



# DAGS

Dalhousie Association  
of Graduate Students

**President's Report – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Kaitlyne Lowe – [President@dags.ca](mailto:President@dags.ca)**

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## Internal

- Our new Office Coordinator, Shauna, started on April 1<sup>st</sup>! She is in Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-5pm, so come say hi. She has been working to improve the DAGS Website: <http://www.dags.ca/>
- Executive meetings are held weekly, if there is something you feel the Executive should discuss, please email potential agenda items by 5pm every Tuesday!
- We are looking to host a skill building and re-orientation session in the new year for any interested Councillors and Society executives. Please email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca) if you are interested in participating, and if you have any ideas for what you would like to see.
  - o Topics proposed
    - Treasurer Training
    - Outreach
    - Event Organizing
- The last DAGS Council meeting of this term will be Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>
- DAGS is seeking committee members for the new year! Committees are open to anyone interested in joining! Anyone with interest in a committee can email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca)
  - o Committees Include:
    - Student Life
    - Advocacy & External Action (email [vpexternal@dags.ca](mailto:vpexternal@dags.ca))
    - Administration
    - Governance (Strategic Planning)
- DAGS 2019-2020 Elections have concluded with a voter turnout of 174! The results are as follows:
  - o President - Martine Panzica (81.87% voted yes)

- Vice President Academic - Nima Mayanmandi (68.21% of the vote)
- Vice President External - Hailie Tattrie (78.36% voted yes)
- Vice President Finance and Operations - Kayla Preston (85.29 % voted yes)
- Vice President Student Life - Fallen Matthews (80.59% voted yes)
- Director: Engineering, Architecture and Planning - Rohit Shivarkar (81.29 % voted yes)
- Director: Health and Medical Sciences - Alexandra Fox (81.5% voted yes)

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

- We have been working with DISA (International student Association) on a rally and sit-in to protest against the university's budget proposal. There is a second rally on April 16<sup>th</sup> (the date of the BOG meeting)
- Organizing transition meetings with incoming DSU & DAGS Executives
- Met with Dr. Newhook and DEGS being organized to continue focus on graduate student issues. TA drop-in space was created to respond to concerns and students are encouraged to approach the Dean of Student Matters with any issues
- Working with FGS on its plans for new orientation programming
- There has been constant communications with members of the Faculty of Graduate studies, including meetings with Dean Dr. Marty Leonard. One focus is to develop a Brightspace page that is jointly managed by DAGS and FGS to communicate with all graduate students more effectively.
- A meeting was held with the Mental Health Commission of Canada to get feedback from graduate students on the mental health standard
- FGS Faculty Council meetings occur monthly (last Tuesday of the month) and we are happy to bring forward any issues. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23rd. The Decanal review search will be a key issue.
- The FASS Faculty Council meeting was Tuesday, April 9th. A key focus is to ensure graduate student voices are captured in the Faculties new strategic plan.
- 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) ). At the same time, submissions are made to the FGS social media coordinator if there is anything you want shared on through FGS social media channels.
- We have set up monthly meetings with the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) to identify common advocacy areas, and gain feedback on how to advance initiatives, such as faculty-wide policies regarding stipends, research assistant positions, and TA positions. We are looking to coordinate around the university budget process.
- The next Government Round Table will be in May and attended by the new executive
- Met with Provost and VP Finance on University Budget Proposal voicing student concerns

- Met with Peter MacKinnon and staff to discuss issues – including budget proposal
- The Provost is creating a position to focus on the Graduate Student Experience (ex. Supervisor – student relations)
- Internal review of University’s sexualized violence policy
- Review of the Ombudsperson Office
- Attended the Women in Research Committee Meeting
  - Focus on improving conditions for parents (researchers and students)

## Services

- Please submit event details for us to promote.  
<http://www.dags.ca/postgraduateevents.html> has the link to submit event details to be uploaded on our website and shared on social media!
- We are also working to connect with as many campus mental health resources as possible, especially the Dalhousie Medical Campus Response Team and Stay Connected. 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. Graduate students have been a key stakeholder for the MHCC post-secondary standard development
- We are working on revising our policies to have a more efficient and transparent grants process.
- If you would like to book the DAGS space, email [office@dags.ca](mailto:office@dags.ca)!
- Our office coordinator is in Mondays and Wednesday from 9am – 5pm

## Programming and Events

- List of Events planned- <http://www.dags.ca/post-graduate-events.html>. These events include any invites received for calls to various conferences and publications!
- Recently concluded events
  - Conflict Resolution Workshop – March 28<sup>th</sup>
    - We are looking to add the material from the workshop to the website and potentially develop an webinar session for graduate students
    - The committee is seeking feedback to improve the conference to create an event outline for next year
  - Dalhousie Graduate Student Conference and Reception – April 4<sup>th</sup>
    - The inaugural conference was a success! There is interest from the university and FGS to make it an annual event
  - Graduate Student Appreciation Night – April 4<sup>th</sup>
    - We had around 40 students attend graduate student appreciation night!

