



# Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

## Executive Report June 17th, 2018 – July 29th, 2018 President's Report

### Internal

Executive meetings have been held with executive and director to understand DAGS' financial position and begin budgeting for the year going forward. The VPFO has been providing briefings to the executive and directors. There is an upcoming bank meeting to further address the DAGS and Muse bank accounts.

I participated in a pre-arrival webinar for international students, and have worked with the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Start on Track" modules. The pre-arrival webinar highlighted the many ways new students can get involved.

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](mailto:president@dags.ca)

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 the International Students Association, International Centre, CFS, and the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) are being coordinated.

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](mailto:president@dags.ca) for more information.

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.

## **External Relations (University/ DSU/ CFS)**

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](mailto:president@dags.ca)).*

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.

Specific meetings are being coordinated by the VPFO to address Sexton campus based issues. In addition to raising awareness about prevalent student issues, we are working to improve relationships with administration and create pathways for students to be more engaged.

The move from the Mona Campbell and Grad House continues to be a focus. We are focusing on selling much of the equipment and furniture.

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](mailto: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 all student appointment opportunities are promoted and filled for the upcoming year. If you have a position on Faculty Council for any Faculty, please email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca)

CFS and the local member organizations hosted a series of Campus QT's events from July 26<sup>th</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup>. VP External, Laura Cutmore, spearheaded DAGS' involvement in these events and did an amazing work in the coordination of events and communication between organizations.

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 is supposed to take place this week.

## **Services**

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.

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

- August 16<sup>th</sup>: BBQ – Carleton Campus @5pm
- August 30<sup>th</sup>: FGS Orientation and DAGS Welcome BBQ @12pm
- September 6<sup>th</sup>: Graduate Issues Lunch and Learn with CFS
- Sept 7<sup>th</sup>: Boat Cruise

List of Events in-progress:

- Lunch and Learn Series
  - Know Your Rights – Workers
  - Know Your Rights – Tenants
  - Emergency Preparedness
- World Café
  - Potential partnership with International Centre and international students' association

We are planning BBR on to be hosted on Carleton Campus (between Tupper and Dentistry buildings) at 5pm. We are collaborating with FGS with the goal of collecting food for the DSU food bank. Interested attendees should bring a food bank donation. Space is physically accessible and family friendly.

FGS has Faculty orientation on August 30<sup>th</sup> 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 with students encouraged to go to the Loaded Ladle serving.

We are looking to host a Boat Cruise on September 7<sup>th</sup> for orientation. All graduate students are welcome to attend! Tickets will be approximately \$28.00 for two hours aboard the Silva or Harbour Queen.

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.