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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: September 27, 2023 – November 6, 2023

Council Date: November 9, 2023

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

VP Internal Commissioner interview prep, September 27, 9 am:

- Met with the rest of the hiring committee.
- Went over the interview questions, icebreakers, and information about each candidate.

Inclusive fitness spaces meeting, September 27, 11 am:

- Met with the rest of the executive and Dalplex staff to discuss limitations and possibilities around the idea.

DSU executive photoshoot, September 27, 12 pm:

- Took photos and videos with the rest of the executive for the DSU website.

VP Internal Commissioner interview, September 27, 1 pm:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the rest of the hiring committee.

VP Internal Commissioner interview, September 27, 1:45 pm:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the rest of the hiring committee.

VP Internal Commissioner interview, September 27, 3 pm:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the rest of the hiring committee.

Council prep meeting, September 28, 10 am:

- Met with the PGC and the rest of the executive, discussed upcoming Council agenda items and asked questions.

O-Week debrief, September 28, 10:15 am:

- Discussed what went well during O-Week and improvements that need to be made for next year.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee meeting, September 28, 1:30 pm:

- Met with the rest of the Committee, approved Society Grant applications.

AGM tabling, September 28, 2:30 pm:

- Tabled at the SUB to promote the AGM.

VP Internal Commissioner interview, September 29, 10 am:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the rest of the hiring committee.

Executive Committee meeting, September 29, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Approved Advocacy and Research Coordinator position.
- Approved Sexual Health Centre proposal.

VP Internal Commissioner interview, September 29, 3 pm:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the rest of the hiring committee.

Executive Committee meeting, October 3, 11 am:

- Took minutes with help from the GM as I came in late from Convocation.
- Went over Health and Dental Plan appeals with the rest of the executive.

Comms meeting, October 3, 12 pm:

- Discussed how we should proceed with the monthly newsletters based on data we'll get from the upcoming one (readership etc.).
- Talked about next steps to be done for the harm reduction page to go live on the DSU website.
- Brainstormed ideas for a Halloween skit for our socials.

Society meeting, October 4, 10 am:

- Met with the General Manager, Financial Controller, and Societies and Programming Coordinator to discuss an ongoing Society issue.
- Committed to writing a report to Council, justifying the decision the team has made on the issue.

AGM tabling, October 4, 12 pm:

- Tabled at the SUB to promote the AGM with the PGC and BoG Rep 1.

Sexton graphics and promo meeting, October 5, 9:30 am:

- Met with the Marketing and Design Manager to discuss revamps to the DSU Sexton office, as well as the creation of a page outlining office hours in the office, what students can find there, and events they can attend.

Storage area cleanup, October 5, 11 pm:

- Met with DSU staff and went to the storage area in the basement to determine what stuff needs to go, be archived, or repurposed.

AGM tabling, October 5, 2 pm:

- Tabled to promote the AGM with the PGC.

Executive Committee meeting, October 6, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Discussed Dalfest proposal by the Events Commissioner, Society issue update, Health and Dental plan appeals.

AGM prep meeting, October 6, 3 pm:

- Went over AGM agenda with the rest of the executive and the PGC, asked clarifying questions.

Internal Commissioner training, October 11, 9 am:

- Went over important documents and procedures with the new hire.
- Outlined tasks that need to be worked on ASAP.

Internal Commissioner training (cont'd), October 11, 12 pm:

- Showed the Commissioner around the office, introduced her to staff, and explained their role and involvement with the Societies department.
- Talked more about certain procedures and the vision the Societies and Programming Coordinator and I have for the department.

Multicultural Market meeting, October 11, 1 pm:

- Met with the Societies and Programming Coordinator, Conference Services Coordinator, VPSL, Events Commissioner, and Internal Commissioner.
- Discussed the vision for the event, ultimately decided to postpone it indefinitely due to the latest Israel-Palestine conflict.

DSU AGM, October 12, 6:30 pm:

- Provided updates on my work so far.
- Voted on motions.
- Answered students' questions.

Internal Commissioner training, October 13, 9 am:

- Went over additional information, questions, concerns etc.

DUES Sexton Office meeting, October 13, 11:30 am:

- Met with DUES's President and VP Internal, and the DSU Internal Commissioner.
- Discussed planned updates to the Sexton office and DSU website, asked for feedback and connected DUES with the DSU Events Commissioner.

Executive Committee meeting, October 13, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Brought updates from Student Affairs meeting.

DSU Sexton office meeting, October 13, 1 pm:

- Met with the Marketing and Design Manager and Financial Controller (separately).
- Discussed funding available to revamp the office and make it more appealing to students.

Comms meeting, October 16, 11 am:

- Discussed progress with Grawood and Bookstore decal.
- Discussed upcoming posts (AGM prize and poster giveaway posts).
- Brainstormed ideas and set up action items for Halloween skit video.

Internal Commissioner training, October 16, 12 pm:

- Met with the Internal Commissioner and Societies and Programming Coordinator.
- Went over tasks the Commissioner will be assigned from the S&P portfolio.

Shirreff Hall Council executive meeting, October 16, 1 pm:

- Met with two executives from Shirreff Hall Council, the Societies and Programming Coordinator, and Internal Commissioner.
- Discussed next steps for ratification and training.

Support Resource Page meeting, October 18, 10 am:

- Met with the President and Marketing and Design Manager.
- Discussed resources that should be included in the support page for students affected by the conflict in the Middle East.

1st Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest, October 20, 12 pm:

- Participated in the event with FT staff.

Executive Committee Meeting, October 20, 3 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Provided updates on the Sexton page progress.

Comms meeting, October 23, 11 am:

- Discussed updates on Halloween skit, progress with Social Media Coordinator applications and interviews, and by-election promo status.

Work audit, October 25, 8 am:

- Met with the General Manager.
- Went over portfolio and pressure areas in current workload, discussed priority areas to be dealt with, as well as alternatives that could fix some of the issues currently being experienced.

Society Joint Stocks meeting, October 25, 11:30 am:

- Met with the Societies and Programming Coordinator, Financial Controller, and staff from the Society.
- Discussed issues with Joint Stocks status, necessary steps to become active in the Registry again, and projected timeline for the issue to be resolved (~2 months overall).

Council prep meeting, October 26, 10 am:

- Went over meeting agenda, discussed questions on agenda items.

Social Media Coordinator interview, October 26, 11 am:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the Marketing and Design Manager.

Social Media Coordinator interview, October 26, 11:30 am:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the Marketing and Design Manager.

Council meeting, October 26, 6:30 pm:

- Attended the meeting, voted on and moved motions, was updated on by-election timeline.

Social Media Coordinator interview, October 27, 10 am:

- Interviewed a candidate for the position with the Marketing and Design Manager.

Executive Committee meeting, October 27, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Went over final Health and Dental Plan appeals.

Comms meeting, October 30, 11 am:

- Created a timeline and a task plan for the upcoming Annual Survey.
- Discussed remaining steps for Tiger Halloween video.
- Discussed approach on highlighting and sharing Indigenous events on the DSU socials.
- Discussed ideas for exam programming.
- Brainstormed ideas for Christmas events and programming.

Health plan year-end meeting, October 31, 10 am:

- Was updated on Health plan status and potential decisions to be made.
- Was updated on I M Well app and potential Societies interface opportunity.

T-Room meeting, November 2, 10 am:

- Met with the General Manager, VPFO, and DUES President and VPF.
- Discussed questions DUES has in regards to T-Room management and finances.

Offices meeting, November 2, 12 pm:

- Met with the Managers of the DSU Equity and Accessibility Office, DSU Sustainability Office, and Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services.
- Discussed recent restructuring efforts at the DSU, and went over new Advocacy and Research Coordinator position job description.

Social Committee meeting, November 3, 11 am:

- Discussed Christmas office events and initiatives.

Executive Committee meeting, November 3, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Discussed Christmas tree-lighting and food drive initiatives.
- Discussed Remembrance Day ceremony attendance.

Society Review Committee Updates

The Committee has approved the following Societies over e-vote:

- Student Association of Health and Human Performance
- MBA Society

The Committee is also collaborating with the following Societies to work towards ratification:

- Management Society
- NSPIRG

Offices Steering Committee Updates

Nothing to report on Committee work. The Advocacy and Research Coordinator will be hired within the next few weeks, and they'll be overseeing the day-to-day work of the Offices.

Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

Meeting, October 27, 10:30 am:

- a. Met with the Committee, went over expectations and applications.

University Affairs and Committees

DSU executive x Student Affairs bi-weekly meeting, September 28, 9 am:

- Discussed updates from both teams.

Promoting Community Connections on Sexton Campus, September 28, 11 am:

- Tabled at the event, promoted DSU services and the AGM, gave out snacks.

Convocation ceremony (FASS, Law, Management, Medicine), October 3, 9 am:

- Attended the ceremony and represented the DSU on stage.

Convocation dinner, October 5, 7 pm:

- Attended the dinner along with the DSU President and VPSL.

FASS meeting, October 10, 11:30 am:

- Provided verbal update and promoted the AGM to Faculty.
- Listened to Dal's Behavioural Intervention Team presentation.
- Voted on motions, including updates in final grade assessment policy.

DSU executive x VPEI office, October 11, 11 am:

- Met with the rest of the executive and the VPEI and AVPEI.
- Discussed concerns from the student community due to latest Israel-Palestine conflict.

DSU executive x Student Affairs bi-weekly meeting, October 12, 9 am:

- Discussed supports the University can offer to students.
- Asked for contacts for the new Survivor Support Centre Manager.
- Mentioned AGM and initiatives to meet quorum.

DSU executive x Student Affairs bi-weekly meeting, October 26, 9 am:

- Discussed work updates
- Inquired about awards/scholarships/bursaries that Dal offers to students.

External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

Goal Progress

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates

Puppy Power Hour, November 8!



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: September 25 – October 20, 2023

Council Date: October 26th, 2023

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- **ECMs:** As a member of the Executive Committee, I've participated our meetings, providing insights, and offering my assistance as required.
- **Prompt Email Response and Guidance as VPFO:** In my capacity as VPFO, I have made it a priority to expeditiously respond to all emails, offering guidance and assistance to societies and members as per my role and within my jurisdiction.
- **Executive Photo-shoot:** Participated in an executive photoshoot intended to enhance our website's executive page, ensuring clearer representation and accessibility for the student body.
- **Society Support:** Convened with representatives from several societies to offer comprehensive support and guidance tailored to their respective requirements.
- **Weekly Meetings:** I participated in multiple meetings pertinent to my portfolio.
- **Chartwell's Follow-up Meeting:** Convened for a follow-up dialogue regarding Chartwell's updates in collaboration with our dedicated team.
- **DSU Annual General Meeting:** Attended and actively participated in the DSU Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM stands out as a notable triumph, evidenced by our accomplishment of reaching quorum for the first time in nearly a decade. Such an achievement accentuates the increasing dedication and active participation of our members, signifying their pivotal role in directing the course of our union. Moreover, during the meeting, I had the privilege to present the DSU's Audited Financial Statements to our student body, addressing and clarifying queries pertaining to it.

- **Treasurer Training Sessions:** On September 29th, I conducted a treasurer training session. Subsequently, to accommodate those treasurers who were unavailable for the initial session, an additional training session was organized and conducted to ensure comprehensive understanding and participation.
- **Strategic Deliberation on DSU Van Sale Process:** Engaged in a comprehensive strategic session to evaluate the best approach for the sale of the DSU van. Our goal was to ensure that the process is conducted efficiently and aligns with the DSU's best interests, while also maximizing potential benefits and value for the union.
- **Strategic Review and Approval of Society Audits:** Held several comprehensive meetings with my commissioner to plan out how to systematically assess, review, and approve society audits this year. These collaborative sessions focused on making sure that auditing is in full compliance with the DSU's established financial benchmarks, policies, and best practices. Furthermore, our discussions provided valuable insights, leading to the refinement and improvement of our auditing strategies and procedures for the current year.
- **Comprehensive DSU Budget Review and Financial Analysis Collaboration:** Engaged in a detailed review and financial assessment of the DSU's budget in collaboration with our accounting team. This rigorous evaluation aimed to ensure all line items were accurately accounted for, aligned with our financial projections, and maintained in accordance with established financial standards and best practices.
- **Council Meetings Preparation Sessions:** Attended preparatory sessions for upcoming council meetings, focusing on agenda alignment and improving communication strategies.

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- No updates

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

- On September 28, under the guidance of the Grants and Sponsorship Committee, a meeting was held to evaluate both society and member grant applications. After comprehensive consideration and deliberation, the committee reached a consensus and approved select applications based on our established criteria and guidelines.

International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

- On October 13th and again on October 18th, the International Students Emergency Bursary Committee met for pivotal meetings. During these meetings, we meticulously evaluated international students' emergency bursary applications. After comprehensive consideration and guided by a well-defined set of criteria, the committee approved select applications to best support our international students in their times of need.

University Affairs and Committees

- A few months ago, I presented a proposal to the university advocating for an initiative to plant more trees on campus. After collaborative discussions that lasted for months, we have finally reached an advanced phase in our negotiations. We have collectively agreed to plant a significant number of trees across the campus and are currently in the process of determining a suitable date and set of locations for this environmental initiative. The discussions have been notably constructive. Further updates on this initiative will be provided shortly.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Goal Progress

a) Summer Semester Goal: Restructuring the Dalhousie Student Union

During the summer semester, the primary objective was to initiate a significant overhaul of the Dalhousie Student Union's internal organization. In pursuit of this goal, I established and chaired a dedicated steering committee tasked with designing a new, more efficient internal structure. The revamped structure replaced the two previous director roles with a single general manager position, an effort to enhance leadership efficiency.

We have also decided to strengthen the commissioner positions for executives rather than introducing a research and outreach coordinator. To achieve this, we expanded the working hours for these commissioner positions. Concurrently, other inefficient roles were eliminated to further empower the commissioners, ensuring consistency and dedication in their tasks. The original intention behind proposing the research and outreach coordinator was to amplify the union's engagement with the student body and the broader community and to provide substantial support to DSU executives. However, with the updated strategy, we believe the enhanced commissioner positions will be adept at fulfilling this vision more effectively.

Comprehensive job descriptions were drafted, and a hiring plan was set. We have successfully hired a General Manager, while the hiring process for the Commissioners will commence shortly. As we move toward finalizing this restructuring, our focus will be on cementing a robust and

lasting structure that not only addresses current needs but also positions the union for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the long run. This forward-looking approach is designed to ensure that the DSU remains adaptive, resilient, and equipped to serve the student body's evolving needs.

While my primary goal for the summer in restructuring has been achieved, it's essential to note that this will also be a term-long initiative. As we continue to monitor the effectiveness of these changes and gather feedback, further refinements and improvements to the DSU structure might be implemented in the future to ensure the union remains agile and responsive to the needs of the student body.

b) Fall Semester Goal: Policy and By-Law Updates

During this semester, one of my foremost priorities as Vice President of Finance and Operations of the DSU will be the comprehensive review and revision of policies and by-laws pertinent to my portfolio. I'm proud to highlight that a significant initial success has been achieved in this initiative – the bylaw amendments I proposed were duly approved by council and ratified by the membership during the Annual General Meeting. Recognizing that many of our existing policies may be outdated, it's imperative to ensure their alignment with the contemporary needs and dynamics of our student union. Following this, my next step will be a meticulous assessment of the policies relevant to my portfolio, with an aim to propose necessary amendments. This initiative will be characterized by inclusive consultations with all relevant stakeholders, making sure that the proposed changes not only resonate with the union's objectives but also fortify a hospitable and inclusive milieu for our entire student community.

c) Winter Semester Goal: Writing a Treasurer Training Booklet for DSU Societies

During the winter semester, my main objective will be to develop a treasurer training booklet specifically tailored for treasurers of DSU societies. Given the unique challenges and specific responsibilities that come with managing finances at the society level, it's crucial to provide guidance that's both relevant and comprehensive. This booklet will detail best practices, essential financial procedures, reporting guidelines, communication strategies specific to DSU societies and sponsors, and most importantly, guidance on the audits process. Navigating audits can be a complex task, and this resource will offer step-by-step insights to ensure that treasurers are well-prepared and confident during these reviews. By creating this resource, the aim is to ensure that treasurers of all DSU societies have a clear roadmap to manage their roles effectively, fostering financial responsibility and accountability across the board.

Upcoming Dates

- a) A key upcoming event is the Treasurer Training scheduled for October 27.



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Report of the Executive

Name: Lia Gurevich Kogan. Vice President Student Life

Reporting Period: October 27 – November 9, 2023

Internal Affairs & DSU Committees

- a) Student Accessibility Fund Committee meeting – My first meeting as a member. We made some decisions, and it was a successful and productive meeting.
- b) ECM – A weekly meeting with all executives and the GM.
- c) 1:1 with the event commissioner – Weekly meetings to ensure we are on the same page, brainstorm ideas, and division of assignments.
- d) Social committee meeting – A meeting to ensure the positive work environment and internal events.
- e) Oversight committee

University Affairs & Committees

- a) Winter Orientation meetings (including marketing, planning, brainstorming, task assigning, and more) – Those are meetings that accrue minimum once a week with the university to ensure successful winter orientation week, communication with students and internally, and problem solving.
- b) Transition and Engagement Framework steering committee – Those are meetings with a lot of Dal and DSU decision makers to discuss our approach to different scenarios.
- c) Student affairs by weekly meeting – University affairs updates and possible future collaborations.

External & Broader Community

- a) Health plan year end – A meeting with our health plan provider include statistics, problems, successes, etc.

Upcoming Dates

- Winter Orientation:
 - Winter trivia\speed friending – Jan 8
 - Canada 101 – Jan 11
 - Dal fast – Jan 12
 - Pregame party – Jan 13
 - Women’s hockey game – Jan 13
 - Snowman competition – TBD
 - Fashion show and clothing donations – TBD
- Exam Wellness week:
 - Massage – Dec 4
 - Midnight breakfast – Dec 6
 - Exam snacks – Dec 4
 - Puppy power hour – Dec 8
 - Late night at the sub – TBD
- Winter Pride week (Feb):
 - Drag show – TBD
 - Glitter Bush - TBD
 - **Seeking more ideas from counselors, DalOUT, Staff, and more.**
- Outreach event – TBD
- Winter Gala – Jan 14?
- Impact award – TBD
- Multicultural fair – TBD
- First \ Last class bash – TBD
- Mental health forum – Nov 22\Room 224, Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 27\ Council Chambers