Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Bianca Morelli

Reporting Period: May 14, 2024- June 10th, 2024

Council Date: June 13th, 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Ratifications, Bank Letters, and Net ID Applications

- I have ratified 121 societies to date (nearly half of all ratified societies last year as a whole and it is only June!)
- All other applications are up to date
- Sent out two separate communications urging all past societies to ratify and updating new societies on their privileges

Residence Life Meetings

- Tuesday, May 14th
  - I had a meeting with the Residence Life Managers to discuss the proposed structure for the Interhall Council which is something I will be working on this year
- Monday, June 3rd
  - I had a meeting with the Residence Life Managers to figure out where their community mentors would obtain funding from this upcoming year
  - We decided that they will be able to access funding from the money we are holding in trust for them so that they can have a larger programming budget in this interim period
  - We decided that I will come to the ResLife trainings and explain this process to them. More on this to come

South House

- Motion passed to suspend levy fees at Council meeting on May 16th, 2024 😊
- On May 22, 2024, I convened with the bookkeeper and the former President of South House to facilitate the transfer of all outstanding funds into the DSU bank account
• On May 22, 2024, I accompanied by the bookkeeper, I went to South House to gather crucial documents, including financial records and policy documents, which are now securely stored in my office.

Dalhousie IT Meeting, June 3rd, 2024

• I met with a representative from Dalhousie IT Support to figure out ways we can streamline the Society Net ID process.
• We also walked through the process of a Society creating a Dalhousie Website.

Equity & Accessibility Hiring: Office Manager and Project Coordinator: Ongoing

• I met with our Financial Controller and General Manager to review and refine the job descriptions for both the Office Manager and Project Coordinator roles, ensuring clarity and relevance.
• The updated job postings are now live on both Indeed and Bamboo, and I have been diligently evaluating incoming applications.
• I reached out to former staff members to gauge their interest in returning. The former Office Manager is interested in joining the hiring committee.
• I enlisted the participation of the Vice-President Academic and External on the hiring committee.
• To enhance visibility, I submitted a communications request to our Marketing Manager for promoting the roles on our Instagram platform.
• Additionally, I reached out to the Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development to effectively promote the vacancies among their student community.

Communications Meetings, May 21st, 2024 & June 3rd, 2024

• We have had two bi-weekly meetings since the previous council meeting.
• We have engaged in discussions regarding O-Week promotion, we selected a distinctive logo to enhance our branding efforts. Additionally, we have worked on updating our events calendar for the year ahead.

Executive Council Meetings

• I have attended each executive council meeting and have taken meeting minutes at each meeting.

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Training, May 23rd, 2024

• Attended the Sexual Harassment Training put on by the Sexual Education Resource Centre Director.
Maritime Students Conference (MSC), June 24th-26th

- I attended the MSC alongside the President, Vice-President Academic & External, and Vice-President Finance & Operations
- The MSC was an incredible experience to network with other Student Union representatives
- We had the privilege of attending remarkably informative and invaluable sessions during the conference. These included a panel organized by the St. Francis Xavier Administration, offering insights on effective collaboration with administrative bodies. Additionally, there was a presentation by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, shedding light on research findings regarding student needs in the Maritimes. We also benefitted from engaging sessions covering governance, policy, and advocacy, along with collaborative working sessions alongside executives from other Maritimes Student Unions. We were honored to listen to a keynote address delivered by the Honourable Sean Fraser, which added immense value to the conference experience!

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) Meeting with Societies & Programming Coordinator, Vice President Finance & Operations, General Manager, and Financial Controller, May 27th, 2024

- Discussed next steps in meeting with the DAGS Executive Team
- I sent a formal notice of DAGS’ ratification status to the President of Dalhousie

DAGS Meeting, May 31st, 2024

- Held a meeting with the DAGS Executive, Office Manager, Financial Controller, Vice President Finance & Operations to discuss the necessary steps that need to be taken for ratification
- I have updated the ratification form to ask societies to disclose if they are affiliated with any third-party advocacy group
- I have sent out the ratification package to DAGS and have given them until June 7th to have a follow-up meeting

DAGS Follow-Up Meeting, June 7th, 2024

- Held a follow-up meeting with the DAGS Executive, Office Manager, Vice President Finance & Operations, and the Societies and Programming Coordinator to receive an update on the financial status of DAGS and their completion of the ratification form
- Vice President Finance & Operations and I will be bringing a motion to today’s Council meeting to utilise the funds being held in trust for Graduate students to create a Graduate Student Office which will provide Graduate students with grants and bursaries
- We will have another meeting on June 14th

Society Review Committee Updates
- We had our first committee meeting on May 31st, 2024, wherein we successfully ratified 9 levy/faculty societies after constitution reviews were completed

**Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates**

- I have been actively promoting recruitment of general members and councillors for the SAFC and have sent mass communications gauging interest for the committee
- I hope to appoint one general member and two councillors at today’s council meeting

**University Affairs and Committees**

Meeting with the Vice-Provost of Equity & Inclusion (VPEI), May 23rd, 2024

- Discussed actionable strategies for implementing EDIA initiatives
- The Vice President of Equity and Inclusion expressed interest in having their research student review my completed EDIA training materials and offer constructive feedback

Meeting with the Assistant Vice-Provost Campus Living & Student Well-Being, May 29th, 2024

- I had a productive meeting with the Assistant Vice-Provost of Campus Living & Student Well-Being, where I presented my comprehensive plan for residences. They were receptive to the idea of suspending levy fees, prompting me to introduce a motion at today's council meeting to suspend levies for all remaining residence halls
- During our discussion, they expressed interest in exploring options to enhance programming despite limited community mentor budgets. We discussed the possibility of utilizing reserves earmarked for residences, which are currently unused, to bolster programming efforts. Upon obtaining the figures from our Financial Controller, it became evident that there are substantial funds available
- The Vice-President Finance & Operations and I deliberated on the idea of consolidating these funds into a single bank account, enabling us to disburse funds for events proposed by community mentors
- Excitingly, there are plans underway to establish a new position dedicated solely to residence life programming within the Residence Life Management team. This development will significantly contribute to the establishment of the Inter Hall Council
- I have scheduled monthly meetings with the Vice-Provost to ensure ongoing dialogue and progress monitoring regarding the Inter Hall Council's development

**External and Broader Community**

Nothing to report.

**Goal Progress**

- May 23rd, 2024
  - I recently engaged in a productive session with a representative from the Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) to review the ongoing development of my
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) training program. Together with the Societies and Programming Coordinator, I have been working on this initiative. During our discussion, the representative from HRES offered invaluable insights, ranging from specific accessibility tactics such as enlarging font sizes to broader considerations like emphasizing actionable strategies for societies to adopt.

- My overarching goal is to pivot from conceptual/definitional comprehension to action-oriented implementation. For instance, I aim to provide tangible guidance such as ‘Here are 10 actionable methods to foster equity within your society’ or ‘Here are 5 DSU-provided resources to enhance accessibility at your events’
- In addition, we're excited to announce that we'll be introducing monthly, in-person EDIA training sessions for societies. The virtual training that myself and the Societies & Programming Coordinator are working on will lay foundational principles and strategic frameworks, while the in-person sessions will delve deeper into practical applications and expansion of these concepts

- May 28th, 2024, I convened with the Societies and Program Coordinator during our routine weekly session to assess our progress thus far with the EDIA PowerPoint training
- I met with our Director of Conference Services to finalize the reservation of Room 224 on the last Thursday of each month from September to March. This designated space will serve as the venue for hosting HRES sessions, tailored to foster collaborative skills development among society executives. Topics will include conflict resolution techniques and team-building strategies, specifically curated to enhance EDIA initiatives in society planning
- Next steps include drafting revisions to the Society Policy with the aim of instituting a requirement mandating that at least one executive member from each society completes the in-person EDIA training within one month of its ratification. To accommodate situations where individuals may be unable to attend the sessions, I am developing the EDIA foundations PowerPoint in, which will serve as a viable alternative

**Upcoming Dates**

Dalhousie Reads Committee Meeting on June 11, 2024

Meeting with Dalhousie Bissett Student Success Centre, June 17th, 2024

Investments Meeting with TD, June 20, 2024

Accommodations Task Force, First Meeting on June 25, 2024
Society Expo Dates are Set! September 17th, 2024, and 19th
Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: William Jones

Reporting Period: May 14th – June 10th, 2024

Council Date: June 13th, 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

General:
Operational Plan Development, May 14th - Present:

a) Development of a “five-year operational plan” and “operational mission statement” in coordination with full time staff, in particular the General Manager and the Financial Controller.

Bar Strategy Development, May 14th – Present:

a) Working on developing a “Bar Strategy” for the upcoming year, with the following core aims:
   - Reduce operating deficit via alterations to the menu and staffing requirements.
   - Re-engage student body via alterations to programming and minor alterations to interior décor.

Board of Operations Updates:

Tim Hortons Pizza Oven, May 27th:

a. Finalized the purchase of a new Pizza Oven to be installed in the Tim’s downstairs, as per our contractual obligation with Chartwell’s catering.

DSUSO/DSAS/EAO Reorganization:
a. DSUSO, DSAS and EAO were all re-assigned to fall underneath the relevant executive (i.e. VPFO, VPAE, etc).

Bar Manager Termination, Hiring Process Initiation:

a. Terminated the former Bar Services Manager with cause. Authorized the General Manager to begin the hiring process and established the composition of the hiring committee.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates:

N/A

International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates:

Initial Committee Meeting, May 23rd:

a. Met with the VPAE and International Student Rep to review and discuss a total of 7 applications. Of the seven:
   - Two were deemed to be ineligible.
   - Approved five applications, for a total of $2,300.

University Affairs and Committees

Encampment / Divestment Motion, May 14th – Present:

a) Working with DSU President alongside Dalhousie President and Encampment leaders to realize divestment.
   - Coordinating/attending weekly/bi-weekly meetings, hearing progress reports, meeting with university staff (particularly the investment committee) to negotiate and advocate for divestment.
   - Delivered two proposals for how the university might divest from current holdings, and setup systems to limit re-investment into companies which violate the spirit of the motion.
   - Researching and tracking divestment movements at other universities to assist in ongoing negotiations.
Vice-Provost Student Affairs Meetings, Upcoming:

a) Established ongoing meetings with Rick Ezekiel, Vice-Provost of Student Affairs to discuss current limitations to DSU Bar Operations, most notably the limits we have on marketing and outreach.

External and Broader Community

Maritime Student Conference (MSC), May 24th – 26th:

a. Attended the Maritime Student Conference at St. FX where I was fortunate enough to meet with leaders from other student unions, discussed best practices, common struggles and areas for improvement.

Goal Progress

Summer Goal Selection, May 26th:

b. Finalized selection of summer goal. This summer I am to develop a comprehensive and unified system to gather and review student feedback on all forms, particularly those related to grants or bursaries. These forms receive significant student attention, and there have been several students delivering support directly to the VPFO email. While this feedback is appreciated, and extremely useful, I believe it necessitates a proper system for receiving and tracking any issues, questions or suggestions which may occur – as well as making it easier for students to submit feedback.

c. Currently developing the “feedback forms” for all relevant air table forms.

Upcoming Dates

N/A
Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Ana Patton

Reporting Period: May 14th – June 10th, 2024

Council Date: June 13th 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

ECM – Ongoing
  - Discussed day-to-day activities and got caught up on previous meetings!

O-Week Planning – Ongoing
  - I have been working on O-Week throughout the month of April and May. I have created and finalized the schedule, and continued to coordinate with Dal as well as external vendors. This item will continue until August or September, so please feel free to reach out to me if you have feedback or ideas.
  - Booking of DJs and artists is ongoing!

Dalfest Planning – Ongoing
  - Dalfest will occur on September 7th, and I am in the progress of negotiating a contract/offer with a fairly large R&B artist!
  - Sent proposal to SA around collaboration and partnership on this event, awaiting response.

DSU Media Training – May 16th
  - Received some training from SNS for media and any interview requests we receive!
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – May 23rd

- Received this training from Jodi, and learned about the complexities of being an exec in those situations.

University Affairs and Committees

Transition and Engagement, Steering Committee – Ongoing

- High-level planning for the high school to post-secondary transition.
- Working Groups and day of planning.

Transition and Engagement, Operational Committee – Ongoing

- Discussed work completed by working groups and progress on O-Week.

External and Broader Community

Vendor Meetings – Ongoing

- Finding the cheapest and highest value products and services to ensure the students get the best O-Week possible.
- Also trying to find the most sustainable and corporately responsible products/providers to ensure that the university and I are creating products that are useful and ethical!

Goal Progress

- Presenting goals soon!

Upcoming Dates

- N/A for now!