

# **PRESIDENT AMINA ABAWAJY REPORT TO COUNCIL**

January 8, 2018 to January 21, 2018

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, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Meghan, Governance and Policy Coordinator, Chris, Council Chair, and Shannon, Survivor Support Centre Manager.

President's Council

- Held an open forum for all society presidents to discuss direction and goals of societies, how the DSU can better support them, and how we can work together to engage more students.

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!

## **UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

Senate

- Senate Planning and Governance Committee Meeting

Black History Month/African Heritage Month

- Regular meetings Dalhousie's African Heritage Month planning committee

# **PRESIDENT AMINA ABAWAJY REPORT TO COUNCIL**

January 8, 2018 to January 21, 2018

- Working with Dalhousie African Student Association to host as a number of events including a movie screening of Black Panther, a Living Library, a social media campaign 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

## 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.
- Attend meetings regularly

## **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.

# **PRESIDENT AMINA ABAWAJY REPORT TO COUNCIL**

January 8, 2018 to January 21, 2018

- 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 next week 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
- Interviews for Racial Justice Symposium commissioner happening this week.
- Created a video to promote the Racial Justice Symposium with Chantal and Masuma.

## Black Lives Matter: Discussion Continues

- The Black Student Advisor, Ronke, reached out to seek my participation in the Black Lives Matter: Discussion Continues event. Spoke on a panel of four other incredible people.

## **MEDIA**

### Gazette

- Interviewed by the Gazette on myself – a profile of the first Black DSU President

## **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.

**PRESIDENT  
AMINA ABAWAJY  
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

January 8, 2018 to January 21, 2018

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.