



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

Name: Mariam Knakriah

Reporting Period: November 6, 2023 – November 17, 2023

Council Date: November 23, 2023

### Internal Affairs

- ECMs – Ongoing
  - DAL x DSU MOU Considerations: We have begun considering the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DSU and Dal. This document will serve to clarify our relationship, define our roles, and establish boundaries. It is an important step towards ensuring mutual respect and understanding, ultimately benefiting the entire student body.
- One-on-Ones 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.
- By-Law and Policy Review Committee Meeting – November 6, 2023
  - I led a BPRC meeting where we discussed an amendment proposed by a Councillor, about one of the bursaries, which sparked several questions among the committee members. To ensure clarity and understanding, I have invited the Councillor to our next meeting to address these queries before we present the amendment to the Council for approval.
- Research and Advocacy Coordinator Hiring – November 2023
  - Recognizing the need for continuity and consistency in the DSU, I have decided to hire a full-time Research and Advocacy Coordinator. This role will ensure consistent research and information management, even as Executive Officers transition annually. This individual will also assist with advocacy, campaigning, and support the duties of both the

President and the VPAAE. In addition, they will serve as the medium of communication between Dalhousie students and the governing bodies of the University.

- I am happy to announce that we have found the perfect candidate; Michelle Shelby Bona will start working December 1, 2023.
- Society Policy Working Group – November 7, 2023
  - I had a productive meeting with the VPI and several staff members to provide feedback and advice, contributing to the development of new policies for our societies.
- Oversight Committee Meeting – November 16, 2023
  - I had the opportunity to discuss my initiatives as the President in greater detail, providing a comprehensive understanding for all members of the Oversight Committee. The meeting format facilitated a deeper exploration of ideas and offered a platform for constructive feedback, which will undoubtedly contribute to our collective goals.

### University Affairs

- SPGC Meeting – November 15, 2023
  - As per our regular schedule, I attended the Strategic Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) meeting, where we engaged in insightful discussions about Dalhousie governance with a guest speaker.
- Code of Conduct Task Force – Ongoing
  - I continue to collaborate with DAL as a member of the Code of Student Conduct Task Force. We are currently revisiting the guiding principles set forth by the Integrated Policy Framework Advisory Group. Our focus is on the development and review of policies that govern community behavior.

### External and Broader Community

- Giving Tuesday – Ongoing
  - We are hosting the fourth annual Giving Tuesday campaign for the DSU Food Bank on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This campaign traditionally raises \$80k annually, which is vital for the food banks in Halifax and Truro.
  - The J & W Murphy Foundation, a title sponsor, will match up to \$20k of funds raised here at Dal.
  - In addition to this, all universities across Nova Scotia participate in this initiative, and the foundation matches their funds too.

- It is a big campaign across the province, and we have just started the initial preparations.
- SNS Board Meeting – November 10, 2023
  - Attended a meeting with Students Nova Scotia to prepare for Advocacy Week. The session was focused on strategizing and planning, ensuring we were ready to effectively voice our concerns and ideas during this important event.
- Giving Tuesday Interview – November 10, 2023
  - I had the opportunity to meet with the Giving Tuesday team for an interview, during which I answered questions about our food bank operations and provided some key statistics. The interview is set to be released by the end of this week.
- Remembrance Day – November 11, 2023
  - A few of the Executives and I had the honour of representing the Dalhousie Student Union at the Remembrance Day ceremony. We laid a wreath in memory of the lives lost, paying our respects and acknowledging the sacrifices.
- Students Nova Scotia Advocacy Week – November 13 - November 17, 2023
  - We were honoured to be invited as observers to the Students Nova Scotia Advocacy Week. During this event, we had the opportunity to meet with MLAs and ministers from around Nova Scotia. Our discussions centred on student priorities, including critical issues like housing and health insurance for international students.
  - We were pleased to offer SNS space at the SUB for their use. This allowed us to host several meetings with MLAs right here on our campus. It was a great opportunity to directly engage with policymakers and discuss student priorities in a familiar and comfortable setting.
  - SNS Advocacy Document attached.

### Upcoming Important Dates

- CASA Advo Week – November 20 - November 24, 2023
- Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee Meeting – November 27, 2023



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

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: November 7, 2023 – November 19, 2023

Council Date: November 23, 2023

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Society Policy Working Group meeting, November 7, 11:30 am:

- a. Met with the DSU President, Societies and Programming Coordinator, Policy and Governance Coordinator, and Director of Conference Services.
- b. Discussed current issues with Societies and their policy-oriented solutions.
- c. Discussed Society Policy interplay with other Policies currently being drafted (Board of Operations Policy, Conference Services Policy).

Fall by-election tabling, November 8, 11 am:

- a. Assisted in tabling efforts for the Fall by-election.

Oversight performance evaluation interview, November 8, 1 pm:

- a. Had my interview with the Oversight Committee.

Council prep meeting, November 8, 2:30 pm:

- a. Met with the executive and the Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- b. Discussed upcoming agenda items.

Society meeting, November 9, 2 pm:

- a. Met with a Faculty Society to discuss potential funding for a General Interest Society in the absence of an active Constituent Society with a similar purpose.

Council meeting, November 9, 6:30 pm:

- a. Attended the meeting.
- b. Voted on motions.

Residence Council promo meeting, November 10, 10 am:

- a. Met with the DSU Design and Marketing Manager.
- b. Discussed promo material updates to attract more candidates for LeMarchant and Howe elections.

Executive Committee meeting, November 10, 12 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Approved new FT staff benefit proposal.
- c. Consulted the executive on Society-related matters (Society Policy, Society Expo).

Internal Commissioner meeting, November 13, 10 am:

- a. Met with the Internal Commissioner.
- b. Trained Commissioner on Constitution check process.
- c. Discussed additional task items for the week ahead.

Society Policy Working Group meeting, November 14, 1 pm:

- a. Proposed and discussed amendments to the Society Policy, brought back feedback from executive team.

Executive Committee meeting, November 17, 12 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Discussed Survivor Support Center rebranding and DSU branding initiatives with the executive.

### Society Review Committee Updates

Meeting, November 14, 11 am:

- a. Chaired the meeting.
- b. Ratified the following Societies:
  - a. Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society.
  - b. Shirreff Hall Council.
- c. Allocated Society office spaces for the remainder of the semester.

Note: The Management Society was ratified before the above meeting via e-vote.

### Offices Steering Committee Updates

Nothing to report.

## Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

Meeting, 10:30 am:

- a. Chaired the meeting.
- b. Processed applications with the rest of the Committee.

## University Affairs and Committees

DSU x Student Affairs bi-weekly meeting, November 9, 9 am:

- a. Updated Student Affairs team on my progress with Residence Councils.

ResLife meeting, November 9, 2:30 pm:

- a. Met with RLMs.
- b. Put together an action plan for the next two weeks to tackle remaining Residence Council elections (see more in Goal Progress).

## External and Broader Community

Remembrance Day ceremony, November 11, 11 am:

- a. Represented the DSU along with the President and VPSL at the ceremony.

## Goal Progress

*Summer goal:* To address the lack of candidates for particular positions that are causing a bottleneck for Residence Council elections, we have implemented a new type of election process where people can nominate themselves for up to two positions. Nominees will only be considered for their second option if they're the runner up for the first one (e.g., someone who nominated themselves for President and VP will only be considered for the VP position if they lose the Presidential election).

To address a lack of candidates across the board for a couple of Councils, I'm working with the Design and Marketing Manager to re-start promo efforts.

## Upcoming Dates

Student Accessibility Fund Committee meeting, November 24.



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## Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: November 07 – November 19, 2023

Council Date: November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.
- **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.
- **SRC Meeting:** Attended a society review committee meeting. Participated in the meeting, providing insights, and offering my assistance as required.
- **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. We are going to approve several audits by the end of November and will be reviewing more audits throughout the next few weeks.
- **Oversight Committee Meeting:** Attended an oversight committee meeting.
- **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.

#### Board of Operations

- Conducted our second meeting and discussed a variety of topics relevant to the committee and approved several items.

#### Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

- Will be conducting a GSC meeting next week.

#### International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

- Will be conducting a GSC meeting next week.

#### 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**

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 November 30.



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

Name: Omotayo Bankole

Reporting Period: November 6 - November 17, 2023

Council Date: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

November 7<sup>th</sup>: The President, the general manager and I conducted DSU Full-time staff interviews on this day. Two candidates were interviewed for the role of advocacy and research coordinator at the union.

November 8<sup>th</sup>: A prep meeting was held for the next council meeting to be taken place that week.

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Third candidate interview for the full-time staff role of advocacy and research coordinator.

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Last candidate interview for the full-time staff role of advocacy and research coordinator.

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Attended ECM

November 13<sup>th</sup>: Executive review meeting with oversight committee.

November 14<sup>th</sup>: SRC meeting for consideration of office space applications by various societies.

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Attended ECM.

### External Committee Updates

## Student Senate Caucus Updates

November 15<sup>th</sup>: Senate caucus updates on senate sub-committees' nominations.

## University Affairs and Committees

November 6<sup>th</sup>: Special Senate Meeting was held to grant students' academic amnesty for participation in the day of action organized by CFS.

November 10<sup>th</sup>: SDC cases final ratification for hearing. Process involves reviewing 20-30 upcoming disciplinary hearings.

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Joined the panel on a SDC hearing via teams.

November 15<sup>th</sup>: Finalized appointment details to meet with Dalhousie Vice-president Academic.

## External and Broader Community

November 10<sup>th</sup>: SNS fall board meeting: A meeting held to discuss the upcoming advocacy week organized by SNS, taking place in Halifax.

November 13<sup>th</sup>: Attended SNS Advocacy weekday 1; discussions surrounding finalizing the requests to be put to the government.

## Goal Progress

Goals to ramp up student advocacy is coming well together, over the next couple of weeks with the new full-time staff hire, I foresee a breakthrough in fulfilling my fall term goals.

## Upcoming Dates

Meeting with the Vice-president

Senate Caucus Meeting- November 27<sup>th</sup>



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

Name: Ana Patton

Reporting Period: November 14<sup>th</sup> – November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Council Date: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

#### **ECM** – Ongoing

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

#### **Impact Awards** – November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- I discussed the awards, the program, as well as gathering the committees. We also discussed the communications strategy, branding, and reviewed everyone's responsibilities and deliverables for the awards.

#### **Winter Gala** – Ongoing

- Finalized bookings, and started work on the logistics, such a set-up & tear-down, food, and décor.
- Discussed having a charity element to the Gala, more info coming soon!

#### **Exam Wellness** – Ongoing

- Finalized bookings, as well as communications.
- Created concurrent event for “Midnight Breakfast” on Sexton Campus, in collaboration with DUES.
- Worked with DAL Physio Clinic to finalize the logistics of lowering prices for two dates during this week.
- Added an additional day to “Puppy Power Hour”.

### **Winter O-Week – Ongoing**

- Created new events and roundtables for the duration of the week.
- Finished bookings for a Pre-Varsity game party.
- Started work on a “What is the DSU” presentation for the opening day.
- Completed bookings and started on communications/socials for the duration of the week.
- Finishing up logistics for Dalfest!

### **Student Life Committee Updates**

- I have reached out to the members about a date to hold this committee every two weeks!
- When these meetings occur, I will start to ask for ideas for new events, as well as input on events which are currently being planned and finalized!

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

- Started the process for hiring an Event Commissioner for the Winter semester!
- Decided on hiring committee, reviewing applications now!

### University Affairs and Committees

#### **Student Support Services Fair – November 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Tabled at this event (which was a part of DAL’s Open House) to promote the DSU, and help incoming and prospective students have more awareness about what the DSU can do for them!

#### **Sexualized Violence Prevention Resource Group – November 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Attended my first meeting with this group!
- Learned about university initiatives, as well as initiatives that occur across DAL, SMU and King’s.

### External and Broader Community

#### **Trans Day of Remembrance – November 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Set up vigil outside the SUB with NSPIRG and DALout to honour this date.



## **DSUxDUES Exam Lunch – November 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Set up two dates to provide students on Sexton with sandwiches, coffee and snacks!
- Dates are December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>!

## **Outreach**

- Drafted email to send to all societies, asking for event proposals!
- The aim is to facilitate events that they may not be able to host on their own.
- I will bring the proposals to the SLC (Student Life Committee), and ask their opinions!

## **Outreach for the DSU**

- Started planning an event to bring more awareness about the DSU to students, as well as the greater community.

## Goal Progress

- I am currently working on setting my goals for the Winter and will present them as soon as possible!

## Upcoming Dates

**DSUxDUES** – DSU Meet n’ Greet + Trivia Night @ the T-Room, on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

- Please attend if you can! Get to know students on Sexton, and let them know about your role in the DSU!