



# DAGS

Dalhousie Association  
of Graduate Students

**President's Report - Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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## Internal

- 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.
- We are looking to run a DAGS strategy planning session on January 31<sup>st</sup>, help us plan out the coming term!
- Council Meetings will continue to be held monthly on Thursdays. Due to grant applications, we are looking to hold a short Council meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> before the strategy planning session.
- We are looking to meet with the Dalhousie Association of Agricultural Graduate Students in follow-up to our summer meeting.
- Moving offices has also been a focus. We are finalizing our lease agreement with the DSU and have moved contents out of the Grad House. We are planning to move into the new space next week.
- We are still seeking committee members! 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)

- I'm continuing to meet with society executives and communicate with our member societies; particularly regarding the upcoming university budget process. Please email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca) to reach out for a meeting at any time!
- Hiring for the new Office Coordinator continues to be a focus for this month. We are hoping to have someone in place for the beginning of February. Executive Office hours will act as hours for the office overall as we work to fill this position.

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

- Weekly update meetings will continue to be held with the DSU President.
- A follow up meeting with Dr. Newhookis being organized to continue focus on graduate student issues in the Engineering faculty, and to establish an ongoing relationships with the graduate engineering society (DEGS).
- We participated in FGS winter orientation and have worked to implement programming to welcome new graduate students. See events list below!
- 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 with FGS communications has been scheduled to continue these efforts.
- A meeting was held regarding updates to the FGS website to gather student feedback.
- 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, Jan 22nd. Our key focus has been the discussion of new terms of reference for the Faculty Council.
- The FASS Faculty Council meeting was Tuesday, Jan 18th. A key focus is to ensure graduate student voices are captured in the Faculty's 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 beginning to strategize around the university budget process.
- The next Government Round Table will be February 28th. We hope to have an update regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **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. I have a follow up meeting with the dean of FGS and the director of counselling to work on graduate student mental health strategy.
- We are working on revising our policies to have a more efficient and transparent grants process. In addition, we are working on moving into our new office in the Student Union Building and will be creating a booking policy, so societies may use the space for their events!
- We will be planning a Grand Opening celebration for the new space in early February, The space will be open to students for the Society Expo (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>)

## 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!
- Winter orientation events:
  - Dean's Office Meet and Greet - Jan 14th at 3pm - 5pm - Student Union Building - Council Chambers
    - Free food and a chance to meet important members from the Dean's Office!
  - Coffee Giveaway in the Tupper - Jan 15th - 12pm - 2pm - Tupper Student Lounge
    - Free coffee giveaway!
  - Skating at the Emera Oval - Jan 21st at 7pm
    - Meet in front of the Starbucks in the Tupper Building (Leaving at 6:30pm)
    - Public skate at the Emera Oval starts at 7pm. Free rentals are on site!
  - Study and Snacks - Jan 22nd at 1:30pm - 4pm - Grad Pad - Killam Library 4th Floor
    - Free coffee, tea, and snacks while you study in the Grad Pad!
  - Pizza Social - Jan 28th - Pizza Social - Troom, Sexton Campus at 5pm - 8pm
    - Free pizza in the Troom!
- List of Events in-progress:
  - Lunch and Learns
    - CUPE 3912 – TA union
    - NSPIRG
    - Health and Wellness supports

- World Café / Potluck with DISA and International Centre