



**DAGS**  
Dalhousie Association  
of Graduate Students

# **Executive Report**

## **Nov 5th, 2018 – Nov 22nd**

### **President's Report**

#### **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.

Council Meetings will continue to be held monthly in the new year! The day of the week may change. The next Council meeting is planned for Tuesday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

Adebayo Majekolagbe has been elected as Vice President Academic in the DAGS By-Elections. Email him at [vpacademic@dags.ca](mailto:vpacademic@dags.ca).

We are in the second stage of working with DSU Graphics designer to develop a logo for DAGS (pictured above)

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 been moving contents out of the Grad House. We are hoping to have our new space complete early in the new year.

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)

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 representation on department/faculty councils. Please email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca) if you have not provided this information! Please feel free to reach out for a meeting at any time!

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

Weekly update meetings are held with the DSU President.

A meeting with Dr. Newhook was held to bring attention to graduate student issues in the Engineering faculty, and to establish an ongoing relationships with the graduate engineering society (DEGS).

I attended the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg. The topic this year was making graduate education more inclusive; with a focus on graduate student mental health. I made connections with other many other graduate student associations and learned new strategies to advocate for our needs within Dalhousie. Next year, the conference will be held in Halifax (Nov 2019 at the Lord Nelson). I will be working with CAGS and grad student associations in the province to implement more student-focused programming, and CAGS has agreed to make student perspectives more of a focus going forward.

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.

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, Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. Our key focus has been the discussion of new terms of reference for the Faculty Council. The FASS Faculty Council meeting was Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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.

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. Our next meeting will be in the new year.

The next Government Round Table was November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting focused on meeting the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, a presentation on Immigration streams for international graduates, and some updates on the Memorandum of Understanding.

## Services

Please submit event details for us to promote. <http://www.dags.ca/postgraduate-events.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 met with the director of counselling to work on services and programs tailored to graduate students. We are also working to make additions to the National Health Survey to collect more data specifically relating to graduate student mental health. There has been a delay with setting up the National Health survey.

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. We hope the space will be completed early in the new year.

## 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!

DAGS will be hosting a lunch social on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The intended location is Sexton Campus, however there is an issue with logistics for food and the event may have to be held on Studley campus. There will be free BBQ food to students, so come chat with your DAGS executives and enjoy some free food during this stressful time of year!

List of Events in-progress:

- Lunch and Learn
  - Potential topic: Peer support – university and societies
- World Café / holiday Potluck with DISA and International Centre
- Winter orientation programming with FGS