## Candidates

### Executive Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Colin Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madeleine H. Stinson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moonie Shakzodova</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President, Internal</td>
<td>Hannah Stewart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sterling LaRowe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President, Finance and Operations</td>
<td>Isa Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President, Academic and External</td>
<td>Erica Seelemann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mohab Brisha</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suay Shao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President, Student Life</td>
<td>Jad Ghiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mazen Brisha</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shivam Mahajan</td>
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### Community/Faculty Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Student Representative</td>
<td>Claudia Castillo-Prentt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Colin Cooper

**Candidate for...**
- **President**
- **Year and Program**
  - Fourth Year
  - Bachelor of Arts: Political Science

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**Questionnaire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• I have served on the executive of several student societies, which has helped me learn the leadership, teamwork, and management needed for this position. Notably, during my time with Halifax Greek Council helped rewrite our constitution to reflect current DSU policies. My studies in the political science department has led me to strongly value responsible government and the rights of underrepresented people.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why do you think you are a good candidate?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• I believe I would make a positive contribution as DSU President by bringing a unique yet informed perspective to the executive. Students with physical disabilities are severely underrepresented in the DSU, and with me as President issues of accessibility can be brought to the forefront. I also have the experience and character needed to listen to all student groups and fight for everyone.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The main goals I’d like to accomplish focus on creating a more democratic DSU driven by the needs of the students it represents. I will fight to improve accessibility on our campuses so that every student has the same opportunities to succeed. I will ensure that proper procedures are followed in any interactions with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), so that the students are aware of any potential changes in the relationship between the DSU and the CFS,</td>
</tr>
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</table>
and can make an informed decision on whether or not to support it. Lastly, I plan to lobby the provincial government for a freeze on tuition to stop the endless tuition hikes that make Dalhousie less and less financially accessible.

- My main source of inspiration comes from two public figures who I admire: Jack Layton and Paul Vienneau. Jack Layton was a leader of the federal NDP who inspired me as an example of a progressive politician who was extremely principled and dedicated to his cause. Paul Vienneau, commonly known in Halifax as “The Asshole in the Wheelchair”, is a local man who the city hired as an accessibility consultant after he publicly embarrassed the city for its inadequate efforts to clear public sidewalks of snow and ice during the winter of 2015 by doing it himself in his wheelchair.

- I’m a cyborg! I have a battery in my chest with wires running under my skin up my head and into my brain. Unfortunately because of the battery I can’t go through magnetic scanners, so airport security is even more annoying than usual for me.

**Campaign Links**

- Facebook: [Link](#)
- Twitter: [@yeswecane](#)
- Instagram: [@cooperyeswecane](#)
Madeleine H. Stinson

**Candidate for...**

President

**Year and Program**

Third Year

Bachelor of Management: Sustainability Major Security Studies Minor

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### Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• For as long as I can remember I have been constantly seeking opportunities for growth and leadership. Since coming to Dalhousie I’ve become a supervisor at the student union bar, a member of several councils in the Rowe School of Business, and the President of Dalhousie’s DECA U chapter. Professionally, I also have a combined 2+ years of management experience in customer service industries. Through my studies I’ve gained invaluable communication, problem solving, and listening skills which I believe lend well to the presidential position. I won’t tell you I’ve got years of policy experience or that I’m going to have all the answers, all the time. What I do have is a passion for making our community stronger, and the dedication to show up every day to give this position the energy it deserves.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Why do you think you are a good candidate?</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• I believe that I am a good candidate to be Dalhousie’s Student Union President because I’ve got the dedication, optimism, and passion to succeed. I’m here to help my peers succeed and to work towards a student union that you can all be proud of. I’m ready to work on our relationship with administration, have the difficult conversations, and address student issues in a meaningful way. If I win, this coming year won’t be perfect, I won’t make the right call every single time. However, I can promise that I’m here for the long hours and that I’m not afraid to take responsibility for my actions. I’m willing to put</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Dalhousie Student Union

**ELECTIONS**

**2020**

in the time to educate myself on the things I don’t know, and to provide space for the voices that need to be heard over mine. Should I become DSU president, the doors are open - whoever you are, whatever you need - I’m here to listen, support, and advocate for all of you. The DSU has a long way to go and a lot of work to do, but I’m excited for that challenge. Dal students deserve to move forward, have a campus that feels like home, and a DSU that’s here when they need them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Should I be elected as DSU president my top three priorities will be: integrating transparency and accountability into union leadership positions, creating long-term, sustainable plans for operating and maintaining the union and its services, and bringing our student community closer together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• I plan to reinstate live-streaming of DSU council meetings and ensure that members are large are more aware of the day-day actions of the DSU executive. I am excited to start work on an analysis of our union’s operations to find out where the gaps in student services are and find solutions. I also want to plan for the future of the union by creating a mission and vision to guide future generations of executives. In order to connect our student body, I want to see more community spaces and events where we can celebrate and support one another. This would include an emphasis on providing space for student advocacy, greater engagement with sports and the arts, and better homecoming and general event planning.</td>
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<tr>
<th>What inspires you and why?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• My peers inspire me more than anything. Part of the reason why I love Dalhousie is because we have such a dedicated student body. I am constantly amazed by the work I see coming from students in our community. The people who take the extra time out of their day to support each other, fight for their causes, and better their communities are the reason I am running for DSU president. I want to be in a position where I can give back that same energy to the student body. The people I have met here over the last three years have pushed me to be my best self and have stood alongside me unwaveringly. I believe in a strong, passionate student body. I believe every Dalhousie student deserves to have their accomplishments celebrated and to be supported when times are tough. I’m inspired to run for DSU President by all of you, so that I can help make the DAL student experience the best it can be.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List one fun fact about yourself?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• I used to spend my summers working on a corn farm and managing a local produce market!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Campaign Links</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Facebook: Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Instagram: @maddiestinson</td>
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</table>
**Moonie Shakzodova**

**Candidate for...**

**President**

**Year and Program**

**Bachelor of Science: Economics & Psychology**

## Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?</th>
<th>• I was the president of the student council in High School. I oversaw the operations of all the individual councils and societies. b. I was also the vice president of the 2nd Floor Rock council at Risley Hall. I assisted in organizing events and initiated ideas to make our second-floor community more integrated. c. I worked at the Office of Advancement, where I interacted with Dalhousie University Alumni and current faculty to gather feedback on the operations run by the university. d. In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, I was an assistant manager to the neighborhood committee, where I overlooked various events and handled the financial aspects, such as the distribution of funds to certain events.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why do you think you are a good candidate?</td>
<td>• I believe that I am a very well-rounded candidate with proven managerial and financial experience. Furthermore, my approachability and my cheerful personality has allowed me to connect with various people throughout the Dalhousie campuses on a deeper and meaningful level. Also, the fact that I am an international student from Uzbekistan and that I went to an international school has shaped and broadened my perspective on numerous issues and topics. Hence, considering all of the above, the student body would benefit immensely from having a reliable candidate who would be able to consider and address their needs in a timely and efficient fashion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the top 3</td>
<td>The top three things I would like to accomplish during my term in office at the DSU are as following:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU? | • Restore the faith and trust of the student body in the Dalhousie Student Union; hence, improving the sense of community at Dalhousie.  
• ii. Give equal attention and resources to all Dalhousie University campuses and improve the network between them.  
• iii. Use this opportunity to raise awareness and resources for mental health throughout our campuses. |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What inspires you and why?</td>
<td>• The main thing that inspires me is people’s willingness to not give up despite all the adversity that life throws at them. Because of my personal upbringing and the financial struggles that were thrown to my family, I was able to see what true courage, patience, and work-ethic can do to overcome any obstacles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List one fun fact about yourself?</td>
<td>• One fun fact about me is that I am really good at ‘All-You-Can-Eat sushi’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Campaign Links | • Facebook: [Link](#)  
• Twitter: [@moonie_2020](#)  
• Instagram: [@moonie_2020](#) |
Hannah Stewart

Vice President Internal

Year and Program

Second Year
Bachelor of Science: Medical Sciences

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?

- I have had lots of experience when it comes to managing large groups and ensuring the comfort of each individual. I’ve been an RA in Shirreff Hall for the past year and have learned tons about time management, accountability, taking care of large groups of individuals, and overall being social and valuing communication. I have societal experience as a member myself and have been a part of the DSU Social Media group. I have an extensive background of employment and volunteer work which allows me to appreciate the opportunities societies provide the students at Dalhousie and the inclusivity one would not achieve without them.

Why do you think you are a good candidate?

- I harness the drive and compassion I believe is needed for positions in the DSU. My background has allowed me to understand and appreciate the inner workings of societies by working closely with them. I want nothing more than to see the student body succeed in ways that I know they can. I hope to be the enabler of growth for societies and the change that represents the needs of the student body.

What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?

- My top three goals for my term-in-office are to improve communication of the DSU with the student body, simplify ratification process for societies, and incite greater accountability as a student union.
Don't make assumptions and read carefully.
Dalhousie Student Union

ELECTIONS

2020

Sterling LaRowe

Vice President Internal

Year and Program

Fourth Year

Biology Major

Philosophy Minor

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?

- I have been an active student in Dal, simply as a student participating in events, and as an active member in societies.
- I acted as Vice President Internal for the Dalhousie Arts and Social Science Society and was the President of this campus's chapter of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Why do you think you are a good candidate?

- From working with DASSS I had an opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the DSU and its structure, the importance of society activity and how they can engage with students to make one's university career more than books you've read and lectures you attended.
- With Phi Delta Theta, I was given the opportunity to act within a significant leadership role. This allowed me to practice strategic planning, conflict resolution, coordination between people of different backgrounds and passions and understanding and working within bylaws and governing documents. Though someone from a fraternity may cause trepidation, the experience has made me into the leader I am today, and the leader I can be for the student body.

What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at

- Reinvigorate current forms of communication within the DSU and put systems in place for future leaders to use, in order to create easy and meaningful conversations with their constituents.
Dalhousie Student Union  
**ELECTIONS**  
2020

| the DSU?                        | • Rebuild the relationship between the DSU and the student body, making campus feel more like a unified community that everyone feels welcome to be a part of and feels represented by.  
|                               | • Streamline processes and make access to the DSU and its resources easier for students whether it’s society ratification or grant applications, I want to make the systems we have work for students for years to come. |
| What inspires you and why?     | • I know I can do well in this position, I know I can help people, and in the end, if I have the ability to do good in the world, I will. |
| List one fun fact about yourself? | • I’ve traveled nearly coast to coast in Canada, moving from one place to another with everything important I own packed into a tiny Toyota Corolla. |
| Campaign Links                | • Facebook: [Link](#)  
|                               | • Instagram: [@sterling4vpi](#) |
Isa Wright
Vice President Finance and Operations
Year and Program
Fourth Year
Bachelor of Social Work

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?

- My main qualification at this point is that I’ve been in the role for almost a year! I have really loved my time as VPFO, and have learned a lot throughout this difficult and tumultuous year. I have worked closely with the DSU finance department to write the upcoming year’s budget and have survived audit season three semesters in a row!

  I’m very comfortable looking over society bookkeeping records for audits, and often meet with societies to help them out with this. Before I was the VPFO, I also managed a small business, and learned to read these kinds of financial statements on a regular basis in order to monitor my progress. For the first two years of my degree, I successfully paid most of my living expenses and tuition by running this business by myself, and I gained experience which allowed me to quickly adapt to the financial systems used at the DSU. I have all of the necessary skills to analyse the documents we use at the DSU, and also have a good working relationship with our Controller, who frequently teaches me new skills.

Why do you think you are a good candidate?

- I came into this position with the mindset that budgets are all about priorities and this is something I still believe. We truly can only create change and better serve students if our budget is reflective of our values. I have increased the amount of funding available for all bursary programs, introduced new emergency bursaries and changed the time it takes to receive funding from a 3 month wait period to a three week wait period. I have done a lot to improve the finances of the DSU and would love another year to continue this work. I will continue to ensure that the values and
needs of our student body are reflected in our budget and that we have the funding we need in order to continue to improve our campuses.

What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?

- Collaborate more with social justice campaigns and expand our grants program so we can allocate more funding to general interest student societies, who don’t receive funding from other sources.
- Hiring more students at the DSU and paying them a liveable wage. This year, we’ve raised the wage for many of our student positions, and I’m looking forward to working with the part time staff union to work towards a $15 minimum wage throughout the SUB!
- Allocate more resources towards food justice and housing crises. Many students come to the DSU when they can’t afford to eat or pay their rent, and while bursaries are often a good short-term solution, I am committed to assessing our services on a long-term scale so we can work towards helping students find food, shelter, and financial resources that actually allow them to live and participate in student life.

What inspires you and why?

- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is my hero! She really successfully balances the demands of an incredibly stressful position as the New York representative in US Congress, and the demands of being a human in this turbulent political climate. She states her priorities and her values so eloquently, while being so involved in her communities and with the population she represents -- I watch her Instagram stories every day and they never fail to give me a boost of inspiration.

List one fun fact about yourself?

- I’m currently obsessed with the TV show Love is Blind -- it’s so funny and shows a lot of interesting relationship dynamics!

Campaign Links

- Instagram: @is_wright

VPFO Questionnaire

I have been the VPFO since June, and have gained many of the skills needed for this position including familiarity with the accounting software we use, Quickbooks. I’m very comfortable looking over society bookkeeping records for audits, and often meet with societies to help them out with this. Before I was the VPFO, I also managed a small business, and learned to read these kinds of financial statements on a regular basis in order to monitor my progress. For the the first two years of my degree, I successfully paid most of my living expenses and tuition by running this business by myself, and I gained experience which allowed me to quickly adapt to the financial systems used at the DSU. I have all of the necessary skills to analyse the documents we use at the DSU, and also have a good working relationship with our Controller, who frequently teaches me new skills.
**Tell us about your experiences with creating, monitoring, and adhering to budgets.**

Before I was the VPFO, in addition to running my hospitality business, I was the treasurer of several societies, and learned the importance of adhering to budgets to ensure financial sustainability. Over the past year as VPFO, we went through several structural changes which caused some complications in the structure of our budget. I have been consistently meeting with our Controller to create changes between departments to ensure we don’t go over budget overall, and have been working closely with her to create the budget for the upcoming year, and have been working to reevaluate the DSU’s spending so that we can truly reflect our priorities in this year’s budget.

**Tell us about your experiences with completing bank reconciliations.**

I have become very familiar with bank reconciliations in the past year, as I frequently perform society audits and evaluate their bank reconciliations. I am very comfortable reviewing and completely bank reconciliations, as they are a crucial part of both society audits and ensuring adherence to our budget.

**Tell us about your experiences with accounting software**

I’m a very logical and organized person, and I’m good with computers, and can usually adapt to new programs quickly. Throughout the year, I have become very competent with Quickbooks, and have required little training or assistance from the accounting department. I’m very comfortable using accounting software to review department spending, and often, the Executive and our full-time staff members come to me when they need an update on their departments to date, which I am always happy to help with!

**Can you tell us about how you approach challenging problems or situations?**

This year was certainly eventful and full of challenges. One of the biggest challenges was managing my long-term goals, like environmentally responsible investing and consistent communication with societies, in conjunction with day-to-day tasks, like performing society audits and meeting with members and society treasurers. In the spring, I quickly learned that there were no efficient or technology-based systems for tracking audits, grants, or bursary applications, and I often became flustered and frustrated when completing these important tasks. One of the solutions I found to these issues was to put everything into Airtable, a system which is great for tracking applications and committee decisions. Now, society audits, grants, and International Student Emergency Bursaries are all tracked using airtable documents which Member Services, my commissioner, and the accounting department all have access to, which has expedited all of the processes significantly, and really streamlined the whole process.

My approach to difficult situations is usually to consider the people most impacted by the situation, and consult them on how I can improve their experience of the situation. It’s really important to me to create reliable and sustainable systems which work for everyone involved, and I think this is really necessary at the DSU. One of my biggest strengths is my logical and solution-focused mind, and I consistently prioritize those most impacted when I am creating solutions to problems.
Dalhousie Student Union
ELECTIONS
2020
Erica Seelemann

Candidate for...

Vice President
Academic and External

Year and Program

Awaiting Info

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?

- The Vice-President of Academic and External is responsible for community outreach and issues that affect the student body’s academic performance. The last four years I have been heavily involved in the community on and off campus. I work with members of our community who are differently-abled and I am intimately knowledgeable on the kinds of accommodations and services that students with varying needs require to feel supported. I’ve taken the time to follow up with issues that have arisen on campus with those who were in charge. This includes issues in residence, academia, and health care. Within the Dalhousie community, I’ve been on the cheerleading team, the rowing team, and Sheriff Hall’s residence council. I am dedicated to pursuing the fair treatment of students on and off campus and I am confident that I can create more positive change as the Vice-President of Academic and External.

Why do you think you are a good candidate?

- I am a strong candidate for the Vice-President of Academic and External for several reasons. Firstly, I have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Additionally, I am passionate about the fair treatment of students on our campuses. Finally, I am also very well rounded; my major is in science, my minor is in the arts, and I’ve been very active in Dalhousie’s athletics. I represent a large portion of our student body and I have experienced firsthand the wonderful things that Dalhousie has to offer, and areas where they could improve.
The three main areas I’d like to improve, if I am elected as the Vice President of Academic and External, are: sustainability, security, and representation.

- **Sustainability:** Halifax is an amazing city with many local stores and sustainable living options. However, Dalhousie campuses almost solely have large-scale franchises. We need to continue to move forwards with initiatives like the mug library, in the Killam library, and the DSU market. We also need to make spaces on campus for local stores to sell sustainable alternatives for single-use plastics. For example, we should make reusable utensils in the SUB and travel mugs near cafes accessible. Our campuses should reflect our city.

- **Security:** I would like to improve student security on campus in two ways.
  - Firstly, I would like to initiate a system where Dalhousie security officers can accompany students from school buildings to residences or bus stops on campuses, after sunset, if they are uncomfortable.
  - Secondly, when the university is closed for inclement weather, I would like to create a ‘safe zone policy’. Instead of the entire university closing immediately, one area will remain open for 1 hour longer, so students have time to organize transportation home. Students should not be forced to evacuate campus with no notice into unsafe weather conditions.

- **Representation:** I would like to improve representation of Dalhousie’s community on our campuses. I will achieve this by improving communication between minority communities and the council. Together I would like to create an area where groups can share parts of their culture that are important to them. All major religious holidays observed by our students should be represented in our Student Union Building. For example, Chinese lanterns should be displayed around Chinese New Year and a menorah should be displayed during Chanukah. Improving minority visibility is necessary step towards ensuring all our students feel heard on campus.

- **I’m inspired by Halifax and our Dalhousie community. There is a lot to love about Dalhousie University, but there are also several things that we need to improve. The DSU needs to work efficiently in order to make meaningful changes in our community. This last year has been negatively affected by disagreement and anger between the student union and the students it represents. I have the skills needed to make these changes. I am eager to make change, so that current and future students can enjoy all the things I enjoy about the city and university, while also feeling safer and more protected by their school. There are too many wellness issues that have passed by without engagement. The DSU needs to talk about student security and representation. They also need to be forthcoming during these discussions.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List one fun fact about yourself?</th>
<th>• I completed a Bachelor’s thesis project at the University of Bergen, in Norway!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Links</td>
<td>• Instagram: @erica_dsu</td>
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</table>
Mohab Brisha  
**Vice President Academic and External**  
**Bachelor of Science: Marine Biology & Biochem**

### Questionnaire

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<tr>
<th>What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?</th>
<th>Awaiting responses.</th>
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<td>Why do you think you are a good candidate?</td>
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<td>Awaiting responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List one fun fact about yourself?</td>
<td>• Awaiting responses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign Links</td>
<td>• Instagram: @mo_runs_for_dsu</td>
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</table>
Questionnaire

My experience relevant to the role is as follows:

- **DSU VPAE Committee Commissioner** – I was on the committee for the VPAE in 2017/18 where I helped determine the plan of action for meetings, and tabled to increase student interaction with campaigns and events related to tuition fee reduction, student accessibility and more. Campaigns done were in the spirit of increasing awareness to student issues, for e.g.: we made magazines outlining student struggles with tuition fees.
- **DSU Volunteer Coordinator** – for the DSU Street Squad program, where I developed the program for students to increase engagement and volunteerism on campus.
- **DSU Health Plan Assistant** – I have helped students navigate their health plan(s) and coverage options, providing advice and guidance where needed. So it’s likely I’ve already met many of you!
- **Engagement with societies on campus: VPI (Enactus), Dal Biochem Society social rep (2016), Let’s Talk Science, TedxDal volunteer etc.**
- **Several volunteer roles off campus for non-profits** – BHCRI, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Discovery Centre etc.

- Many students I have spoken to want better resources, programming & student supports. I have ideas to create initiatives for these students who feel underrepresented in the Dal community and I believe that my experience and knowledge of the DSU and its bylaws can help make it happen.
I am also very passionate about understanding issues that affect students – for e.g.: unattainable tuition fee increases, the hardships faced by international students, food insecurity, accessibility issues for persons with disabilities – these are all concerns that have been expressed to me by students, so I want the chance to draw attention to these issues by allocating resources and facilitating discussions for them.

- I have experience sitting on the DSU VPAE committee engaging students and planning/developing campaigns that target students’ issues. I would like to expand on the role.
- A large part of this role also involves representing the DSU to external organisations and my experience with organisations outside of Dal has provided me with the communicative and organisational skills to do this.

I want to establish more student supports on campus and also promote existing ones. Some things I want to implement:

- Food Bursary Fund/Reimbursement Program – Food insecurity is a big issue on campus and I want to alleviate the problem somehow by offering micro-bursaries to be put towards food use for students in a pinch.
- International Student Supports – Increase international student supports on and off campus with regards to academics and life outside of school, eg: insurance, finding housing, taxes, etc.
- More Sexton campus resources! – The Sexton campus is lacking many of the resources that the Studley campus has – I want to implement more support for students’ health options, more dining options and provide more student employability.
- Increased Student Health support – I want students to take advantage of all the resources available to them in regards to their mental and physical health, so if elected I will be promoting more campaigns towards this.

- I’m inspired to be like the people who helped me without question when I needed it the most – this is also a reason I am running – I want the chance to give back and help students in this community who need support while also bringing attention to the many equity issues students face. A person who inspires me is my mother – she is the best person I know and taught me to give unconditionally.

- I’ve spent a silly amount of money on watercolors that have remained unwrapped.

What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?

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<th>Campaign Links</th>
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Dalhousie Student Union

ELECTIONS

2020

Mazen Brisha

Candidate for...

Vice President
Student Life

Year and Program

Second Year

Bachelor of Kinesiology

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you're running for?

1. **Former Varsity Athlete** - Understanding the importance of student engagement with varsity teams in impacting student life and enhancing university belonging.

2. **Residence assistant 2019-2020** - Ability to foster a driven and fulfilled community built on compassion, accountability, and respect.

3. **Executive capacity in 6 different DSU societies** - The essential role each society plays in the development of student life and how to maximize a society’s potential.

4. **Dal Lead 2020 committee member & Keynote** - Ability to organize and conduct a large scale event while maintaining student engagement and striving for individual fulfillment.

5. **Awarded the 2018 youth innovator award by the ministry of sustainable development** - The award recognizes sustainable innovative ideas and their implementation in a community, this experience would be incredibly beneficial in the planning and running of student life events.

6. **Mental health and first aid training** - Enables me to utilize and apply my knowledge and experience into developing...
initiatives that prioritize the mental and physical safety of students.

7.  *Founder and presenter of the Youth Hub podcast Dubai* - This award winning Podcast discussed all matters of youth development focusing on the empowerment of youth and self-application into communities. Podcast was highly successful winning the best emerging podcast award at the 2018 Arab Media Influencers conference.

8.  *UNESCO youth leader, specializing in social impact and preservation* - This opportunity allowed me to perfect my workshop organizing skills while providing with the resources to make tangible environmental and societal change in the community.

9.  *Bell let’s talk ambassador* - Running mental health awareness campaigns, while promoting the societal significance of self expression when it comes to breaking the stigma.

10.  *Cancer society canada volunteer leader* - Coordinate large scale fundraisers and events at minimal notice. This contributes to my ability to work under pressure.

11.  *O week Leader* - instill togetherness and unity in a group of potential strangers while enhancing my scope of logistical knowledge of O-week.

12.  *Former Student Business & Leadership Fair (SBLF) CEO* - Utilize leadership qualities to assemble and recruit a team of executives and volunteers to run a large scale conference with over 700 participants. Conference awards innovation in sustainability, entrepreneurship and social impact.

13.  *American University of sharjah MUN Director of internal affairs* - Oversaw the logistics of one of the biggest annual student events in the middle east. Was also the youngest holder of the position.

*AUSMUN is the biggest Model United Nations conference in the UAE and one of the biggest in the world, with over a 1500 delegations (part

14.  *Level Up DXB speaker and former executive member* - *Level up is a dubai based start up that hosts personal development and skills workshops*

15.  *TEDx youth speaker 2018* - Opportunity to showcase and further develop public speaking credentials, speech concerned empowerment and expression.

| Why do you think you are a good candidate? | • Excluding the qualifications and experiences mentioned above, what truly sets me apart as the ideal candidate for this position is my mindset. I am an incredibly ambitious, driven, and dedicated individual. My passion for seeking development in myself and empowering others to do the same knows no limits. As a result I am certain of my ability to invest myself completely in this position and the responsibilities it entails allowing to create an immersive and inspiring DSU community |
|What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU? | • -Fostering a union of respect, inclusivity and compassion across the DSU facilitating members’ growth and empowerment
• -enhance student engagement through developing more meaningful and personal relationships with DSU members
• -Break down barriers and end the disconnect between dalhousie students and the DSU through; through better representation and transparency |
| What inspires you and why? | • People...empowering people, meeting people and facilitating a person’s growth inspires me. Why? What sets each human being apart are the intrinsic experiences we each lived, to me, experiences are the most valuable currency there is. Through interacting with a person you access their experiences, allowing you to learn from their mistakes and relish their successes. The more we engage one another the stronger we get as individuals, as a community, and as a union. True knowledge and true inspiration are derived from the power of human interaction. |
| List one fun fact about yourself? | • I once stapled a collection of socks onto a canvas and sold it at an amateur art auction for $300 |
| Campaign Links | • Instagram: @mazen.brisha
• Website: mazenbrisha.wixsite.com/mazen4vp |
Jad Ghiz

Vice President
Student Life

Second Year
Bachelor of Management

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?

- Within the position of VPSL, I would be expected to coordinate the execution of various campus wide events. In order to accomplish that, I would need to use strong leadership skills, efficient organizational skills, and great interpersonal skills to enable me to recognize the needs of, and subsequently provide for, my team as well as all Dalhousie students. I have honed all these skills through years of leadership experience. In a PEI high school, I led the Events Team for the Student Council (same position as VPSL but with a smaller budget). Within the year that I held that position, my team and I accomplished things that had never been attempted before. For example, I produced a very popular weekly talk show called ‘The Noon Show’, (that gained provincial attention) organized a series of events between our school and our rival school known as ‘Gray vs Rural’ and I organized many more intimate events that encouraged diversity and inclusion. These included cultural potlucks, variety shows for charity and open mics. Apart from my position on the student council, I ran multiple societies within the student body. One of these was the Welcoming Committee which was dedicated to the diverse minority community we had in our community.

- Throughout my highschool experience I received awards for my work within the community and recognition for my services. Within my community, I was chosen to join the Youth Advisory Council to the local MP, and appointed as student body representative for the District Advisory Council to the Public School Branch. I was also involved in the coordination of ‘DiversCity’, the largest street festival in Prince Edward Island. The goal of this festival is to celebrate the many food, art, music and languages that have entered into PEI’s culture.
Dalhousie Student Union

ELECTIONS

2020

- If, in my past work experience, I was given the opportunity to rise into leadership positions, I always took the initiative. Whether it was as a Donation Attendant at Value Village, a Banquet Server at Delta Hotels, or Bar Assistant at The Dome, I have consistently proven that my work ethic elevates me from my colleagues. By the end of my time in these places, I was promoted to the Main Attendant at the Community Donation Centre, to Bartender at the Delta Hotels, and to Bar Assistant Supervisor at The Dome. However small these may seem, I no matter the size, I treat all tasks of equal importance.

- Apart from my experience in these positions (as stated in previous question), which make me confident in my abilities for the position of VP Student Life, I have maintained a strong connection with the Dalhousie student body. Since I am a painfully extroverted individual, I have met countless students from every faculty at Dal. I hear what they want and through my experience I know what I have to do to ensure that those things happen.

- Within my life, I have accumulated a unique set of experiences that have enriched my skill set. Moving to Canada at the age of 17 after having lived in Lebanon, which is such a drastically different part of the world, living as a refugee in Jordan for a year due to the 2006 war in Lebanon, being the child of a baptist pastor and a school teacher, all of these experiences have made me who I am today. The move to Canada taught me how to adapt and understand new cultures, as well as embrace those cultures and include them into my own lifestyle. Being a refugee taught me that even in times of struggle, it is the support from the community around me that enabled me to persevere and overcome. My parents have been a cornucopia of wisdom and advice, that has taught me to always listen deeply to the people around me who have experience and know more than I, and subsequently use that information to guide my decisions. I believe that what I bring to this position will be an alternative perspective that will both encourage and relate to the students of Dalhousie.

- In this position, I will do all that is in my power to talk and listen to the student body. By making myself available to the students I can ensure that I am effectively able to represent their needs and wants. Since I am in contact with individuals from every walk of life, I will build more effective methods of communication to reach the students who do not feel their voices are heard. This is something that I have been doing already through a podcast I have started, Setting It Straight. The goal of the podcast is to give a platform to people who want to talk about things that they are passionate about. I want to give a voice to the individuals in our community who are fighting the good fights but are not being recognized, as well as people who need support when it feels as though there isn’t any.
What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?

I am running on a 3 point platform that will be the basis on which I run for the VPSL position. Those 3 points are:

• Safety. Throughout my term I want to ensure the safety of all the students who attend Dalhousie University. The mental and emotional, physical, and spiritual health of all students is my main priority. I want to make sure that the students feel safe on campus, in class, and outside of school. That no matter what situation they may find themselves in, Dalhousie has the resources to help them through it. For mental and emotional safety, I want to continue the work of the previous executive as well as work with other student bodies, societies and administration, to extend a helping hand to students living in residence and off campus that are not getting the help they need, RAs included. For physical safety, I will ensure that all the events DSU is affiliated with satisfy and exceed the expected safety policies and exceed them. I will put emphasis on building/creating a safer drinking culture on campus by offering fun and exciting events that practice harm reducing methods. For spiritual safety, I want to build a culture where students feel comfortable practicing their faiths on campus; no matter what they believe in. I believe that my role is responsible for creating a university experience that is as fun as possible without deterring students from pursuing their passions, beliefs, and goals.

• 2. Fun! The goal of VP Student Life, I believe, should be one that brings communities together and makes the hard student life a lot more fun! I intend to do that by doing 3 things:
  o a. Big events. The biggest portion of my time will be spent coordinating big events. Including O-Week and Dalfest, I also want to bring 1 or 2 more festivals that appeal to more students and Halifax residents. I also want to encourage more student involved events, such as gaming tournaments, Battle of the Bands, and art battles.
  o b. Small events. Throughout the year I will work with societies and the campus bars in putting on more intimate events such as international cafes, campus wide minigames, scavenger hunts, campus geocaching, and more!
  o c. De-Politicization. As part of making the campus life more fun, I will move away from bureaucratic nonsensicality that might interfere with my ability to serve the student body. In the past there a lot of strife has come from individuals refusing to cooperate to accomplish whatever they’re trying to do. I don’t want that to happen again. All organizations on campus have the same goal of serving the student body in some way or another, as long as the students are the focus, nothing else should get in the way.

• 3. Inclusivity. Whether it’s through O-Week, Dalfest, or my day-to-day business, I want to make sure the DSU is as inclusive as possible. This goes hand-in-hand with my last
two points. In my experience, the best things happen when people from different perspectives and backgrounds come together to create something. I want to ensure in every event, meeting, or other, that every party involved has a seat at the table. I will do this by involving representatives from any group with relation to the event in conversations in the planning process.

- I’ve always held a deep respect for people who work hard in whatever they’re doing. It’s when someone has respect for themselves, the people around them, and their environment and that respect impacts every small task they do. The people around me who are pushing their limits constantly for their passions, who are putting themselves on the line for the things they believe in, or who are creating something new and genuine; that is what inspires me. The bold and genuine, those are who inspire me. People who know what they want and do all in their power to achieve it are the people who make me want to work harder. If there were one specific example I had to name it would be someone like Elon Musk. His drive and work ethic, coupled with his intelligence and expertise inspires me.

- A few years back, I was the bassist of a parody band that played Nickelback and Weezer songs and all we did was repeat the chorus over and over again in different themes. It was music for those with acquired tastes.

- Instagram: @jad4vpsl
Shivam Mahajan

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<td>Student Life</td>
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<td>Year and Program</td>
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Bachelor of Computer Science

**Questionnaire**

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<th>Why do you think you are a good candidate?</th>
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<td>• As the VPSL, I am aware that my responsibilities will include working towards the betterment of the students at Dal. Studying away from my hometown in Indian was a decision I made to be more culturally diverse. I believe that the process of gaining knowledge is much faster when one is placed in a diversified environment. As an individual with such beliefs, I have learned and honed myself to be extremely aware and respectful of the various communities we have here at Dalhousie. However, what makes me a good candidate is my ability to take initiative towards a situation that may not be a problem for me personally. I can empathize with the students regardless of any differences that may exist, and this is a skill that I have nurtured while acting as the Vice President External for the Computer Science Society and a member of the Student Life Committee. While working as a Research assistant for GEM labs, I took the initiative to display the progress of my research with High School Female Identifying students and encouraged them to pursue higher studies in the STEM field.</td>
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**What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?**

- Alongside carrying out the existing responsibilities of the position, such as hosting the O-Week and other events organized by the student body, my goal is to promote inclusivity on campus. In this position, I will work towards hosting and promoting traditional events that have been overlooked in the past. While there may be many minor groups on campus, I feel that it is paramount that we as the biggest student body help them celebrate their culture and share it with the others in the society as well. As the VPSL, I will make certain that students feel inclusive on the Dalhousie campus.
- Furthermore, I aim to collaborate more with the diversified student societies that we have at Dalhousie. One of my main focus will the athletic societies, where I plan to allocate more funds to promote athletic events, giving everyone an opportunity to play their favourite sport. I believe that being fit is a crucial part of the student life and that everyone should have an opportunity to practice a sport that makes them feel more fit and focused.
- Among other things, I want to ensure higher involvement of students during big events such as Dal Fest etc. I plan on putting out surveys to get include more students and form standing committees for these events.

**What inspires you and why?**

- What inspires me the most is the joy of unity. The mere feeling of working collaboratively to produce something that is excellent only because it was a teamwork. As an individual, I enjoy being in a positive environment, but what I enjoy more is creating a positive environment. Building a community that is safe, positive and productive. And all that is the outcome of being united against all odds.

**List one fun fact about yourself?**

- My laughter is funnier than my jokes.

**Campaign Links**

- Instagram: @shivam.6444
Claudia Castillo-Prentt

Candidate for...
Black Students Representative
Year and Program
Third Year
Bachelor of Arts: IDS & Political Science

Questionnaire

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you’re running for?
• I am re-running for Black Community Representative because I am passionate and excited about bringing Black students’ voices to the DSU. After spending this year in the position, I have had the opportunity to talk to Black students on campus and see where and how the DSU can better support and represent them. I am fairly involved in the Black community off campus as well, and I believe that my community experience, as well as my experience learning about the role this year will fit well into the role.

Why do you think you are a good candidate?
• I am a good candidate due to my passion and excitement for advocating for Black students! After spending this year being the Black rep, I have been able to identify the ways in which the role as Black community representative fits into the larger Black community at Dalhousie and I think my experience in the role will help me complete programming for a second year in the role.

What are the top 3 things you’d like to accomplish during a term-in-office at the DSU?
• This past year, I was able to plan and organize Dal Afrofest 2020 in partnership with Black students/societies! One of my goals for the upcoming year is to host this event again, and hopefully make it an integral part of the DSU’s Black History Month programming in the future. I’d also like to solidify the Black United Students Association (BUSA) as a space for Black students to be united and advocate for our issues. Lastly, this year I was able to work on a project highlighting Black student leaders on campus, and I plan to do more projects like this one that bring Black students to the forefront!
I am inspired by the resilience of the women in my family. Being a second generation immigrant, I know that my family has done so much for me to have the opportunity to participate in these spaces and conversations. I remind myself of these details when I’m in need of some inspiration to keep going.

- Facebook: [Link](#)