



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue
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Report of the President

Name: Mariam Knakriah

Reporting Period: January 10 – January 23, 2024

Council Date: January 26, 2024

***Was on vacation between January 8 and January 12.**

Internal Affairs

- ECMs – Ongoing
 - I raised the topic of the transitioning period, discussing ways to enhance the handover process as outgoing executives leave and incoming ones assume their roles. Our focus was on implementing improvements to make this transition smoother and more effective for the benefit of the entire team this year.
 - I emphasized to the executives the significance of being familiar with all individuals working in the SUB, including our part-time staff. I proposed that we should schedule a meeting with housing managers to introduce our roles, aiming to strengthen our relationship with them and facilitate clearer communication of our roles and portfolios to students inquiring at the desk.
 - We discussed other topics, such as the gala charities and the town hall meeting idea by the VPAAE.
- One-on-One with the General Manager – Ongoing
 - I maintain a regular practice of conducting one-on-one meetings with the General Manager to address staff concerns and ensure a comfortable living environment for everyone. Additionally, we discuss a wide range of other topics pertinent to the DSU's well-being and efficiency.
- Meeting with the New Research and Advocacy Coordinator – January 16, 2024

- I met with our new Research and Advocacy Coordinator, Shelby, to collaboratively share my goals and expectations for our initiatives. Our discussion provided a valuable platform to align on shared objectives and delve into exciting prospects for future goals that will contribute to the success of our research and advocacy endeavors.
- Student Dining Experience at Dalhousie (Sodexo) – January 17, 2024
 - Met with Sodexo to improve the student dining experience at Dalhousie.
 - I also discussed and posed questions about their services for DSU future reference and planning.
- Dalhousie Health and Wellness Centre Inquiry Meeting – January 17, 2024
 - Addressed student concerns through a comprehensive discussion with the HWC. This session allowed for a thorough exploration of issues, fostering a collaborative approach towards enhancing the overall health and well-being services provided to students.
- DSU x CanadianSim – January 18, 2024
 - CanadianSim is an initiative that aids students, particularly international students, in obtaining their SIM cards before arriving in Canada to facilitate seamless connectivity upon arrival. This pre-arrival assistance can greatly benefit students by ensuring they are ready to connect with people and access essential services upon landing in the country.
- Dalhousie's Student Leadership Academy High-Performance Leadership program
 - I'm honoured to have been nominated by the Vice Provost of Student Affairs, Rick Ezekiel, for Dalhousie's Student Leadership Academy High-Performance Leadership program. Additionally, I am excited to share that I have been paired with Grace Jefferies-Aldridge, the VP of People and Culture, as my mentor in this program.
 - The new program provides a fresh approach to leadership development with its three-tier structure catering to varying leadership levels. Participants can expect a comprehensive experience involving workshops that focus on honing essential

leadership skills. At the program's conclusion, individuals receive a certificate, marking their successful completion and growth within their respective leadership tiers.

- DASH Fund Info Session – January 19, 2024
 - Met with the largest student housing non-profit provider in Atlantic Canada. Their board is planning to expand its capacity and portfolio to serve more students across Nova Scotia. The introduction of the Developing Affordable Student Housing (DASH) Fund, coupled with a forthcoming fee levy referendum, seeks to address the pressing need for affordable housing.
- Student Hours – January 19, 2024
 - Met with a Masters level student to explore potential strategies and collaborations for future student housing initiatives. Our discussion centred on innovative approaches to address housing needs from economic/marketing point of view.
- Project Catch-Up – January 23, 2024
 - I held a project catch-up meeting with our Director of Facility Operations and VPSL to review upcoming initiatives in the SUB over the next two weeks. Notably, we discussed the establishment of a breastfeeding room as part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity. Additionally, we explored a collaboration with a student group from the Sustainability Department who aims to implement a community fridge in the SUB as their capstone project, aligning with our shared vision for a more sustainable and community-oriented campus environment.

University Affairs

- By-Weekly Meetings with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs – January 22, 2024
 - I had the usual bi-weekly meeting with Rick to discuss ongoing matters and collaborate on initiatives aimed at enhancing the student experience.
- Senate Planning and Governance Committee Meeting – January 17, 2024

- L. Spiteri presented the proposed revisions to the terms of reference for the Lloyd Fraser Award for Outstanding Senate Leadership.
- Discussed five recommendations from the Governance Review Report.
- Student Leadership Academy Program Kick-Off – January 18, 2024
 - I attended the Student Leadership Academy Program kickoff dinner, joining fellow nominees and mentors in an engaging and inspiring event. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with my peers and mentors, setting a positive tone for the leadership development journey ahead.
- Student Leadership Program Frist Workshop (Being) – January 20, 2024
 - I participated in the Student Leadership Academy's first workshop, centered around the "being" cluster, delving into personal and introspective aspects of leadership development. This insightful session provided valuable tools and perspectives to enhance my self-awareness and effectiveness as a leader.

External and Broader Community

- Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee – January 15, 2024
 - I attended the PSVPC meeting, where discussions centered on developing strategies and initiatives to address and prevent sexual violence. The committee's collaborative efforts aim to contribute to broader efforts in fostering a safer environment for all. My lens focused on the unique challenges and opportunities present within our campus community.

Upcoming Important Dates

- SNS Winter Board Meeting – January 25, 2024
- DalLeads Panel Brainstorm – January 25, 2024
- Executive Photoshoot – January 26, 2024



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: January 10, 2024 – January 23, 2024

Council Date: January 26, 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Grants and Sponsorships Committee meeting, January 10, 12 pm:

- a. Processed Member Grant applications with the rest of the Committee.

Residence Council meeting with ResLife, January 10, 4 pm:

- a. Prepared plan for new nomination period for Howe Hall, LeMarchant Place, and Mini Residence.

Council prep meeting, January 11, 10 am:

- a. Went over the agenda with the PGC and executive.

Introductory meeting with Advocacy and Research Coordinator, January 11, 11 am:

- a. Discussed disability advocacy opportunities relevant to the VPI portfolio.

Shirreff Hall meeting, January 11, 2:30 pm:

- a. Met with an executive to support with next steps past ratification.

Executive Committee meeting, January 12, 12 pm:

- a. Chaired the meeting and took minutes.
- b. Discussed potential dinner with Dal admin.

Council meeting, January 12, 6:30 pm:

- a. Attended the meeting.
- b. Voted for motions and provided progress update.

Comms meeting, January 16, 9 am:

- a. Went over ongoing projects (elections promo, Society Expo, DSU events).

- b. Discussed potential data research for DSU socials for engagement increase.
- c. Discussed potential to use the Annual Survey for the purposes of supporting the work of the Advocacy and Research Coordinator.

Howe Hall tabling, January 16, 5 pm:

- a. Promoted Residence Council nominations.

Commissioner check-in, January 17, 1 pm:

- a. Discussed work on Student Accessibility Fund report, research on other Student Union Society supports, and admin tasks.

Ad-hoc Psychoeducational Assessment Committee meeting, January 17, 6 pm:

- a. Processed applications with Committee members.
- b. Discussed procedure for procuring more applications until allocated funding is spent completely.

Howe Hall tabling, January 18, 5 pm:

- a. Promoted Residence Council nominations.

Society meeting, January 19, 10 am:

- a. Met with the Spanish Society to assist with bank issues.

Executive Committee meeting, January 19, 12 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Discussed Town Hall presentation from VPAAE, transition efforts, and sponsorship opportunities.

LeMarchant Place tabling, January 19, 5 pm:

- a. Promoted Residence Council nominations.

Society meeting, January 20, 2 pm:

- a. Met with newly elected Gerard Hall Council to introduce DSU bureaucratic requirements and explain issues with Residence Councils.

Comms meeting, January 22, 1 pm:

- a. Received updates on Society Expo promo work, ECM feedback on Annual Survey.

Elections promo with Socials Coordinator, January 22, 1:45 pm:

- a. Filmed a promotional video for the DSU Winter General Elections.

Society Expo tabling, January 23, 9 am:

- a. Assisted with tabling efforts.

Society Review Committee Updates

General Member meeting, January 12, 3 pm:

- a. Explained scope and responsibilities of SRC to the member.

Last minute work on Society offices is being conducted.

Per Society Policy, an open meeting for Get REAL Dalhousie will be taking place on January 30th.

Note: Please see report in Council package for Societies – bar crawl incident.

Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

- a. Meeting has been scheduled for January 29.

University Affairs and Committees

FASS meeting, January 16, 11:30 am:

- a. Received presentation for mandatory first year Arts and Social Sciences courses.
- b. Discussed ILL grade policy proposal. Provided feedback on document submission process.

DSU x Student Affairs meeting, January 18, 9 am:

- a. Discussed updates on Residence Councils, issues with Indigenous Centre office hours, Leadership Academy updates.

External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

Goal Progress

- a. Summer: New nomination period proved unfruitful, but I have been supporting Shirreff and Gerard as needed. I received the results for Risley Hall on January 23rd.
- b. Fall: Survey closed on January 19, will be processing the data on the 24th.

Upcoming Dates

SAFC meeting, January 29.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: January 10, 2024 – January 23, 2024

Council Date: January 26th, 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.
- **New DSU/Donor Bursary:** Finalized bursary logistics and ensured a smooth transfer from DSU's oversight to Dalhousie's oversight.
- **Society Expo:** Attended society expo and engaged with societies, introduced them to our organization, and offered further support.

Board of Operations

- Scheduled bi-weekly meetings starting from January 25th.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

- N/A

International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

- Scheduled a meeting soon this week and will be reviewing more applications with the ISEBC.

University Affairs and Committees

- Attended a student affairs meeting and discussed topics and initiatives relevant to the student body.

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: January 10 – January 23, 2024

Council Date: January 26, 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

January 11th:

- ISEBC Meeting: A newly formed ISEBC committee held the first meeting of the semester to review and approve several bursary applications.
- Council Prep Meeting: Our Policy coordinator conducts a regular preparatory meeting with the executives.

January 12th:

- ECM Meeting: First ECM meeting of the semester, Executives along with the general manager had a discussion where updates and reminders for the new semester were provided along with information regarding upcoming general elections.
- Council Meeting: First council meeting of the semester took place.

January 15th:

- Check in with Advocacy Coordinator: I had a check-in meeting with the Advocacy and Research Coordinator. During our discussion, we explored potential upcoming advocacy initiatives, particularly focusing on the DSU Townhall. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to defining the terms and planning the necessary steps to accomplish our goals.

January 17th:

- Check in with Marketing Manager: I had a meeting with the Marketing and Design manager to discuss upcoming proposals for a DSU townhall.

External Committee Updates

January 18th:

- Leadership Academy Dinner: I had the opportunity to attend a kick-off event for a new leadership academy initiative organized by Student affairs.

January 20th:

- Leadership Academy Workshop 1: Workshop 1 marked the commencement of our series. The session focused on delving into key resources for exemplary leadership, forming the core discussion points.

University Affairs and Committees

January 12th:

- Ratification of SDC cases: Resolved disciplinary cases handled by AIOs undergo a ratification process within the Senate. This entails a meticulous review of numerous cases to identify any errors or inconsistencies in the decisions made or methods employed.

January 22nd:

- Dalhousie Senate Meeting: On this particular day, the Senate convened for a special session that featured a think tank session. The purpose was to gather senatorial feedback on measures aimed at maintaining a sustainable budget.
- External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates

January 23-24: DSU Society Expo

January 24: Mental Health Forum

February 9: CSS Snowball Awards

February 10: Dal Leads 2024



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Ana Patton

Reporting Period: January 10th, 2024 – Jan 23rd 2024

Council Date: January 26th 2024

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

ECM – Ongoing

- Discussed day-to-day activities.

University Affairs and Committees

DSUxSA Meeting –

- We discussed the leadership academy which is beginning this month, and I encourage everyone to check out the open workshops and attend a few! I'm excited to hear more about it!

Mental Health Forum

- I met with David Pilon to discuss the MHF, introduce ourselves and learn more about DAL and Nova Scotia initiatives that the DSU can participate in! We'll have a follow-up meeting and discuss them more in depth, and I will attend the MHF on Jan 24!

Saint Patrick's Day

- Started on some events for this weekend! We will collaborate with DAL and bring students a pancake breakfast, stay tuned please!
- More to come!

Student Health Clinic

- Spoke with their Director and understood more about the process and logistical bumps they may have that impact students! We got their input on student issues and are better equipped to convey their process to students!

External and Broader Community

DSUxDALOUT – Pride Week Events

- Completed some more logistical wrinkles and received promotional material to distribute to promote the events!

Goal Progress

- I have started on the structure of the MOU and will continue to write sections as people bring me their ideas!
- There is a large meeting coming up between DAL and the DSU to talk about O-Week and initiatives around the start of the school year, and I will bring it up and ask our counterparts at DAL to meet and discuss it!

Upcoming Dates

Pride Week

- Queer Hangout, Feb 5th 6-9 PM, RM 303 in SUB!
- Paint Night, Feb 7th 6-9, Council Chambers in SUB!
- Drag Show, Feb 8th, Grawood

Tax Clinic – TBA

Saint Patrick's Day - TBA