



Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

Executive Report July 29th- August 19th, 2018 President's Report

Internal

The DAGS Summer BBQ hosted with the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Students Society was a success! We are looking forward to hosting our next BBQ as part of FGS Orientation on August 30th. We would like to invite our member society executives to attend the BBQ and meet incoming students. RSVP and event details can be found below in this report and <http://www.dags.ca/post-graduate-events.html>.

I'm continuing to meet with society executives and communicate with our member societies; particularly regarding orientation and representation on department/ faculty councils. Please email president@dags.ca if you have not provided this information and if you would like to schedule a meeting. I will be continuing to reach out to societies!

A bank meeting has been held to close accounts associated with the Grad House Social Club (The Muse). DAGS will soon have a new bank manager going forward and we will be meeting with them in September to familiarize them with DAGS.

I have begun working with the DSU Graphics designer to develop a logo for DAGS, as well as some social media content templates we can use in the coming year.

Our executive has been communicating with the Dalhousie Association of Agricultural Graduate Students. We are arranging a meeting in Truro between our executives to ensure we can work together to support graduate students.

Planning orientation with the university is ongoing. I am looking to connect with any society members responsible for planning orientation. Partnerships with CFS and the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) have coordinated. The University Club has offered to host a free reception for incoming graduate students on August 30th at 2pm. Details on events can be found below in this report, as well as our website: <http://www.dags.ca/post-graduate-events.html>

There has been interest to coordinate a society for the interdisciplinary PhD students, and we will be working with these students to understand their needs and help them establish a student society.

Planning the upcoming By-Elections is a priority, including the appointment of a CRO. There is a honoraria available for the DAGS member who acts as CRO. Please contact president@dags.ca for more information.

Interest in committees has been gaining, and I am working on some committee policies to put forward. The website will be updated with opportunities to be involved. Anyone with interest in a committee can email president@dags.ca

A Special General Meeting is being coordinated between the second and third week of September. Bylaws are under revision, as well as the society budget. Part of the By-law revision is working with the DSU VPI and the DSU policy and research coordinator.

External Relations (University/ DSU/ CFS)

Members of the DAGS Executive travelled to Truro on August 12th to meet with the Executive of the Dalhousie Association of Agriculture Students (DAAGS). It appears this is the first time our executives have met. We are hoping to continue to work together to promote events and advance advocacy for our members. The recent fire on the Agriculture Campus (AC) has impacted many graduate students.

I have met with the Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) regarding the new Sexualized violence strategy. There is a focus on implantation to

raise awareness about the policy, as well as resources meant to support survivors.

There has been constant communications with members of the Faculty of Graduate studies, including meetings with Dean Dr. Marty Leonard. There are weekly contributions to the Faculty newsletter (**Submissions are sent weekly on Wednesday evenings. Should anyone desire to submit to the Faculty newsletter, please submit updates to president@dags.ca*).

Specific meetings are being coordinated by the VPFO to address Sexton campus based issues. The director of Engineering, Architecture and Planning, and the VP Academic have been involved in this process.

In regards to department specific spaces, student societies are encouraged to reach out to their departments to share the improvements they see for student spaces. Departments are able to submit to Facilities management over the summer about desired renovations. In regards to the Grad Pad in the Killam library specifically, we are able to communicate student feedback directly. Please email president@dags.ca with specific feedback regarding this space as we establish a more direct method for students to communicate feedback directly.

I am currently working with individual faculties, as well as FGS to ensure we are aware of all student positions available. If you have a position on Faculty Council for any Faculty, please email president@dags.ca.

In follow up to the Government Round Table, the department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) has reached out for a meeting to discuss issues raised at the Round Table. The meeting will be taking place in September.

Understanding changes to the FGS Faculty Council terms of reference has been a focus. We are also looking to improve collaboration on information provided on the FGS website and social media – especially communicating funding opportunities.

Services

We have created an online form where students can submit event details for us to promote. <http://www.dags.ca/post-graduate-events.html> has the link to submit event details!

We have started a new verification process for grants to ensure information regarding enrolment is accurate in all applications. We have started using an online form in hopes of improving ease of access for members.

With the new sexualized violence strategy we are looking to gain information about how society leaders will be given resources to direct students should they receive a disclosure. We are also working to connect with as many campus mental health resources as possible, especially the Dalhousie Medical Campus Response Team.

VP Academic, Ahmed Moussa, has been working on a peer mental health initiative. We are looking to collaborate with existing campus resources to ensure they are informed by graduate students. We are also advocating to the university to ensure that peer mental health positions for graduate students are well promoted and accessible to graduate students.

Programming and Events

List of Events planned- <http://www.dags.ca/post-graduate-events.html>

- August 30th: FGS Orientation and DAGS Welcome BBQ @ 12pm outside the Henry Hicks/ University Club - RSVP <https://goo.gl/forms/q4JHPFVv08me6jWh2>
- August 30th: University Club Graduate Students Welcome Reception @ 2pm – RSVP <https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=45249>
- September 6th: Graduate Issues Lunch and Learn with CFS @12pm in the SUB Atrium
- September 21st @ 8:30pm - Boat Cruise aboard the Tall Ship Silva

List of Events in-progress:

- Lunch and Learn Series
 - o Know Your Rights – Workers
 - o Know Your Rights – Tenants
 - o Emergency Preparedness
- World Café

- Potential partnership with International Centre and international students' association

FGS has Faculty orientation on August 30th and DAGS will host a Welcome BBQ at 12pm for new students. Society members are encouraged to attend to promote their activities!

As part of Project (Re)construct, we are partnering with NSPIRG for a Lunch and Learn on graduate student issues with the CFS. Intended location is the atrium area outside of the Grawood / Loaded Ladle Serving Kitchen with students encouraged to go to the Loaded Ladle serving.

We are planning a Boat Cruise board the Tall Ship Silva on September 21st. All graduate students are welcome to attend! Tickets will be approximately \$26.00-\$28.00 for two hours aboard the Silva. We will have a DJ on board!

We are working with the CFS , and their recommended organizations, to coordinate Lunch and Learn sessions on Tenants Rights and Worker's rights.

The Red Cross association has also indicated interest in supporting a partnership for events. We are looking into the possibility of collaborating on an emergency preparedness Lunch and Learn.