

## Report of the President

**Name:** Mariam Knakriah

**Reporting Period:** Transition–May 13, 2024

**Council Date:** May 16, 2024

### Internal Affairs

- ECMs – Ongoing
  - Discussions around room rental discounts.
  - Incoming Executives' first-week reflections.
  - The new O-Week model.
  - DAGS notice formal letter to Dalhousie.
  - Office reporting structure.
- One-on-One with the General Manager – Ongoing
  - Operations conversations.
- Student Hours – Ongoing
  - As per routine, I convened with students to deliberate on various topics, fostering an open dialogue and exchange of ideas.
- Student Issues Discussions – Ongoing
  - Discussions with the VP AE around our ongoing relationship with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the recent announcement by the Faculty of Computer Science Co-op Office, which has caused considerable student unrest.
- Board of Operations – April 18, 2024
  - Discussions on several operational matters.
- Transition Presentations – Ongoing
  - I attended all the transition presentations for the incoming executives, participating in the implementation of the new three-tiered transition period plan we developed last year. This initiative is designed to ensure a smooth and effective handover, enhancing the continuity and effectiveness of our student union leadership.
- DSU Leadership Workshop – May 3, 2024

- We participated in a half-day leadership workshop with the Executives and full-time staff, which provided significant learning opportunities as part of the transition period plan. This workshop is the first in a series, and we will continue to engage with these instructors throughout the year to further our leadership development.
- President Presentation – May 10, 2024
  - I presented to the new Executives, highlighting our key accomplishments and wins from the previous year, setting the stage for this year's overarching goals. I also outlined my expectations for the current year, emphasizing the importance of addressing ongoing projects and priorities that need completion over the summer.

### **University Affairs**

- Ombudsperson Annual Report Presentation – April 23, 2024
  - I attended the Ombudsperson's annual report presentation, where she provided detailed data on the students who reached out, the issues discussed, and other significant insights from the past year.
- Spring 2024 Student Success Summit: Engaging in Leadership to Transform the Student Experience – April 29, 2024
  - I had the honour of being invited as a panellist at the Student Success Summit, as a student leader and engaging in meaningful dialogue. The discussion was particularly enriching with Dr. Candace Brunette-Debassige, author of "Tricky Grounds: Indigenous Women's Experience in Canadian University Administration," and Assistant Professor of Critical Policy, Equity, and Leadership Studies at Western University.
- Dalhousie Provost Search (Candidate Review Meeting) – May 6, 2024
  - I serve on the selection committee for our next Dalhousie Provost, and we recently conducted a thorough review of candidates, successfully narrowing the field to the top six applicants for interviews.
- Faculty of Computer Science's New Announcement Discussion – May 10, 2024
  - I met with the VP AE, DSAS, and several students, including representatives from the Faculty of Computer Science Society, to discuss their concerns regarding the recent Co-op Office announcement that prevents new students who could not secure their first co-op job from deferring their term. This meeting was focused on defining our advocacy strategy moving forward.
- Meeting with Kim Brooks – May 13, 2024

- I met with Kim Brooks, Dalhousie President, to discuss the latest developments regarding the council-approved motion to support Palestinians on campus and divest from Israeli institutions. The meeting was highly productive, providing encouraging updates that suggest we are on the right track, although the discussion continues to evolve.
- Dalhousie Senate Meeting – May 13, 2024
  - Appointment of Representatives to the Board of Governors and the Investment Committee.
  - Holistic Review of Cyclical Academic Quality Assurance at Dalhousie University.
  - Code of Student Conduct 2-Year Review, which I participated in last year.
- Investment Conversation with Dal's Treasurer – May 15, 2024
  - The VPFO and I met with Dalhousie's Treasurer, Nancy-Beth Foran, to gain insight into how the university manages its investments and to explore potential strategies for divesting from specific institutions. This meeting was crucial in understanding the mechanisms behind investment decisions and discussing adjustments to the ESG policy to align with our divestment goals.
- South House Support – May 15, 2024
  - I had a brief meeting with Rick Ezekiel, the Vice Provost of Student Affairs, and the bookkeeper of South House Society to discuss the society's eviction from their current residence and the steps forward to vacate the space for the housing project Dalhousie is developing.
- DSU Childcare Concerns Support Letter – May 8, 2024
  - I wrote a letter to President Kim Brooks expressing my support for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, who is advocating for the provision of accessible and affordable childcare for students, faculty, and staff at Dalhousie. This initiative aims to enhance the support structure within our university community, ensuring that all members have the necessary resources to succeed both academically and professionally.

### **External and Broader Community**

- DSU x CASA – May 7, 2024
  - I met with CASA's new Executive Director to discuss our ongoing relationship and the upcoming end of our observer status this year, as well as to strategize next steps for our continued collaboration.
- Student Encampment on Dalhousie Quad – Ongoing
  - On May 12, 2024, the Students for the Liberation of Palestine – Kjiptuk established a Gaza solidarity encampment on the Dalhousie University quad. This

student coalition has presented their own set of demands, which include those passed in the DSU's council motion last year. We stand in solidarity with all Dalhousie students participating in the international campus encampment movement for Palestine, endorsing the Students for the Liberation of Palestine—Kijipuktuk in their rights to peaceful protest and freedom of expression at our university.

- Meningitis B Support at the DSU – May 8, 2024
  - We engaged in a productive discussion with Nicole Armstrong, the Community Health Manager for Meningitis B, exploring numerous opportunities for the DSU to connect with students, as well as ways to reach parents both before arrival and on campus. By concentrating on pre-arrival engagement this summer and planning for the fall, we can significantly enhance the initiatives that the Dal Health Centre is already planning.
- Students Nova Scotia Board Election – May 10, 2024
  - The VP AE and I attended the election meeting of the Students Nova Scotia (SNS), where the chair, vice chair, and several committee representatives were elected. We continue to maintain our observership status with them.

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- Dalhousie Provost Interviews – Ongoing
- DSU Media Training – May 17, 2024
- Leadership Coaching – May 23, 2024
- Maritime Student Congress – May 24 to 26, 2024



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## Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Bianca Morelli

Reporting Period: Transition Period- May 13, 2024

Council Date: May 16, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Transition period with outgoing VPI and Societies and Program Coordinator, April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>:

- a. I actively participated in meetings alongside the outgoing Vice President of Internal Affairs and the current Societies and Program Coordinator. During these sessions, I engaged in the renewal process for society forms, which encompassed various documents such as the bank letter form, ratification form, Student Accessibility Fund Bursary form, and the Society Review Committee Form.
- b. I joined the outgoing VPI's weekly meetings with Residence Life Managers. Throughout these discussions, we strategized and planned forthcoming initiatives aimed at addressing residence councils for the upcoming 2024/25 academic year.

Transition period with incoming executives and full-time DSU staff from April 17<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>:

- a. Throughout this period, I actively participated in a comprehensive training facilitated by each DSU department head. This immersive experience provided me with invaluable insights into their respective day-to-day operations, as well as their roles and interactions within the Executive team.
- b. In preparation for the 2024/25 academic year, I diligently crafted a draft outlining my goals and objectives. This draft was shared with both the Policy and Governance Coordinator and the President for their input and feedback.
- c. To ensure alignment with DSU bylaws and policies, I engaged in multiple meetings with the Policy and Governance Coordinator. These discussions were instrumental in fostering a deep understanding of the organization's governing principles and operational framework.

Executive Committee Meetings, April 26, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 10, 2024

- a. I took meeting minutes for all three meetings.
- b. Discussed summer office hours, orientation week plans, room rentals, transition period meetings, and the executive committee meeting schedule for the summer.

Council training, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. Attended a meeting wherein the Policy and Governance Coordinator as well as the Chair presented on the roles of Councillors, Executives, Robert's Rules, etc.

Executive Council training on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. I participated in a meeting led by the Policy and Governance Coordinator, where a comprehensive timeline of essential dates for council meetings throughout the year was provided. Additionally, the Coordinator addressed inquiries from the Executive team regarding the process of drafting, submitting motions, and preparing reports, ensuring clarity, and understanding among all attendees.

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Society (DAGS) Meetings, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

- a. Joined the Societies Coordinator, Financial Controller, VPFO to be briefed on the history of DAGS and come up with next steps.
- b. Collaborated with the General Manager and the VPFO in writing a formal notice to Dalhousie, outlining the DSU's relationship with DAGS. This was brought to our Executive Council Meeting by me and the VPFO on May 10<sup>th</sup> for approval.

Residence Council Restructuring, April 22, 2024- May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. I have established a series of bi-weekly meetings with Residence Life Managers, spanning from the present until the conclusion of my term in April 2025. These sessions are dedicated to the comprehensive restructuring of residence councils. Additionally, I've held discussions with both the policy and governance coordinator and the general manager to delve into the specifics of suspending levy fees. Their valuable input has contributed to the formulation of plans for an interhall council, which we are actively working to establish.
- b. I intend to present a motion during the upcoming council meeting regarding the suspension of levy fees for the remaining residences, including Gerard, Risley, and Sheriff Hall.**

## General Interest and Constituent Society Ratifications

- a. Have completed and sent out 50+ general interest and constituent society ratification packages including PEO training information as well as Net ID applications

## South House Restructuring, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. I was briefed by the outgoing VPI on the South House restructuring needing to take place.
- b. Scheduled a meeting with the Vice-Provost Student Affairs, President, and the South House Financial Controller on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **I will be bringing a motion to council to suspend the South house levy fee for the 2024-25 academic year.**

## Team Leadership Workshop, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

- a. Attended a Team Leadership Workshop organized by third party organization, Fire Inside.

## DSU Communications Team Meetings, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. Scheduled bi-weekly DSU Communications Meetings with the VPSL, GM, and Marketing Manager.
- b. During our initial meeting, we initiated the process of scheduling to allow ample time for the marketing manager to craft effective communications. We commenced outlining a detailed schedule for the upcoming 2024/25 year, identifying key events such as orientation week, society expo, holidays, and other anticipated activities. This proactive approach ensures effective planning and coordination for successful execution throughout the year.

## President Transition Presentation, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- a. Attended the Presidents' wonderful presentation for Executive Members

## Society Review Committee Updates

### Society Review Committee General Member and Council Member Recruitment

- a. I have initiated contact with our marketing design manager to collaborate on creating a compelling graphic aimed at recruiting general members for the SRC. Additionally, I've reached out to former SRC members from the previous year, inquiring about their interest in rejoining for the upcoming term. My goal is to finalize the appointment of all councillors and general members during the May 16th council meeting, ensuring a smooth transition and efficient operation of the SRC.

- b. In line with the SRC's duties, I have reviewed applications from 4 faculty and 2 levy societies thus far. Upon the opening of the ratification form for the 2024/25 academic year on May 1st, I disseminated a comprehensive communication to all levy and faculty societies. This communication outlined the anticipated ratification timeline and encouraged societies to send out SRC general member interest forms.
- c. I followed up with an additional communication directed to the 6 faculty/levy societies that have submitted applications for ratification. In this correspondence, I inquired whether they prefer to undergo ratification at the council meeting, especially if they offer summer programming or resources that students urgently require. **Based on this correspondence, I will be motioning at council to ratify these societies: The Dalhousie Outdoors Society, the Dalhousie Nursing Society, the Dalhousie Medical Students Society, and the Dalhousie Law Students Society.**

#### Student Accessibility Fund Committee Updates

- a. I have recently updated the SAFC bursary information on our website through our Marketing Manager. While we haven't received any applications thus far, I plan to reach out to the Equity and Accessibility Office to initiate referrals to eligible students.
- b. Additionally, I've submitted a communication request to create a graphic aimed at attracting general members for the SAFC.
- c. I received the budget from our financial controller and have diligently allocated funds alongside the VPFO for the upcoming year.

#### University Affairs and Committees

Dalhousie Reads Committee, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 10:00 am:

- a. Met with Faculty members to discuss how Dal Reads engagement is measured and assessed and start a plan for 2024-25.

#### Dalhousie Students Accommodation Policy

- a. I have discussed with the President that I would like to be involved in this committee and have been in contact with the Vice-Provost of Student Affairs regarding this committee.

#### External and Broader Community

Nothing to report.

#### Goal Progress



- a. My primary objective for the summer term is to overhaul the society anti-oppression training into a comprehensive equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) program. To achieve this, I've collaborated closely with the Societies and Program Coordinator. Together, we're using their template to develop a dynamic PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, in the coming weeks I will carefully review the existing anti-oppression training to select relevant sections for inclusion in the new program.
- b. To facilitate this transition smoothly, I've informed ratified societies about the temporary pause on training until the Fall period, alleviating the need for immediate completion due to ongoing restructuring efforts.
- c. Furthermore, I've met with the department head of the Sexual Education and Resource Centre (SERC) to explore potential enhancements for incorporation into the society training.
- d. To ensure progress towards my goal, I've scheduled weekly meetings, with the first one held on May 7th, 2024, with Societies Coordinator.

#### Upcoming Dates

- a. South House restructuring meeting, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- b. Interhall Council Meeting, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- c. FASS Faculty Meeting, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- d. Maritime Student Congress, May 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>



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## **Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations**

Name: William Jones

Reporting Period: April 17<sup>th</sup> - May 13th, 2024

Council Date: May 16th, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

#### **General Items - Transition Work, Apr 17th - Present:**

- Over the past few weeks, I have predominantly focused on "setting the groundwork" for the year ahead, including;
  - i. Ensuring all Airtable submission forms function properly and that applications for grants and bursaries are being received and stored as intended.
  - ii. Working with the Marketing & Design Manager (Kelsey) to ensure that information about the current funds and grants available is up to date - Including the removal or editing of existing language and titles to avoid confusion.
  - iii. Working with the Financial Controller to establish monthly budgets for executive expenses, as well as establish (rough) spending targets for grants and bursaries.
  - iv. Coordinating with other executives and council members to set times for our committee meetings.
  - v. Processing executive and DSU expenses.

#### **DSU Bar Strategy, Apr 17th - Present:**

- Currently, the DSU Bar Operations account for a significant loss of Income year over year - as a result I have begun meeting with stakeholders to try and develop a strategy to minimize losses over the coming year. These activities include:
  - Meeting with the Bar Services Manager to review sales and expenditure data.
  - Discussing potential alterations to operating hours, staffing schedules, menu items and general improvements needed to attract more business (particularly to the Grawood)

- Coordinating these discussions with the General Manager to establish a "*DSU Bar Strategy Meeting*" which will convene bi-weekly starting on April 20th.

#### **DAGs Situation Review, May 1st - Present:**

- Convening with the Vice President Internal, Financial Controller, General Manager and Societies & Programming Coordinator to review the existing DAGs situation; problems and areas of concern - as well as develop a coherent strategy moving forward.

#### Board of Operations Updates

##### **General Activities, May 1st - Present:**

- Coordinating with Executives, Councillors and Staff to find a mutually convenient time for meetings.
- First official meeting pending the appointment of Councilors.

#### Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

##### **General Activities, May 1st - Present:**

- Coordinating with Executives, Councillors and Staff to find a mutually convenient time for meetings.
- First official meeting pending the appointment of Councilors.

#### International Student Emergency Bursary Committee Updates

##### **General Activities, May 1st - Present:**

- a. Coordinating with Executives, Councillors and Staff to find a mutually convenient time for meetings.
- b. First official meeting pending the appointment of Councilors.

#### University Affairs and Committees

##### **General Activities, May 1st - Present:**

- a. Not Applicable.

#### External and Broader Community

**General Activities, May 1st - Present:**

- a. Not Applicable.

Goal Progress

Identification of Issues needing attention, development of semester goal in coordination with staff.

Upcoming Dates

Not applicable.



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## **Report of the Vice President, Academic and External**

Name: Nick d'Entremont

Reporting Period: Transition - May 13, 2024

Council Date: May 16, 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Transition/Onboarding: April 17, 2024 - April 30, 2024

- a. Attended numerous presentations from Dalhousie Student Union staff regarding the work and roles of different departments, and how to utilize these departments for my work in the upcoming year.
- b. Reviewed the DSU bylaws and relevant policies to my position, as well as relevant policies external to the DSU.
- c. Reviewed transition packages from previous VPAs (Vice President, Academic and External).

Executive Committee Meetings: April 26, 2024/May 2, 2024/May 10, 2024

- a. Attended ECMs (Executive Committee Meeting) along with other Executives and the General Manager
- b. Discussed a variety of topics from transition, office hours, office reporting structure, O-week Items, etc.

Meeting with VPSL (Vice President, Student Life): May 7, 2024, 10am

- a. Met with the VPSL to discuss and gain insight into organizing a town hall during the fall/winter semesters
- b. Allowing students to provide direct feedback to elected officials, allowing the DSU to advocate more comprehensively for services students want.

Student Issues Discussion: May 8, 2024, 12pm

- a. Attended weekly meetings with President to discussing contemporary student issues
- b. Noted items included the Faculty of Computer Science Co-op program, future of CASA/StudentsNS observer ship and advocacy efforts.

Executive Briefing on DSU Council Meeting: May 9, 2024, 12pm

- a. Attended meeting with the policy and governance coordinator to review the roles and responsibilities of executives for DSU Council meetings (Creating reports, appointments, etc.)

Meeting with DSAS (Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service) - Faculty of Computer Science co-op  
Issue: May 10, 2024, 9:30am

- a. Met with the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service alongside the President to discuss shared messaging to advocate for FCS students, and areas/individuals where we can begin to advocate on behalf of FCS students

President Presentation: May 10, 2024, 12pm

- a. Attended meeting hosted by the President of the DSU outlining the previous term and our upcoming term.
- b. Discussed wins, losses, challenges, opportunities, expectations.

#### External Committee Updates

- a. External committee has not yet been formed.

#### Student Senate Caucus Updates

Student Senate Caucus Appointments: Ongoing

- a. Actively reaching out to all societies regarding their senate representative. I have not received many, but this is common as the SCC usually picks up in September. Currently reaching out to societies on a consistent basis and providing information about the role if they have not elected a senate representative.
- b. Working to create a social media post to advertise the role of Senate Caucus, and gain more members to add student representatives on Senate Sub-Committees

#### University Affairs and Committees

Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) Hearing: May 6, 2024, 9am

- a. Attended a SDC hearing as a student on the panel

Senate Ratification Process with Bob Mann: May 13, 2024, 10am

- a. Discussed the process of ratifying SDC decisions every few weeks, ensuring the cases are being ratified up to speed.

- b. We also discussed stats regarding the previous academic year and gained insight into Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) hearings and their timeliness, and other factors to ensure the most effective outcome for all students

Senate Meeting: May 13, 2024, 3pm

### External and Broader Community

StudentsNS Board Meeting: May 10, 2024, 3pm

- a. StudentsNS held their first board meeting of the summer.
- b. Chair, Vice-Chair of were elected at the meeting.

### Goal Progress

Actively working to create my goals alongside executives and staff to ensure effective and achievable goals throughout my one-year term. These goals will be presented at our next Council meeting.

### Upcoming Dates

Meeting with Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service: May 14, 2024, 10am

Joint AIO/SDC Annual Meeting: May 14, 2024, 3pm-4:30pm

Senate Discipline Committee Hearing: May 24, 2024

Government Roundtable: TBD



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## **Report of the Vice President, Student Life**

Name: Ana Patton

Reporting Period: Transition – May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Council Date: May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

### Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

#### **ECM – Ongoing**

- Discussed day-to-day activities and got caught up on previous meetings!

#### **Transition Meetings - April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Received transition presentations from each full-time staff department and President. Learned about the inner workings of each department and who's positions and resources are relevant to mine!

#### **O-Week Planning – Ongoing**

- I have been working on O-Week throughout the month of April and May. I have created and finalized the schedule, and continued to coordinate with Dal as well as external vendors. This item will continue until August or September, so please feel free to reach out to me if you have feedback or ideas.

#### **Sponsorship Coordinator – May 7th**

- Met and discussed with Alex (Sponsorship Coordinator) about what sponsorship has looked like in previous years, and how I can best assist her in ensuring our sponsors clarity and ease when collaborating with us!

#### **Student Life & Academic and External – May 7th**

- Discussed what planning an event would look like for Nick, and gave a few names that are essential for bookings and promotion within the DSU!



### **Event Commissioner Hiring – Ongoing**

- Finished interviews, and looking to give an offer this week!

### University Affairs and Committees

#### **Transition and Engagement, Steering Committee – Ongoing**

- High-level planning for the high school to post-secondary transition.
- Asked for a more engaging and two-way partnership between our entities on the Transition.
- Attending bi-weekly meetings and working groups.

#### **Transition and Engagement, Operational Committee – Ongoing**

- Finalizing combined schedule, coming up with events, and doing the logistical work in the working groups.

### External and Broader Community

#### **Vendor Meetings – Ongoing**

- Finding the cheapest and highest value products and services to ensure the students get the best O-Week possible.

### Goal Progress

- I am currently working on setting my goals for the Summer, and will present them as soon as possible!

### Upcoming Dates

- N/A for now!