

PRESIDENT AMINA ABAWAJY REPORT TO COUNCIL

January 20, 2018 to February 4, 2018

Contact at:

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Or drop by my office 😊

Office Hours:

Mondays 11:30am – 1:30pm

Wednesdays 2pm – 4pm

INTERNAL

Executive Meetings

- Chair weekly (and now twice-a-week) executive meetings.

Staff Meetings

- Co-chair weekly meetings with General Manager, Craig.

Check-ins

- Regular check-ins with Craig, General Manager, Paul, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Meghan, Governance and Policy Coordinator, Chris, Council Chair, and Shannon, Survivor Support Centre Manager.

Retreat

- The executives went on their winter retreat to regroup after the first semester, check-in on our goals, and look to mapping out our last semester. We were all very pleased to see how far along we've come on our goals and anticipate a great end to the semester.

Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee (BPRC) has completed its holistic review of our bylaws and we'll be putting forward a notice of motion tonight with the BPRC's amendments. Please review these amendments and consult with your constituents. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch!

Presidential Commissioner

- Received a number of applications for the Presidential Commissioner and was very pleased to see the diversity of applicants. Interviews took place over several days and I'm pleased to announce that two Commissioners have been hired. If you ever see Rafeeda and/or Selam, please say hi!

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UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate Appeals Committee

- Senate Appeals Committee Hearing took place on January 24th and conversations based on the hearing are still ongoing.

Black History Month/African Heritage Month

- Regular meetings Dalhousie's African Heritage Month planning committee
- Spoke at the second African Heritage Month Flag Raising on the theme of Black Excellence: from Community to Academy
- Working with Dalhousie African Student Association to host as a number of events including a movie screening of Black Panther, a Living Library, Black Excellence Social Media Campaign, Black History Month Trivia, Troom and Grawood nights, and more.

Student Affairs Meetings

- Continuing bi-weekly meetings with members of the Student Affairs team to discuss student issues and relevant areas of collaboration.
- Weekly meetings with the VP Student Affairs, Arig.

Strategic Enrollment Management Committee

- Attend weekly Strategic Enrollment Management Committee Meetings chaired by Arig, VP Student Affairs. The SEM Committee's role is to develop a strategy to optimize student recruitment and retention.

AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee

- Attend AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee Meetings regularly

VP Student Affairs Search Committee

- The search committee kicked off on January 24th.
- The committee is quite large and has three student representatives: Dalhousie Student Union President, Dalhousie Association of Graduate Studies President, Dalhousie International Student Association President.

Inclusion Team (official name still being determined)

- This body (official name still being determined) is looking at how systemic racism manifests on campus and how we can better support racialized and indigenous students, how can we create spaces for these lived experiences to be heard and responded to, and how we can create educational opportunities and conversations around systemic racism that call in those who haven't experienced it.

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- Team members include Arig, VP Student Affairs, Aaron, Student, Norma, ED Diversity and Inclusion, Howard, Faculty Member, and Patti, Faculty Member.
- Attend meetings regularly
- Organized it's first closed facilitated conversation for Indigenous Students. The conversation has been rescheduled for the end of February to coincide with the Feast.

ADVOCACY

University Club

- Met with Norma Williams, Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion to discuss university club accessibility and how to navigate this conversation with senior administrators.
- Meeting with Facilities Management to discuss what the logistics and costs of implementing this would look like.
- Met with Arig, VP Student Affairs, to discuss the ways in which the university club is not accurately reflecting its accessibility on its website and other promotional and informative resources.
- Looking to provincial legislation that we've been told is coming down the pipe in regards to mandating physical accessibility for infrastructures.
- Meeting with Mary Jane Adams and Nicola Embleton-Lake to discuss preliminary accessibility plan (NS Accessibility Act which commenced September 2017 will mandate that all public entities will need to have an accessibility plan in place within a year – with implementation happening over a number of years).

Racial Justice Symposium

- Regular meetings with the Racial Justice Symposium planning committee
- Hired two amazing Racial Justice Commissioners: Fatima and Sagar. They are assisting with many of the logistical tasks for the Symposium and are also looking at continuing the conversation year round.
- There are still some seats available. Please let your constituents know to register ASAP before spots are filled.

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SERVICES

Survivor Support Centre

- The Sexual Assault and Harassment Phonenumber was officially launched for the year on September 3, 2017, the first day of Oweek. The Phonenumber will now be operating 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Supported Shannon, Survivor Support Centre Manager, in preparing for the Survivor Support Centre training on February 3 and 4.
- Alongside Chantal and Alex, was on-hand on February 3rd and 4th to assist with anything as needed.

Text the Prez

- Officially launched Text the Prez Service with the start of Orientation week.
- To date, I have been contacted by 170 different students.
- Our Communications Team is working on promoting this service more widely through outreach via social media and tabling.

Ombudsperson

- Monthly meetings with the Ombuds Steering Committee.
- The annual report for the Office of the Ombudsperson has been circulated to the steering committee and once feedback from the committee is incorporated it will be circulated to the wider community.