations of the Union and of the Student Union building. Notable discussions so far are whether there should be any requirements for Societies in regard to COVID-19 (there are none, but masks and social distancing are highly encouraged), as well as partnering with the University to distribute masks in the SUB.

I am also proud to report that I have been very active on Council, mostly by doing presentations. This has led to good rapport between me and Council members on issues I've talked about during Council. I had the opportunity to talk about my goals there as well.

One of the projects that spanned throughout the Summer was the Society and Volunteer Expo. I sat down with our Director of Research and Outreach and our Societies and Programming Coordinator to figure out the details for the event. I mostly advocated for having the Expo take place during the second week of September, as early as possible, to ensure people had been settled into their weekly schedules and felt like they could carve out some time to attend it. This would also increase Societies’ chances for recruitment. This was very helpful experience, which I hope to bring into the Winter to increase our capacity to accommodate special requests and fun programming.

Society Review Committee Updates
The SRC has been meeting regularly throughout the Summer, mostly to ratify Faculty and Levy Societies. There haven't been any complaints that the SRC has had to look into yet, which is very encouraging. I have been doing most of the constitution checks myself.

Offices Steering Committee Updates

The OSC has met once over the Summer, and committee members were updated on the Offices' goal for the year. Notable initiatives that the executive is helping/has helped Offices with as a result of this meeting are: hiring process for the DSU Sustainability Office (DSUSO) positions of Policy and Programming Coordinators and Food Commissioner, connecting people involved in sustainability initiatives on campus through DSUSO, and the Equity and Accessibility Office's initiative on menstrual product distribution throughout the Dalhousie Campus.

Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

The Student Accessibility Fund Committee has been meeting monthly throughout the Summer and has switched to every two weeks in the Fall to accommodate the large volume of applications. Through the help of my committee members, I have identified key areas that the committee's work needs improvement on, and am trying to find or have found solutions on:

- The application form's lack of clarity on what the money for the fund can be used for. I updated the form per the committee's request to reflect the fact that bursaries cannot be given to pay tuition and academic fees, as per the Bursary Policy.
- The application form's accessibility.
- Issues with assessing applications for psychoeducational assessments, which cost a significant amount more than what the Fund can provide. A lot of them come through referrals from Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness. It is also worth noting that most of these applications are near-identical, making the committee's work even harder. I have reached out to Dalhousie's Student Affairs team to pursue the matter further.

University Affairs and Committees

The previous VPI sat on a few different committees that I took over from them, namely the University Classroom Planning Committee, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Committee, and the Accessibility Advisory Steering Committee. Most of them either weren't meeting throughout the Summer or pose conflicts with other meetings I must attend at the same time. This is something I need to work on. Per the recommendation of Dalhousie’s Accessibility Committee, I attended a survey done by PEACH on Sexton Campus on sign visibility and accessibility and reported my experience to the Disabled Students' Representative.
The DSU has biweekly meetings with the Student Affairs team, where we discuss initiatives that we would like to work with the University on and feedback we have for certain departments adjacent or a part of Student Affairs. Notable contributions on my end were the inquiry to the Registrar regarding students' request to receive their degrees in Mi’kmaq as well as English, and more recently the SAF inquiry mentioned above.

Along with the rest of the executive team, I represented the DSU at several different convocation ceremonies throughout the Summer. This was done as an invitation from the Registrar’s Office that the DSU is very grateful for. I also attended a Housing Brainstorming Session in June with the rest of the executive team and key members from Dalhousie’s administration. This session aimed to find short-term solutions for incoming students who would be affected in September by the housing crisis, which is something the DSU has been trying to do since the new executive team got into office through our initiatives and advocacy.

External and Broader Community

As the VPI I don't have that many opportunities to represent the DSU to the external community. I have tried to attend events representing the DSU wherever possible. Notable events are the MasQueerade hosted at the McInnes Room by the AIDS Coalition of NS, and the Halifax Pride Parade.

Upcoming Dates

None.
Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: May 01 – September 14, 2022

AGM Date: September 27, 2022

Executive Goal Progress

Summer Semester Goal:

My goal for the summer semester is to raise more awareness about the DSU Budget for the general members of the DSU:

A. Providing detailed guidance and other resources on budget and fiscal transparency that are available.
   - This might include summarizing the budget into infographics and sharing relevant parts on several channels, which include, social media, the DSU website, and even the dal mobile app once we get access to it. (I am currently working on finding the appropriate form of infographics by researching several other similar examples).

B. Helping general members by raising their awareness of the various available standards and guidelines.
   - This can be achieved by working with the comms team to plan a marketing strategy to raise more awareness about the budget for the general members. (I am currently working on setting up a meeting with the comms team to discuss the marketing strategy).

Update on Summer Semester Goal Progress:

- I am currently finalizing a Budget Report which will be shared with the general membership during the fall semester.
- I have finished designing and working on the budget Infographics, which will also be shared with the general membership during the fall semester.
• I will also add some social media posts that might explain complicated parts of the budget and simplify it for the general membership.

Fall Semester Goal:

Work on making The Grawood more hospitable/active:

A. By working with the comms team on establishing a marketing strategy that will focus on making The Grawood more appealing to students for studying/hanging out.

− This might include advertising that shows events taking place at The Grawood, special offers/deals on food, activities taking place at The Grawood.

B. By making sure that The Grawood would have items that would attract students.

− This might include having a playstation/xbox or a video game platform available for students to use. I will also ensure that we have sports channels that would show significant sports events such as the World Cup, NFL, NBA, Tennis championships, NHL, and any other sports event. I would work with the comms team to establish a marketing strategy that would advertise these events for students so that they would be able to know that they can come to The Grawood to watch them. I will also work with The Grawood team to make The Grawood Menu more efficient and attractive to students.

Updates on Fall Semester Goal Progress:

• PS5 has been bought for The Grawood and has been used in one of the events of O-Week (Fifa Tournament). The PS5 will be used for bi-weekly gaming events at The Grawood and the general membership will has access to use it whenever they’d like.

• Currently working on finding the appropriate funds to purchase a Nintendo Switch for The Grawood.

Winter Semester Goal:

Prioritize optimizing accessibility for bursary programs:

− I will work on establishing a strategy that would make bursary programs become easier to access by students.

Winter Semester Goal Progress Update:

• I am working on developing a survey to ask the general membership of suggestions to how we can make bursary programs more accessible.
- Read transition reports of the past five VPFO’s.
- Met with the outgoing VPFO and discussed several strategies related to the role.
- Set up my office hours for the summer semester: Mondays/Fridays, 12-3 PM
- Selected which convocations to attend at the ECM (Executive Committee Meeting). May 31st Architecture and Dentistry, June 2nd Management, and June 3rd Science.
- Set up a Treasurer Training Registration Form and set dates/times for the Treasurer Training sessions for General Interest (optional), Faculty, Constituent, Levy society treasurers. Treasurer training registration went very smoothly. The dates/times for the treasurer training sessions for the Summer/Fall semesters are as follows:
  - Friday, May 27 at 1 PM
  - Wednesday, June 22 at 2 PM
  - Monday, July 25 at 2 PM
  - Tuesday, August 23 at 3 PM
  - Friday, September 30 at 1 PM
  - Monday, October 24 at 12 PM
  - Thursday, November 24 at 2 PM
- Worked with Staff on setting up a treasurer training prep session, to set up the treasurer training presentation and practice how to properly present it to society treasurers so that they would acquire the necessary skills they are seeking from this treasurer training sessions.
- Met the new Bar Manager, who will be supervising the Grawood, T-Room and DSU Functions.
- Was registered as a signor for the DSU.
- Responded to emails and offered help and guidance to all societies that required assistance that was within my jurisdiction as the VPFO.
- Attended weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Set up potential dates/deadlines for the International Student Emergency Bursary Committee (ISEBC) Meetings and applications, these dates could be adjusted to accommodate the committee member’s time conflicts.
- Set up potential dates/deadlines for the ISEBC applications.
- Attended a Transportation and Security Committee Meeting on May 17, 2022.
- Successfully worked with Staff and conducted the first treasurer training session on Friday, May 27.
June

- Responded to emails and offered help and guidance to all societies and members that required assistance that was within my jurisdiction as the VPFO.
- Attended all weekly Executive Committee Meetings and Bi-weekly Operations staff meetings.
- Attended Grawood Menu Planning Meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, to work on improving the Grawood Menu.
- Concluded my duties as a student representative for the Spring Convocations.
- Met with the staff to discuss the food bank and the farmers market operations and funding processes.
- Attended a tour of the Dal Archives with the other execs.
- Attended Dal Commerce Society event to further connect and socialize with our societies and make them feel more included.
- Grants and Sponsorship Committee (GSC) has been struck and will be meeting monthly to award grants.
- Confirmed potential dates/deadlines for GSC Meetings and applications with all newly assigned members of the committee.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee has been struck and will be meeting monthly to approve applications.
- Confirmed potential dates/deadlines for the International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Meetings and applications.
- Successfully conducted the second treasurer training session on Wednesday, June 22.
- Attended DSU Executive/Student Affairs Bi-weekly Meetings.
- Successfully concluded two ISEBC meetings on June 9 and June 23.

July

- Responded to emails and offered help and guidance to all societies and members that required assistance that was within my jurisdiction as the VPFO.
- Attended all weekly Executive Committee Meetings and Bi-weekly Operations staff meetings.
- First GSC meeting took place on July 14 and was concluded successfully.
• Attended weekly Grawood Menu Planning Meetings to work on improving the Grawood Menu.
• Concluded my duties as a student representative for the Summer Convocations.
• Attended all bi-weekly Student Affairs Meetings.
• Successfully concluded two ISEBC meetings on July 14 and July 28.
• Attended Transportation Meeting and voted against a 1.25% parking fee increase for 2022-23.
• Attended Student Housing Brainstorming Session and discussed ideas about how to address the student housing crisis in Halifax.

**August**

• Responded to emails and offered help and guidance to all societies and members that required assistance that was within my jurisdiction as the VPFO.
• Attended all weekly Executive Committee Meetings and Bi-weekly Operations staff meetings.
• Second GSC meeting took place on Thursday, August 11.
• Attended weekly Grawood Meetings to work on improving the Grawood.
• Attended all bi-weekly Student Affairs Meetings.
• Attended a monthly financial update meeting to review budget up to date.
• Attended a lunch meeting with the student affairs team with the rest of the executives.
• Attended a meeting with Bell and discussed sponsorship details.
• Successfully conducted the monthly treasurer training session on Tuesday, August 23.
• Successfully concluded an ISEBC meeting on Thursday, August 25.
• Successfully chaired and concluded the first Budget and Finance Committee meeting on August 26, 2022.

**September**

• Responded to emails and offered help and guidance to all societies and members that required assistance that was within my jurisdiction as the VPFO.
• Attended society fair.
• Attended University Fair.
• Attended weekly Executive Committee Meetings and Bi-weekly Operations staff meetings.
• Attended weekly Grawood Meetings to work on improving the Grawood.
• Successfully conducted the monthly treasurer training session on Tuesday, August 23.
• Attended a monthly financial update meeting to review budget up to date.
• Oversaw several O-Week events and helped with guiding students and assisted them in assimilating smoothly into our campus culture.
• Attended Induction Ceremony.

Upcoming Dates

• Treasurer Training Session on Friday, September 30.
• Society Review Committee Meeting on September 20.
• Budget and Finance Committee on September 26.
Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Sydney Keyamo

Reporting Period: May 01 – September 14, 2022

AGM Date: September 27, 2022

Executive Goals

1. Guidebook Creation

Goal: Create a series of guidebooks that help standardize the course selection process for students.

Status: The creation of the guidebooks is currently underway, based on need. At the time of writing, guidebooks have been completed for the Faculty of Computer Science and are in progress for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science. The Guidebooks include a guide to navigating the various types of degrees, a visual guide for planning, a list of resources and tips to navigating certificates.

2. Funding Cheat Sheet

Goal: Create an accessible guide for students to help them navigate funding at Dalhousie, as well as help foster an understanding on the differences between funding provided by Dalhousie and the DSU.

Status: In addition to the creation of the guidebooks, a cheat sheet on how to navigate funding is currently underway. This cheat sheet outlines the various funding opportunities provided through the university and the DSU, as well as information and resources to demystify the process of applying for funding.

3. Government Relations Development
Goal: Improve the DSU’s knowledge (ex. current political climate, legislative deadlines) and execution of competencies associated with strong government relations to improve the representation of the student voice.

Status: Since the DSU has not been a member of any coalition student association since 2015, there has been a greater need to build capacity internally to represent students on issues to elected officials at every level of government. This provided the impetus to seek out an observership with CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations), as well as Government Relations Training from Rob LeForte, lobbyist and former DSU Executive (2009-2011). We are currently in the process of establishing first points of contact with relevant elected officials and have already met with Halifax Citadel Sable-Island MLA, Lisa LaChance.

**Internal Affairs and DSU Committees**

**International Student Emergency Bursary Committee**
- As part of my internal responsibilities, I sit on the International Student Emergency Bursary Committee and take minutes for all meetings. I made the decision to join this committee as part of greater efforts in my work for Fairness for International students.

**Executive Committee Meetings**
- Throughout the summer, the executive team met biweekly to discuss any items that came up regarding the day-to-day operations of the DSU. During these meetings, we typically handle housekeeping tasks and administrative duties, as well as approve any necessary appointments before bringing them to council. ECM’s have also been used as a good tool to help provide support to the executive and keep all team members within the loop regarding the operations of the DSU.

**External Committee**
- The external committee has been formed and have begun to lay out the foundation for this year’s advocacy work. The committee has identified Tuition Advocacy, Regulation for International Student Tuition and Course Delivery Regulation as the biggest focuses for the year.

**Senate Caucus**
- Senate Caucus has been formed, with there being vacancies in the following positions: 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Indigenous Students’ Representative, International Student Representative, Computer Science Representative and Continuing Education
Representative. In addition to 10 of the 11 student senator positions being filled, all sub-committee appointments have been completed.

**University Affairs and Committees**

**Senate**

- As part of my role, I sit on the Dalhousie Senate, and various sub-committees of Senate including: Senate Learning & Teaching Committee (SLTC), Academic Quality Team (AQT), Senate Discipline Committee (SDC), Breaks & Statutory Holidays Task Force, Withdrawal Dates Review Task Force and Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ) Task Force.

**Student Affairs**

- The DSU Executive meets with the Student Affairs team on a biweekly basis to discuss ongoing matters including programming ideas, adjustments to convocation proceedings and discussion of student issues.

**Board of Governors Dinner**

- Earlier in the summer, I was privileged to attend the Board of Governors dinner alongside the President, where I got to observe senior admin and board of governor dynamics.

**External and Broader Community**

**Government Relations Building and Advocacy work**

- As part of my goal to increase the DSU’s capacity for advocacy, increasing our government relations was crucial. During the summer, I had the opportunity to attend the Maritime Student Congress, the SNS Strategic Planning Conference, the Community Strategies Lab, as well as the NS needs Housing workshops. In addition to this, I had the opportunity to attend the first of four Student Government Roundtables and will be involved in future government roundtables regarding the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). I will also be attending advocacy week later in the Fall with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) to lobby the federal government. As for campaigns, the NS needs students’ campaign is ongoing, I hope to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education in the near future to discuss some of the asks from this campaign and other issues facing students.

**Outreach**
To increase student engagement, the executive has been very intentional to interact with students more. Thus far, we have been active during Orientation Week, University Fair, Society expo and have even been conducting outreach via social media through Dal Mobile.

Connecting with other Student Unions

- In an effort to further my understanding of student union operations, I have been conducting ongoing jurisdictional scans of student union programming, advocacy and operations via social media.

Upcoming Dates

Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Townhall – October 19th

CASA Advocacy Week – November 21st – 25th
Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Emilia Cordova

Reporting Period: May 24 – September 14, 2022

AGM Date: September 27, 2022

Goal Progress

Summer: Orientation Week was a complete success. All events were well attended, including Paint Night, Canada 101, Queer Hangout, Board games at the SUB, and Ghost tours!

Fall: Currently contacting cultural societies to pitch events they want to run for Multicultural Week. Initial emails sent, deadline to submit the form is September 19th.

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Orientation Week 2022, May 24th – September 4th

a. Check-in meeting happened every Thursday from 11h00-12h00
b. Purchased pack material and T-Shirts for kits from Big Tree Promotion. Sent the logos created by our Graphic Designer, prioritizing the DSU logo in most of our material. Received material slowly from June to August.
c. Created a schedule with events targeting introverted/extroverted folks, International Students, and the Queer community. Decided O-Week was going to be from September 1st to September 4th.
d. Met with Ancillary Services on June 1st where I was informed about the Food Truck Festival, and they requested to include it in our schedule. I was also informed about the residence move-in dates, and the operations of meal hall.
e. Reviewed applications for Senior O-Week Leaders and interviewed suitable candidates. Part of the requirements was to have previous experience as an Orientation Leader. Their training happened weekly on Wednesdays at 18h00 starting July 20th. I decided to offer an honorarium of $200 to show appreciation for their work. They must submit a report where they state they have accomplished all their tasks.
f. Recruited 217 O-Week Leaders, they had training sessions on August 19th, 20th, and stuffed kits on August 27th. Training included, Consent and Bystander Intervention, Risk
Management, Security Awareness, and Orientation Logistics. They also learned the flash mob created by me.

O-Week was a successful event, with a large turnout, and a lot of positive feedback including Residence Assistants telling me “First-year students were manageable”, “they truly enjoyed O-Week”. Feedback indicates that our harm reduction approach (having supervised parties that go until late and constant events to channel first-year’s energy) worked.

Dalfest 2022, May 24th – September 9th

a. Selected artists for Dalfest and submitted offers to Haviah Mighty, Good Dear Good, Zamani and DJ Karate Kactus
b. Decided Dalfest date was September 9th
c. Secured the stage recommended by our Director of Facilities who has worked at previous Dalfests and similar events
d. Dalfest was well attended and a success

DSU Council

a. Summer meetings: May 24th, June 20th, July 18th, August 10th. Fall meeting: September 13th
b. VPSL highlights in council:
   a. Passed the motion approving the purchase of bulk material from Big Tree Promotions for Orientation Week kits.
   b. Reviewed applications for committee members from both councillors and general members and appointed the most suitable candidates.
   c. Presentation of Summer and Fall goals.

Executive Committee Meetings, Mondays and Fridays at 11h00

a. Regularly updated executive team with O-Week progress

Multicultural Week

a. Decided dates are going to be from October 3rd to October 7th on our Fall Semester Planning meeting on June 16th
b. Contacted all cultural societies ratified by the DSU and created a form for them to submit event ideas to be included in our calendar, deadline is September 19th

Student Life Committee Updates

Introductory meeting, July 11, 17h30:

a. Presentation about the DSU and Student Life Committee
b. Met all members of the SLC

Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee Updates

Introductory meeting, August 29th, 17h30:

a. Presentation about the DSU and MHC
b. Introduced the Dalhousie Mental Health Forum

University Affairs and Committees

Attended university events like:

a. Community Strategies Lab on Unsanctioned Street Parties
b. Annual Progress Report and Strawberry Jam
c. Spring Convocations May 24th – June 3rd and Summer Convocations July 5th – 6th
d. Pride Flag Raising on July 7th
e. Halifax Pride Parade with Dalhousie’s float, July 16th
f. Induction Ceremony on September 6th

Dal Mobile

a. Met with Hannah Waley on July 14th to discuss the DSU’s involvement with Dal Mobile
b. All executives got verified on the app
c. Executives have been active in the app and responding to questions from incoming students, my focus was mostly on O-Week related questions
d. Requested a channel for Orientation Week

Dalhousie Mental Health Forum (DMHF)

a. Met with David Pilon to set dates and locations for the DMHF. We agreed on September 28th, October 26th, and November 23rd from 16h00 to 17h30
b. Booked Room 303 and Council Chambers for the event, and sent a communications request to update the website and promote the event

Orientation and Impact Awards MOU

a. Currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Student Affairs and Ancillary to assign responsibilities and future meetings to streamline the process of organizing and running Orientation and Impact Awards

External and Broader Community
Nothing to report.

Upcoming dates

Multicultural Week October 3rd – 7th