

**PRESIDENT  
AMINA ABAWAJY  
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

November 10, 2017 to December 1, 2017

Contact at:

[president@dsu.ca](mailto:president@dsu.ca)

Office: 902-494-1277

Text me: 902-200-6614

Or drop by my office ☺

Office Hours:

Mondays 11am – 1pm

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, Graphic Design and Campaigns Coordinator, Meghan, Governance and Policy Coordinator, Chris, Council Chair, and Alex, Chief Returning Officer.

Society Meetings

- Met with the Pakistani Students Association on November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Residence Meetings

- Met with Senior Residence Assistants on November 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss how we can work together to better support and represent students in Residence.
- The meeting included SRAs from Le Merchant, Sherrif, Risley, Howe Hall, Mini Res, Gerard Hall, and Fountain House.

Officer's Meeting

- Officer meetings were created at the request of the General Manager. Officer meetings are meetings of the signing officers: President, VP Internal, VP Finance and Operations, and the General Manager.
- Attended an Officer's meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee is undergoing a holistic review of our bylaws to put forward recommendations to Council and our membership through a Special General Meeting. Please see the attached document.
- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee met on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee met on November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee met on November 24<sup>th</sup>
- The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee met on December 1<sup>st</sup>

## UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

### Board of Governors

- Attended Dalhousie Board Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Planning meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Presented to the Budget Advisory Committee with VPFO Chantal on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Attended a Blanket Exercise led by Elder Geri, from the Elders-in-Residence Program, with the Dalhousie Board of Governors on November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Dalhousie Board of Governors Meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Members of Divest Dal who have been braving the cold and rain for a week to bring Divestment back to the Board of Governors were given time to speak at the beginning of the meeting. The Student Board Caucus was inspired to put forward a notice of motion to discuss Divest Dal's asks at the next Board of Governors meeting.
- Dalhousie Board of Governors and Dalhousie Senators Luncheon on November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Dalhousie Board of Governors Presentation from the Ad Hoc Financial Planning Committee on November 29<sup>th</sup>

### Senate

- Attended Senate Planning and Governance Committee on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended a meeting with VP AE, Masuma, and Senate Officers Kevin and Tanya to discuss proposed direction of Student Code of Conduct Review (demand #4 of the Statement on Systemic Racism passed by Council).
- Student Senate Caucus Meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Senate Meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup>
- Senate Honorary Degree Committee meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>

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## 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.

## Senior Admin

- Monthly breakfasts with senior admin kicked off on September 26<sup>th</sup> with Arig, VP Student Affairs, Carolyn, Provost and VP Academic, and Ian, VP Finance & Admin.
- Next meeting is scheduled for the new year.

## AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee

- AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- AVP, Equity & Inclusion Search Committee Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 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.
- Team members include Arig, VP Student Affairs, Aaron, Student, Norma, ED Diversity and Inclusion, Howard, Faculty Member, and Patti, Faculty Member.
- Meeting held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Meeting held on November 27<sup>th</sup>

## Director of Residence and Student Life

- Met with all candidates who were at the final stages of the hiring process for the Director of Residence and Student Life and asked questions to each candidate under these main themes:
  - Engaging with our diverse student body
  - Building a sense of community for off-campus students
  - Orientation week

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- Student Code of Conduct
- Alcohol on campus
- Despite being given very little time to submit our feedback, we were able to provide the hiring committee with written feedback on each candidate and the hiring process at large for their consideration.

## Be Counted Census

- The Be Counted Census has been launched for the year. I was asked to be in the video which can be found here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa0k51cu4dM>
- I recommend all students fill out the census so that Dalhousie's services, programs, and supports can better reflect the needs of its diverse student body.

## Strategic Priority 1.1 Project Meeting

- Strategic Priority 1.1 is focused on increasing retention and degree completion. Specific goals include:
  - Improve student success year over year, with a focus on those students, identified by analysis, as being the most likely to be aided by defined strategies and organizational cultures. One measure of success would be increased retention and increased degree completion.
  - Increase first year student retention rates for both Canadian students and international students above the U15 averages by 2018.
  - Increase the completion time rates for 6 years or 7 years, as appropriate by program, to above the U15 average by 2018.
- Attended the 1.1 Project Meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup>

## Employment Equity Council Meeting

- The mandate of the Employment Equity Council is to work through and with the Human Rights and Equity Services to effectively implement, monitor, and evaluate through the use of measurable indicators of success, Dalhousie's Employment Equity Policy and Plan.
- Attended the Employment Equity Council Meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>

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## **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.

## **MEDIA**

### Interviews

- Received a request by The Gazette to provide an interview about the DSU's finances and budget. The interview focused on advocacy budgeting and last year's event Fight the Fees.
- Interviews on the Emergency Hijab Kits, a project in partnership with the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group:
  - CBC on November 27<sup>th</sup>
  - CTV on November 27<sup>th</sup>

## **EVENTS**

### Shake up 150: Indigenous Perspectives on Canada 150

- Attended Shake up 150: Indigenous Perspectives on Canada 150 an event that was hosted in partnership by the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society and Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective and learnt from an incredible keynote and panel that highlighted different perspectives of Indigenous women and a keynote by Dr.

### Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective AGM

- Attended Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective AGM on November 16<sup>th</sup> to better understand how the DSU can support Indigenous students on our campus and work with DISC to advocate for Indigenous issues.

### Masculinity Panel

- Attended our Masculinity Panel hosted in partnership by the DSU and DSU Equity and Accessibility Office on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The panel was well attended and very informative.

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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.
- Purchased an additional phone to accommodate the heightened interest in volunteers to take on more responsibility. The third phone will be on Shannon, SSC Manager, at all times and that allows volunteers to transfer calls to her as necessary.
- Met this week to discuss the university's proposed Sexualized Violence Policy. In partnership with the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service and the DSU Equity and Accessibility Office, the Survivor Support Centre put forward a number of recommendations on the Policy. Recommendations were sent to the Office of VP Student Affairs, Human Rights and Equity Services, and to all Dalhousie Senators. Since then, we've heard that the policy will not be rushed through governing bodies but will look to incorporating the feedback and doing due diligence.

### 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.