



**DAGS**  
Dalhousie Association  
of Graduate Students

# **Executive Report**

## **October 7th – Nov 4th, 2018**

### **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!

Council Meetings will be held monthly, please email potential agenda items by 5pm the Tuesday before a meeting!. **We will be appointing directors at our next meeting:**

**Thursday, November 22nd, 5:30pm**

Setting up DAGS By-Elections has been a primary focus. Including collecting all the necessary student information and working to set up a Brightspace page for Elections. Voting will run **Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am until Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**

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 will be moving contents out of the Grad House in the next two weeks. We are hoping to have our new space complete for the end of reading 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)

Committees Include:

- Student Life
- Academic
- 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!

We have gotten the necessary information from the DSU to issues society disbursements for Summer and Fall. Victor will be in touch when your cheque is ready (this week!)

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

I have been working closely with the DSU to plan the Sexton Townhall that occurred Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. In addition to helping synthesize feedback and advocate for the issues presented in general, DAGS will be taking the graduate student concerns to a meeting with Dr. Newhook, DAGS VPFO, Sexton Director, and the graduate student engineering society.

I will be attending the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg. The topic this year is on making graduate education more inclusive; with a focus on graduate student mental health. I am hoping to make connections with other graduate student associations and learn new strategies to advocate for our needs within Dalhousie.

There has been constant communications with members of the Faculty of Graduate studies, including meetings with Dean Dr. Marty Leonard. There have been specific meetings regarding supervisor-student relations with the DSU.

Faculty Council meetings occur monthly (last Tuesday of the month) and we are happy to bring forward any issues. Our key focus has been the discussion of new terms of reference for the Faculty Council.

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)*).

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 we are aware of all student positions available. If you have a position on Faculty Council for any Faculty, or a department committee, please email [president@dags.ca](mailto:president@dags.ca).

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.

The next Government Round Table will be November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting will specifically relate to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Graduate students now have a voice on the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee. I will be this year's representative as we work towards integrating this position into our Society's structure.

Laura Cutmore, VP External, now has a seat on DSU Council and are happy to have the opportunity to directly engage with DSU governance to better advocate for graduate student needs.

## **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 will be working with FGS to establish a joint Brightspace page in an effort to improve communications with graduate students.

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

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 at the end of November.

## **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!

Thank you to those who participated in Trick or Eat! The Dalhousie Graduate Student Physics Society won the \$100.00 for the DAGS competition to collect the most items!

The International Centre is hosting International Education Week! There are events going on all week, see their Facebook page for more details:

<https://www.facebook.com/dalhousie.ic/>

The DSU and the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS) are hosting an Academic Integrity workshop on November 8<sup>th</sup>:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/253219908695336/>

List of Events in-progress:

- o Lunch and Learn

- Potential topic: Peer support
- Potential Date: November 29<sup>th</sup>
- World Café / holiday Potluck with DISA and International Centre
- Winter orientation programming with FGS