DSU President

Report for the period January 27, 2020 – February 7

DSU Day-to-Day Operations

- Financial duties required as a signing authority
  - Verify and sign checks
  - President’s office accounting
- Monitor emails
- Exec. check-ins
- Staff check-ins

DSU Internal Meetings

- Director of Research & Outreach check-in
- Commissioner check-in
- Exec. Committee meeting
- Legal council meeting

Dalhousie Governance Meetings

- Senate
  - This meeting was a think tank session. As part of Vice Provost’s Terri Balser’s Self Study Groups – a project to develop the strategic priorities of the university. We discussed student experience and access to post-secondary education. It was a great meeting a lot of insight came from the various talking circles which took place. I’d highly recommend folks get a hold of those minutes (Senate Jan. 27) and review them if you are interested in hearing what the decision makers at Dalhousie have to say about where we are and where we need to go regarding the student experience here.
  - Indigenous Senate Representative pointed out that although the session style was called ‘talking circles’ they did not in fact follow the appropriate Mi’kmaq protocol when conducting this session. It is important to note that just coopting names alone is not actually doing the work of decolonizing the academy.
  - Was interviewed by the Gazette along with Student Senate Caucus chair on the New Deal
- Board of Governor’s Meeting Prep
  - Consult with the DSU Executive and BOG representatives as to what pertinent issues we’d like to bring to BOGs attention. We landed on tuition, mental health and African heritage month.
  - Wrote up the report.

DSU Internal Operations

- Interim Director of Operations
- I have taken on a majority of the workload required of the Director of Operations
- Oversee departments under the purview of the Operations Director
- Check-in with the Accounting department regarding the Grawood budget

- **Director of Operations Hiring Committee Chair**
  - Facilitate the hiring process
  - Coordinate interview times with the hiring committee members
  - Schedule interviews with candidates
  - Prep interview questions and scoring sheet
  - Conducting interviews

**DSU Services Support**

- **Grawood Assistant Management Team Weekly Meetings**
  - On-going onboarding support for newly hired Grawood staff
  - Meet weekly with Grawood assistant managers to go over Grawood operations and fulfill a supervisory support role

- **DSU Sexton Campus Office & Storage**
  - Facilitated the hand-off of DSU storage locker and second office space to DUES.

**Student Empowerment: Centering the Margins**

- **Black History Month Planning**
  - The Human Rights & Equity Services (HRES) facilitated planning sessions for the Dalhousie’s African Heritage Month 2020 Celebrations. The theme for this month is *Focus on Us* – it is a call on folks to focus on Black folks as the multi-dimensionally humans we are beyond and including our Blackness. This meeting brought together Black Faculty and staff across different departments as well as students and societies with a mandate to support and create community for Black students.
  - The Black Student Rep, the Equity & Accessibility office is organizing the Dal AfroFest 2020. I’ll be supporting with the backend logistics.
  - I’ve been meeting with different students and student groups and supporting them with their events/advocacy planning for African Heritage Month.

- **Black & Queer Faculty Caucus Meeting**
  - Building relationships with faculty members and groups with a similar mandate and interest in advocating for and creating an equitable Dalhousie is critical. It is also extremely inspiring to see two marginalized collectives coming together to talk about the intersections that exit within the identities they represent.
  - The two groups are planning a panel discussion to discuss the intersections between race and queerness. I’ll be supporting to bring in the students prospective.

- **Black Youth in Computer Science**
  - In a collaboration between Business is Jammin’ and the Faculty of Computer Science – BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) students attended the *Experience in
Computer Science initiative. Marginalized students got to spend the day on campus and part-take in workshops and sessions to introduce them to life on Dal and the Faculty of Computer Science. I was asked to attend as a mentor for these students and got to engage with these students about their aspirations and apprehensions about being a Black learner at Dalhousie. One thing I’ve noticed since my time in the student movement has been that because of systemic barriers, a lot of historically marginalized communities do not get the opportunity to attend post-secondary education. These kinds of events that highlight and tackles the lack of specific kinds of learners from our classrooms is just one way to tackle issues of racism at Dalhousie.

- African Heritage Month Flag Raising
  - I spoke on behalf of the DSU at the Dalhousie flag raising event to commemorate African heritage month. I decided to speak about what it means to be a Black student union executive and how I have to navigate institutional racism in 2020. Would love to do a whole segment/piece on this if anyone is interested!!!!

Student Engagement

- Presidential Committee
  - The DSU Presidential committee meets every Monday either 4 - 6pm or 5 - 7pm (depending on if Senate is taking place that week). The committee is open to all and folks are encouraged to drop-in to talk about what’s going on in the DSU, get feedback on passion projects you’d want to start and support the great work our students are already doing. The weekly presidential committee acts as one set of my office hours.

- SUB Lobby Tabling
  - This is an opportunity for me to consult and engage with students and really get to know what’s up with our student body. As part of our mental health initiatives, Araari the SUB Cat tables with me (when she isn’t being fussy) and students get the opportunity to cuddle with a lil’ furry friend in-between classes. I table from 11am – 1pm in the SUB lobby. These act as my weekly office hours.

- Teatime with the DSU Pres
  - An initiative that came out of discussions with the Presidential committee, teatime with the DSU Pres is an (almost) weekly Snapchat series where I answer questions posed to me by students and the presidential committee as well as update folks on what’s been going on or coming soon at the DSU. This week I’m attending a smudge-in at Andy Fillmore’s office is solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en resistance – I got to speak to the organizers about why we are here. Follow dalStudentUnion on Snapchat to stay in the loop with all the tea!

- Postering: 2nd Floor Bulletin Board
  - The SUB’s second floor bulletin board is a prime spot for advertising. Hoping to decorate it and make it look a little better than it does now. If you are artistic or have any ideas on
how we can revamp it to make it look good, hit me up! I can grab you a coffee/lunch and we can work on it together 😊

- **Society Expo**
  - I was able to catch the last portion of the society expo and chat with the various societies and students who attended. Kudos to the DSU Member Services Coordinator for hosting her second successful Society Expo!

### On-Going Projects

- **Dal AfroFest Grawood Logistics & Support**
  - Coordinating logistics between the Grawood staff and event organizers

- **Melanin Monologues Project Support**
  - In communication with student organizers hosting this event and supporting in whatever ways I can.

### Commissioner Projects

- **Community Closet Launch: New DSU Service**
  - My commissioner working with the DSU Presidential Committee launched a new service for DSU students and the community. It’s a sustainable approach to the fashion industry and free service for our students. We wanted to make sure that folks are able to get weather appropriate clothes and look their best even if they cannot afford it.
  - My commissioner posterd the campus to get the word out about our new service!
  - The Community Closet is on the second floor of the DSU in the Society Hub located in locker #36

- **Frosty Folks Clothing Swap**
  - Following the success of the Presidential Committee’s Fall Cozy Folks Fall, we decided to host a winter clothing swap as well.