

# **PRESIDENT KATHLEEN REID REPORT TO COUNCIL**

June 22nd, 2016 to July 17th, 2016

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## **INTERNAL**

Staff/Exec Retreat

- Collaborated with the General Manager to plan and execute a retreat for the Staff and Executive on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- All staff and executive participated, and we covered topics of goals for this year, the DSU mission and vision statement, upcoming projects and volunteer opportunities, as well as some team bonding activities.

Sexton Director Position

- Will soon be releasing a call out for a DSU Sexton Director position. This position will be open for applications from any students from Sexton campus, and will act as a liaison between the DSU and sexton among many other things.

## **UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

University Senate

- Senate is now on hiatus until September, as are committees.
- Sat on several Senate Disciplinary Appeals committee hearings.
- Working with the VP Academic & External (Amina) to ensure that all newly formed senate seats are filled fairly and using best practices so they can join in September.

Student Services Meet Ups

- Continuing bi-weekly meetings with the Student Services team to connect on student issues, and important current points.

Board of Governors

- Working to ensure that we forgo a sound election process to fill our vacant Board of Governors seat in time for September 2016.

1.1 Retention Committee

- Sitting on the University Strategic Retention committee. Looking at how strategies affect student success and retention for Dalhousie, compared to other Canadian institutions.

## **OPERATIONS**

Renovations

- Stage 3 of renovations is well under way and we have been informed that we are still on track to have the project completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby, and McInnes room renovations are now complete.

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- Work continues on the new Atrium area: steel structure in place, Work continues to make the Atrium roof tight. Glazing panel (Glass) installation is proceeding and nearing completion.
- Construction of the existing serveries continues.
- Elevator renovations will begin.

## Grawood

- The Grawood is closed for renovations this summer.
- Construction of new Grawood and Community Kitchens continues
- Collaborating with the Grawood Manager, Communications Manager, and Grawood staff look at the branding, vibes of the new space, and a cohesive marketing plan for the fall.
- We officially have a new Logo and tagline for the Grawood!

## **ADVOCACY**

### International Student Health Plan

- Continuing work with VPFO (Dylan) and DSU General Manager (Craig) to create an MOU with the university on the International Student Health plan. This MOU aims to ensure the best service and price for international students, while working through our health plan office.

### Student/Government Round Table

- Myself and Amina (VP Academic and External) attended a student/government roundtable. These meetings happen a couple times a year where the current government meet with students from all across NS to speak about current student issues and policies. Minister of Labour and Advanced Education Kelly Regan was present for a brief question period.
- The main issues the DSU brought forward were:
  - The need to repeal Regulation #67 (Legislations that prevents those on social assistance from getting further student assistance)
  - The 2016 tuition reset at Dal, and the de-regulation of fees for specific groups of students (International Students, Graduate Students, Professional Programs, and Out-of-Province Students)
  - The Memorandum of Understanding between the provincial government and NS Universities, and the lack of accountability it holds on both sides.
  - Graduate student's issues: we have the second highest fees in the Country at Dalhousie, with the second weakest labour market, and fees are still deregulated.
  - The need for legislation regarding sexual violence and assault for safer campuses.

### Pride Week @ Dal

- Sitting on the University Pride Week Planning Committee w/ VPSL (Kelsey) and VPI (Rhiannon).

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- The DSU has taken on the organization and planning of the opening ceremonies, and a panel/ town hall style event.

**SERVICES**

DSU Phone Line

- Because of resource capacity the phone line is paused for service over the summer.
- We have recently received the results of the External Review that has been requested by the DSU Phone line Committee and the University. We can now begin looking at next steps for the project, and the possibilities of further collaboration with the University.
- If you are interested in supporting the DSU in making this project continue, please reach out to Rhiannon (at [vpi@dsu.ca](mailto:vpi@dsu.ca)) We will need student support!

Office of the Ombudsperson

- Moving forward with VP Provost Student Affairs to ensure that the ombudsperson is full functioning and ready to begin in September.
- The hiring committee has been struck and we will be holding interviews in early August.

**OTHER**

Policy and Research Hiring

- Our Policy and Research Manager has moved onto a new job, so we are currently working to look over the job description and then hold a hiring process for this full time staff position.