



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue  
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2

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## **Report of the Vice President, Internal**

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: December 5, 2023 – January 9, 2024

Council Date: January 12, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Council prep meeting, December 7, 10 am:

- Went over Council meeting agenda, asked questions.
- Received updates on January 12 Council meeting attendance and PGC availability.

Executive Committee meeting, December 7, 11 am:

- Took minutes.
- Went over general WEPU feedback, and Late Night Breakfast logistics.

Council meeting, December 7, 6:30 pm:

- Attended the meeting and voted on motions.

Late Night Breakfast, December 7, 9 pm:

- Assisted at the event with serving food to students.

Office holiday activities, December 8, 11:15 am:

- Attended team bonding activities with the DSU President and staff.

Comms meeting, December 11, 11 pm:

- Received general updates.
- Comms department preparing for January uptick in workload.

Executive photoshoot, December 11, 12 pm:

- Took photos with the executive team for holiday posts and other uses.

Executive Committee meeting, December 15, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.

- Provided updates on semesterly Sexton tabling event.

Executive Committee meeting, December 22, 12 pm:

- Took minutes.
- Approved minutes from the previous meeting.

### Society Review Committee Updates

Computer Science Society Constitution Revision, December 7, 1 pm:

- Met with the CSS executive and Internal Commissioner.
- Went over constitution revisions and asked for a copy for SRC.

The Computer Science Society was ratified on December 13 via e-vote.

### Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

Meeting, December 8, 10:30 am:

- No business conducted due to lack of quorum.

### University Affairs and Committees

Student Affairs end-of-term breakfast, December 7, 8:30 am:

- Met with the Student Affairs team and DSU executives for a social gathering, caught up on progress in the past year, goals for the next semester.

FASS meeting, December 12, 11:30 am:

- Gave updates on DSU work.
- Received presentations on Open Access Publication Options through Dalhousie Libraries, and Research Security.

Dalhousie Carol Sing, December 19, 12 pm:

- Attended the event.

DSU x VPEI meeting, January 9, 3 pm:

- First regular meeting of the semester.
- Discussed general updates from both teams.

## External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

## Goal Progress

- Summer:
  - Coordinated elections for Gerard Hall with ResLife.
  - Discussed additional items for January with ResLife (incl. Risley Hall elections).
- Fall:
  - Sent Societies a survey for my Elections guide.

## Upcoming Dates

Grants and Sponsorship Committee meeting, January 10.

Puppy Power Hour, Wednesdays at 3:45 pm.



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## Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: December 05, 2023 – January 09, 2024

Council Date: January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### 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.
- **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.
- **Treasurer Training:** Conducted several treasurer training sessions for treasurers that were not able to attend our previous sessions for a variety of reasons.
- **New DSU/Donor Bursary:** Finalizing bursary logistics and ensuring a smooth transfer from DSU oversight to Dalhousie oversight.
- **Approval of Society Audits:** After engaging in several meetings with my commissioner, I am excited to highlight the exceptional role he played in our journey to assess, review, and approve society audits this year. His expertise and dedication were instrumental in making sure that our auditing processes not only met but exceeded the DSU's financial benchmarks, policies, and best practices. His amazing ability to provide critical insights significantly contributed to the improvement of our auditing strategies and procedures for this term. Thanks to his outstanding efforts, we have successfully concluded the audit approvals for all societies that submitted their audits before the deadline.

### Board of Operations

- Conducted more meetings and discussed a variety of topics relevant to the committee, including approving several agenda items.

### Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

- In the initial week of our return to work, we convened a meeting of the Grants Steering Committee. During this meeting, we reviewed and approved member grants. It is important to note that, due to constrained resources and an unprecedented volume of society grant applications received this year, we have made the strategic decision to pause our grant program for the remainder of the fiscal year. This pause will allow us to effectively manage our current commitments and make sure to maintain the sustainability of the program moving forward.

### International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

- In the initial week of our return to work, we convened a meeting of the ISEBC. During this meeting, we reviewed and approved several applications.

### University Affairs and Committees

- N/A

### 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**

One of my big projects this semester was to take a good look at our policies and by-laws and give them a much-needed update. I'm really excited to share that we've hit a major milestone on this front. The bylaw changes I suggested got the green light from the council and the student body and got a thumbs-up during the Annual General Meeting, which is fantastic news, same goes for policy amendments.

This is a big deal because it means we're keeping up with what our student union needs right now. But the work doesn't stop there. We've been going over our policies with a fine-tooth comb, making sure they're just right for our current situation. Although I've put forward some solid changes, we're still in the process of figuring out if there's more to be done.

Looking ahead, if there are more changes to propose, they'll go through the whole process of review and discussions. We want to make sure that any updates we make not only hit our union's goals but also create a welcoming vibe for all our students. It's all about making sure we're moving with the times and keeping our governance as fresh and relevant as possible.

**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) More treasurer training sessions to come.



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## **Report of the Vice President, Academic and External**

Name: Omotayo Bankole

Reporting Period: December 5, 2023 – January 9, 2024

Council Date: January 12, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Council prep meeting, December 7, 10 am:

- Went over Council meeting agenda with the DSU Policy and Governance coordinator.

Executive Committee meeting, December 7, 11 am:

- Went over general WEPU feedback
- Late Night Breakfast logistics.

Council meeting, December 7, 6:30 pm:

- Attended the meeting and voted on motions.

Late Night Breakfast, December 7, 9 pm:

- Assisted at the event with serving food to students.

Executive photoshoot, December 11, 12 pm:

- Our marketing manager took photos of the executive team for holiday post.

Executive Committee meeting, December 15, 12 pm:



-Approved minutes from the previous meeting.

- Executive Committee meeting, December 22, 12 pm:

- Approved minutes from the previous meeting.

### External Committee Updates

### University Affairs and Committees

Student Affairs end-of-term breakfast, December 7, 8:30 am:

- Attended a social gathering with the Student Affairs team and DSU executives, where we discussed the developments of the past year and outlined our goals for the upcoming semester.

### External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

### Upcoming Dates

ISEBC Meeting



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## **Report of the Vice President, Student Life**

Name: Ana Patton

Reporting Period: Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 2024

Council Date: Jan 12, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

#### **ECM – Ongoing**

- Discussed day-to-day activities.

#### **Student Life Committee Updates**

- I have drafted another email to send to the updated list of members, and will be reaching out shortly to those individuals!

#### **Event Commissioner Hiring – Ongoing**

- Continuing to review applications, and will set up interviews accordingly!

### University Affairs and Committees

#### **Winter Orientation – Jan 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Gave a presentation about the DSU, its activities and supports for students!
- I encouraged students to reach out to me, and get involved in some of the many things the DSU has to offer.

### External and Broader Community

#### **DSUxDUES Exam Lunch**

- Event was successful, and sandwiches went quickly!
- I will be booking some post-event meetings to discuss areas which can be improved upon for April.

### **Late Night Breakfast**

- Event was successful, thank you to all those who participated!
- Music was provided by some of the Music program's students!
- Will meet with the GM and discuss improvements for April!

### **Pride Week**

- I have meetings upcoming to discuss the logistics of events for this week, I will have updates soon!

### Goal Progress

- I have created my goals and will present them at the appropriate time.

### Upcoming Dates

**Pride Week – TBA**

**Tax Clinic - TBA**