



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

Name: Mariam Knakriah

Reporting Period: June 17 - July 31, 2023

Council Date: July 31, 2023

Internal Affairs

- Staff Meeting – June 23, 2023
 - General updates and announcements were brought up by different DSU departments
- General Manager Appointment – June 26, 2023
 - I started a Hiring Committee in late May with support from Jackie Doherty (Financial Controller), Patrick Martin (Director of Facility Operations), and Henry Amin (VPFO).
 - We interviewed four candidates and successfully found the perfect fit. On June 26th, 2023, Meghan McDonald was officially hired as the Director of Operations.
 - McDonald started working on July 10th, 2023.
- O-Week Steering Committee Meetings – June 21, 23, 29, 30 and July 5, 2023
 - O-Week planning is ongoing.
 - On June 21st, Ana Patton officially started working with the committee as an Event Commissioner.
 - Several O-Week events are now finalized.
- Chartwells – Ongoing
 - On June 5th, I held a meeting with Henry Amin (VPFO), Tammy Maniou (VPFI), Kavita Siewrattan (Director of Operations), and Jackie Doherty (Financial Controller) to discuss our agreement with Chartwells.
 - Jackie, Henry, Meghan, and I are working closely with our lawyer, Will Russell, to decide on an offer Chartwells has proposed.

- VPSL Administrative Leave and Termination – June 26, 2023
 - VPSL, Emilia Cordova’s administrative leave was extended until July 26th to ensure Council has enough time to meet and determine a path forward.
 - On July 10th, Emilia Cordova was officially terminated from her position.
- Director of Operations – June 30, 2023
 - Kavita Siewrattan is no longer the DSU’s Director of Operations. Her last day of work was on June 30th, 2023.
- ECM Meetings – July 18 and July 24, 2023
 - The Executive Team and General Manager discussed multiple issues regarding the development of our workplace in the SUB.
 - Starting August 4th, the Staff Meetings are dedicated to Staff Members only (without the Executive Team) to ensure a safe environment.
 - Had discussions about supporting Graduate Societies.
- Bursaries – Ongoing in July
 - The executives and I are finalizing several bursaries for Domestic and International Students.
 - Bursaries need to be approved by Council.
- One-on-Ones – Ongoing
 - I continue to have one-on-ones with the majority of the full-time staff, checking up on their physical and mental well-being, answering any questions, and listening to any concerns.

University Affairs

- Transition and Engagement Steering Committee Meeting – June 19, 2023
 - Alongside the university, we have discussed a potential leadership program that will be open for all students on campus starting next year.
- Student Affairs (Late September Campus Vibrancy) – June 21, 2023
 - Student Affairs and I started working on events and programs for late September, such as Homecoming and DalFest.
- Student Affairs (O-Week Discussions) – June 23, 2023

- Dalhousie showed interest in collaborating with the DSU on O-Week events.
- Dalhousie will be helping technically and somewhat financially with some O-Week events.
- Board of Governors Meeting – June 27, 2023
 - I submitted a report with the latest updates on the governance side of things in the DSU to the Board of Governors.
- Pride at Dal – July 5, 2023
 - DalPride, DalOut, and I are working together to facilitate safe, fun, and inclusive Pride activities on campus as the Pride Parade got cancelled.
- Ombuds Advisory Committee Meeting for Annual Report Feedback – July 17, 2023
 - Met with the University Ombudsperson, Carla Britten, and a few Assistant Deans to study and evaluate the new OAC Annual Report.
- Care Hubs and O-Week – July 25, 2023
 - Met with a few of the Student Affairs staff to discuss safety during O-Week.
 - Alongside DalSecurity and the DMCRT, Dalhousie will be providing us with Care Hubs at O-Week for extra protection for our students.
- Meetings with Student Affairs – Ongoing
 - This year is truly exceptional as I am ensuring that the DSU and Dalhousie collaborate on various levels, including O-Week, HOCO, and multiple academic projects, which is a rare occurrence. I aim to significantly strengthen our relationship with Dalhousie to better serve our students.
- IYS-NS HRM Workshop – July 27, 2023
 - The IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program has taken the lead on bringing the Integrated Youth Services to Nova Scotia and is host to the IYS Provincial Leadership Team.
 - The IYS Provincial Leadership Team will engage with key government partners to create IYS Nova Scotia.
 - Therefore, I have applied to become an IYS Provincial Leadership Member to strengthen our efforts around mental health on campus and in Nova Scotia.
- Senate Special Meeting – July 27, 2023
 - Confidential

External and Broader Community

- Maritime Student Congress – June 27 until June 30, 2023
 - Last month, I attended the Maritime Student Congress alongside student Leaders from different student unions/ associations around Atlantic Canada.
 - The congress involved governance training, future planning, and discussions on governmental levels
 - I am glad to announce that I will be working closely with Saint Mary's University Student Association (SMUSA) over the next year on several projects. It is the DSU's first collaboration with another Maritime student union. This will offer several benefits:
 - Shared Resources: DSU and SMUSA can pool their resources, including funding, facilities, and expertise. By working together, we can access a larger pool of resources, which can be used to improve services and support for students.
 - Stronger Advocacy: By working together, DSU and SMUSA can tackle broader issues that affect students at a regional, national, or even international level. This collaboration enables us to engage in more impactful advocacy campaigns, such as lobbying for improved education policies, increased financial aid, or better mental health support.
 - Enhanced Services and Programming: Collaborating student unions can offer a wider range of services and programs to students. We can organize joint events, workshops, conferences, and social activities that bring together students from different universities, fostering a sense of community and enabling the sharing of diverse perspectives.
- Canadian Alliance of Student Associations – May 15th until 19th, and July 17th until July 21st, 2023
 - In May 2023, I attended CASA's first Foundation Conference in Ottawa alongside student Leaders from different student unions/associations around Canada.

- I also had the chance to attend CASA's second conference: Policy and Strategy in New Brunswick, around two weeks ago.
- I shaped advocacy priorities according to the needs of the Dalhousie Students. I also provided valuable insights for board and committee action plans and received comprehensive media training to amplify the student voices on critical student issues. The Student Leaders and I have formed a robust advocacy strategy for the year ahead. I am excited to start working with our provincial government on many projects, including tuition, housing, and financial aid.
- DSU's Liquor License – July 4, 2023
 - Meghan McDonald (General Manager) is now the new DSU liquor licence holder.
 - This decision was made after the resignation of Kavita Siewrattan (the former liquor license holder).

Goal Progress

- As the newly elected president, I have observed that the DSU faces challenges in terms of communication and transparency with both the student body and the university administration. Recognizing the importance of addressing these issues, I am making it my primary goal this summer to improve communication within our union. Some of my work so far includes:
 - DSU Progress Board: I am working on a chalk blackboard project in the Student Union Building (SUB) lobby. This board will have clearly defined sections, such as "Current Projects," "Completed Projects," "Upcoming Events," and "Achievements," and it will serve as a way of communication with the students and public about the DSU's work. Students deserve to know what the DSU does and where their money goes; therefore, having something visual to represent all of this is an ideal way of sending the students a message of our efforts.
 - Staff Training: It is my responsibility as the President to make sure that the DSU is working efficiently, but most importantly, in a healthy manner. I have noticed some tension and discomfort in the Union with the restructuring efforts and the changes made before I took my position. I am on the hunt for the best relevant training I can find in Halifax and online. Staff training is crucial as it enhances

skills, knowledge, and performance while increasing productivity, employee satisfaction, and adaptation to change. There will be a conflict resolution training and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training soon.

- Societies Collaboration: I have attended and plan to continue attending society events throughout the summer, as well as completing various one-on-one meetings with societies to explore opportunities for collaboration and mutually beneficial support.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Transition and Engagement Operational Committee Meeting – August 1, 2023
- Consent Week Planning Discussions – August 10, 2023
- Executive Team Trainings – August 4 and 11, 2023
 - I have worked closely with Student Nova Scotia for the past month to provide different pieces of training for my Executive team. The trainings will include topics around team building, governance, media training, and provincial engagements.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Tammy Maniou

Reporting Period: June 17, 2023 – July 25, 2023

Council Date: July 31, 2023

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

One-on-one staff meeting, June 19, 10 am:

- a. Met with the President and Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- b. Discussed progress with Committee interest forms.

Executive Committee meeting, June 19, 2:30 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Discussed general workload updates.

DSAS meeting, June 20, 1 pm:

- a. Met with DSAS Summer Managers and Director of Operations.
- b. Went through expectations and staff questions.

Comms meeting, June 20, 1:30 pm:

- a. Discussed committee membership promo schedule, general promo initiatives, and sponsorship package progress/final steps.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, June 21, 9 am:

- a. Was updated on O-Week progress.

Society complaint meeting, June 21, 10:30 am:

- a. Discussed complaint with the Respondents.

Society complaint meeting, June 30, 2:30 pm:

- a. Discussed complaint with the Society.

Society complaint meeting, July 4, 10 am:

- a. Assisted the Society in dealing with internal complaints.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, July 4, 9 am:

- a. Was updated on O-Week progress.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, July 7, 9 am:

- a. Was updated on ongoing tasks of the committee.

Staff meeting, July 7, 12 pm:

- a. Staff was informed of the arrival of the new DSU General Manager, Meghan McDonald.

Council prep, July 10, 12 pm:

- a. Went through the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting with the PGC and VPFO.

Council meeting, July 10, 5 pm:

- a. Attended the meeting.
- b. Voted on committee appointments.

Executive Committee meeting, July 11, 9 am:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Formally welcomed the GM to the DSU team.
- c. Looped in Meghan on relevant portfolio items and discussed onboarding logistics.

Comms meeting, July 11, 1:30 pm:

- a. Discussed sponsorship updates.
- b. Discussed upcoming social media posts (Health Plan, Food Bank).

Steering Committee meeting, July 13, 12:30 pm:

- a. Took minutes and chaired the meeting.
- b. Discussed SUB closures for Fall and Winter, updates on a new FT staff position, next steps for the Survivor Support Centre, and efficient space usage in the SUB.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, July 14, 9 am:

- a. The Committee went through all events on the schedule to try and finalize timeslots and determine pending tasks to be completed.

Ad-hoc bursary meeting, July 14, 2 pm:

- a. Met with the President and VPFO.
- b. Presented ToR for ad-hoc ADHD assessment bursary.

Executive Committee meeting, July 18, 12 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Discussed GM ideas on improving office communications and internal issues.

Comms meeting, July 18, 1:30 pm:

- a. Discussed upcoming new students newsletter and O-Week website/promo.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, July 19, 9 am:

- a. Was updated on ongoing tasks.

O-Week Steering Committee meeting, July 21, 9 am:

- a. Was updated on ongoing tasks.
- b. Offered advice on event accessibility.
- c. Connected Events Commissioner with DSU Offices.

Staff meeting, July 21, 12 pm:

- a. Met with staff and GM.
- b. Discussed changes in internal communications and office hour structure.

Society meeting, July 24, 11 am:

- a. Met with GM, Financial Controller, and VPFO.
- b. Discussed ongoing Society issue and steps for mitigation.

Executive Committee meeting, July 24, 2:30 pm:

- a. Took minutes.
- b. Looped in the rest of the executive on ongoing Society issue.
- c. Discussed staff meeting updates and staff training opportunities.

Comms meeting, July 25, 1:30 pm:

- a. Discussed Residence Council promotion comms plan and upcoming newsletter items.

Society Review Committee Updates

Still assisting a Society with an ongoing complaint. Hoping to get some things resolved by July 5. Committee members have not been appointed yet.

Offices Steering Committee Updates

Nothing to report. Committee members have not been appointed yet.

Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

Nothing to report.

University Affairs and Committees

On July 5 I received the schedule for FASS meetings for the upcoming year.

DSU x Student Affairs, July 6, 9 am:

- a. Met the new AVP Campus Life, Melissa McKay.
- b. Discussed goals for the upcoming year and ongoing projects.

ResLife meeting, July 20, 12 pm:

- a. Met with RLMs.
- b. Discussed plan for Residence Council promotion to students and tasks for the next two weeks.

External and Broader Community

On June 22 and June 23, I attended a Feed Nova Scotia conference in Dartmouth with the DSU Food Bank Manager. The conference included a series of workshops with information on community engagement and Feed Nova Scotia Operations, roundtable discussions, and the Feed Nova Scotia AGM.

Goal Progress

For the past few weeks, I've been collecting all information available within the DSU about Residence Councils. I compiled my notes on a document (shared with RLMs) and flagged areas of concern when it comes to election timelines and how they co-incide with students moving in Residence, as well as honorarium opportunities, and Residence Council relationship with ResLife.

In my meeting with ResLife on July 20th, we discussed plans for promoting Residence Councils to incoming students:

- Pamphlets in O-Week kits
- Tabling during O-Week by myself and the Street Squad
- Tabling in Residences
- Social media and posterings

In that meeting I was also made aware of piles of documents related to Residence Councils stored in Residences. I'll be setting up times for me to go to Residences and see what useful information we can find on past events, admin info, and Residence Council constitutions (most are currently missing).

Upcoming Dates

Vacation, July 27 and 28.

RLM meeting, August 1.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Henry Amin

Reporting Period: June 17 – July 31, 2023

Council Date: July 31, 2023

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- One of my primary involvements was attending all the meetings focused on the negotiation of our General Manager's offer letter. I'm pleased to announce that we successfully completed the hiring process, and the new General Manager has now started their tenure.
- On June 30th, I conducted a Treasurer Training session for our DSU societies. The aim of this training is to equip our societies' treasurers with the necessary financial skills for optimal functioning and decision-making within their societies.
- As a member of the Executive Committee, I've participated in all our meetings, providing insights, and offering my assistance as required.
- 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.
- I've scheduled all Health and Safety Meetings for this year, underscoring our commitment to a safe and healthy working environment.
- I've attended various staff and committee meetings, including Orientation Week Committee meetings, discussions with our food service provider, and Capital Projects meetings, to name a few.
- One of my key involvements has been chairing the Steering Committee meetings. Here, we have been actively discussing ways to improve the internal structure of the DSU. The focus has been on finding innovative and effective strategies to streamline our processes and increase efficiency among different departments.

- I also took part in the discussions surrounding the establishment of the ISAAC MACDONALD MEMORIAL BURSARY FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA bursary, offering my inputs and coordinating with all relevant parties.
- Together with the DSU President and Events Commissioner, we met with Glow Parties to discuss the products we plan to rent for our O-Week events. Our aim is to make this year's O-Week events as engaging and memorable as possible for our students.

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- Currently, I am overseeing the assignment of new members to our Budget and Finance Committee, Grants and Sponsorship Committee, and International Student Emergency Bursary Committee. I am keenly awaiting expressions of interest from potential DSU members and DSU councilors.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

- Currently, I am overseeing the assignment of new members to our Budget and Finance Committee, Grants and Sponsorship Committee, and International Student Emergency Bursary Committee. I am keenly awaiting expressions of interest from potential DSU members and DSU councilors.

International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

- Currently, I am overseeing the assignment of new members to our Budget and Finance Committee, Grants and Sponsorship Committee, and International Student Emergency Bursary Committee. I am keenly awaiting expressions of interest from potential DSU members and DSU councilors.

University Affairs and Committees

- a) Attended Student Affairs meeting.

External and Broader Community

- Alongside the President, we attended the CASA Policy and Strategy Conference held in Fredericton, NB. The conference proved to be highly beneficial, enabling us to gain valuable insights and represent DSU's interests effectively.

Goal Progress

a) Summer Semester Goal: Restructuring the Dalhousie Student Union

During the summer semester, my primary goal was the initiation and implementation of a substantial restructuring of the Dalhousie Student Union. In pursuit of this goal, I established and chaired a dedicated steering committee tasked with designing a new, more efficient internal structure. This new structure saw the creation of a single general manager role in place of the previously existing two director positions, a move designed to streamline leadership and improve administrative efficiency. Additionally, we proposed the role of a research and outreach coordinator to improve our connections both within our student body and our broader community and to better support DSU executives. After crafting detailed job descriptions, we set a hiring timeline for these new roles and are currently in the final stages of hiring the general manager, with the process for the research and outreach coordinator soon to commence.

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

In the upcoming fall semester, my primary focus will be on updating the various policies and by-laws that fall within my portfolio. Many of these policies have become outdated, and it's crucial that they are revised to reflect the current needs and realities of our student union. In addition to updating these policies, I also plan to provide recommendations for amendments to by-laws relevant to my portfolio. This process will involve thorough consultations with all relevant parties to ensure that any proposed changes adequately represent the union's interests and continue to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.

c) Winter Semester Goal: Under Evaluation

As for the winter semester, I am still in the process of evaluating and setting my primary goal. My commitment to maintaining an open line of communication with all constituents will play a significant role in deciding this goal. I intend to seek their input to ensure that my goal aligns with their needs and aspirations. Further updates on this will be provided in due course.

Upcoming Dates

- a) A key upcoming event is the Treasurer Training scheduled for July 31st.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Omotayo Bankole

Reporting Period: July 17- July 31

Council Date: Monday July 31st

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Council Meetings:

- a. July 19th: Attended ECM meetings.
- b. July 24th: Attended ECM meetings.

O-Week Committee Meetings:

- a. July 14th: Attended O-week steering committee meetings.

Governance Training:

- a. July 13th: Met with DSU Policy coordinator for governance training.
- b. July 13th: Review transition documents and DSU governing documents.
- c. July 20th: Meeting with the general manager. Discussion centered settling into the role of VP AE and official responsibilities.

External Committee Updates

Ombuds Annual Report Meeting:

- a. July 19th: Meeting with Ombudsperson. Discussion centred around understanding the role of the Ombudsperson and Annual report.

Student Senate Caucus Updates

Committee formation:

- a. July 18th: Approved caucus members for the 2023-24 academic year

External and Broader Community

- a. July 20th: Met with student from M.Eng Graduate Program about program issues involving an inconvenient “continuation” fee facing the international students.
- b. July 21st: Phone call with Marc Guadet about potential violence prevention seminar that would include a personal defence workshop on campus.

Goal Progress

Taking initiative to advocate on behalf of the M.Eng students, email sent to Faculty of Graduate studies to amplify the request to review the program requirements.

Upcoming Dates

Council Meeting : August 14th, 2023