



ANNEX: W2023AGA-19-2b

2022-2023 Executive Report

Dawson Student Union (DSU)

The Dawson Student Union's mission is to organize students on a democratic, co-operative basis for advancing students' interests, and advancing the interests of the students' community;

To bring students together to discuss and cooperatively achieve necessary educational, administrative, and legislative change wherever decision-making affects students;

To facilitate organizing services for students;

To achieve the goal of a system of post-secondary education which is accessible to all, which is of high quality, which recognises the legitimacy of student representation and the validity of Student's rights; and whose role in society is clearly recognised and appreciated;

To organize activities promoting the social, recreational, and cultural interest of the students at Dawson College;

To represent the interests of Dawson College students to all levels of the administration of Dawson College and to appoint all students required to represent the membership of their Union to all constituted or informal bodies of the College in accordance with an Act Respecting the Accreditation and Financing of Students' Associations.

Executive Team

The 2022-2023 Executive Officers are as follows:

- President: Gurpreet "Gigi" Kaur
- Vice-President Finance: Sabrina Vuong
- Vice-President Operations & Services: Hanane Aouchiche
- Vice-President Academics & Advocacy: Sophia El Bakir
- Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications: Gabriela Aragon
- Vice-President External Affairs: Kiana Lalavi
- Vice-President Student Life: N/A (Kevin Labossière resigned 30 November 2022)
- Vice-President Services & Sustainability: N/A (Benjamin Savard resigned 1 May 2023)



End of Year Report

Representation on College Bodies

1. Board of Governors

- President Gigi Kaur and Technical Student Councillor Isabelo Beli-En David present for Board of Governors' meetings
- Choosing the new Academic Dean
- Sexual Violence prevention contracts discussions
- A lot of Bill 96 in other words Law 14 discussions taking place
- New program revisions being approved and discussed

2. Senate

- President Gigi Kaur, VP of Academics and Advocacy Sophia El Bakir, VP of Internal Affairs and Communications Gabriela Aragon and Conted Student Counselor Mohammed Parsa present for those meetings
- Discussions of Bylaw 6 and the result was to create a new committee called Student Enhancement Committee
- Discussions of Hybrid (online and offline classes) present in the college and how to deal with them
- Program revisions
- Strategic Planning committee proposes their initiatives to better the College Academic and Student environment
- Discussions of the impacts and effects of Bill 96 - Law 14 especially the discussions in regards with non certificate holders and certificate holders and the French courses provided
- Much more

3. Senate Sub-committees & Other College Bodies

Refer to Office of the VP Academics & Advocacy section

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT Gurpreet "Gigi" Kaur, President

1. Management of the DSU, dealing and handling relations with Desjardins, managing students' needs, interest and representations in other forms of student involvement, managing the team's needs and necessities such as material for the office and the DSU in general.
2. Accomplishing the Period Poverty project which is an initiative to eliminate female hygiene products scarcity in female and gender neutral bathrooms, a new dispenser and period tampon and pads waste box in the bathroom stalls. Handling, financializing, financing and



implementing the project in the school campus (you can see it in the bathroom stalls already).

3. Continuing the Student insurance project, creating a collegial alliance for the necessity of insurance for students. Dealt and handled heavy negotiations and the process system to implement student insurance. Conflict of student insurances (2 companies) within the DSU. Special DSU General Assembly held in early February to vote on insurance but did not hit quorum.
4. Working with the VP Academics & Advocacy and VP Internal Affairs & Communications in the creation of a proper agenda for the next year's students that enter the new academic year at Dawson College. Working on the agenda from the ground up from what information to put into the template, design and price of it.
5. Working with the VP Academics & Advocacy on a senate and DSU committee called Student Enhancement committee where we find solutions, and reasoning on how and why student voices should be expressed on an academic level. This committee essentially tries to understand and create a better insightful informative resource of communication with the College. With this form of communication, students can express their needs and concerns about the college.
6. Completed the abolishment of cameras in female and male gym locker rooms. A case was brought up to the DSU and I personally handled this case where negotiations and heavy conversations took place to discuss the security of students' items, bodies and integrity in the gym locker rooms. Finally the college came to the conclusion of removing the cameras entirely.

Recommendations (if any):

- Students who want to get involved in committees or college related activities, please get involved via requests or communication with the DSU, Student Council, CLL, and the College. There is a lack of student engagement on the campus.
- Fully understand the positions of the DSU and Student Council. A lot of misunderstanding took place because of the lack of understanding the roles and responsibilities. Also for any enquiry about the DSU in regards to any situation, get the proper information from the executives first rather than believe in he said she said rumors
- When engaging in student related activities or involvements, please prepare your time, work and energy efficiently and correctly. Structure yourself and discipline yourself. Those who want to be executives, please understand your roles and responsibilities, and tell yourself that your whole academic year will revolve around the DSU.



OFFICE OF FINANCE
Sabrina Vuong, Vice-President

1. Standardize reimbursement process for clubs by creating All Clubs Meeting every semester, and decrease the turnaround time for reimbursements
2. Rework Finance Regulations 2.0 to standardize procedure, enforce transparency and maintain adequate record of all financial transactions
3. Creation of Event Guidebook for Clubs detailing every part of the process for clubs to set up an event containing 11 sections
4. Creation of VP Finance Guidebook to ensure continuity within DSU
5. Raised 4k for Mahsa Initiative through a collaborative event with CASAQ
6. Reviewed over 10 Special Project Funding and funded many charities, fundraisers, club events, etc.

Recommendations (if any):

- Rework Finance Regulations
- Partner up with external bookkeeping firm to ensure clean accounting and bookkeeping

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS & SERVICES
Hanane Aouchiche, Vice-President

1. Dawson Dining Reestablishment: We hired a dedicated coordinator who has been overseeing the cooking part of the service as well as organizing our ingredients. Additionally, we compiled a cookbook that documents the recipes that the next VPs can base themselves on.
2. The Hive Reestablishment: We successfully revamped The Hive, our gender advocacy office. As part of this initiative, we recruited a new coordinator and improved the room's layout and ambiance based on student's preferences and suggestions. The space has been thoroughly cleaned and revitalized, ensuring a cozy and safe space for our students.
3. Storage Organization: cleanup and reorganization of our storage facility. We were able to clean up our room, while donating some surplus goods to the sustainability office on campus. Having a good knowledge of our resources facilitates lending them to various clubs.
4. Conrods Kitchen and Prayer Room Upgrades: We got a new storage unit for our kitchen ingredients, ensuring that they are properly organized and readily accessible.



5. In response to student demands, we procured new furniture for the Prayer Room, creating a more comfortable and accommodating space for students to practice their faith. Additionally, we have updated the access codes to some DSU spaces to enhance security measures.
6. CLL: As a result of ongoing campus construction, CLL will be moving into one of our DSU spaces temporarily, ensuring continued support for students during this transitional period.

Recommendations (if any):

- Provide a workshop for clubs about the use of electronic equipment
- Work on promoting Dawson Dinin', it can have its own Instagram page, students can talk to the coordinator for feedback and ideas. It would also allow having a strong team of volunteers we can rely on.

OFFICE OF ACADEMICS & ADVOCACY
Sophia El Bakir, Vice-President

1. Advocacy

I have helped numerous students file complaints, listened to their grievances and oriented them through the proper services. Most of them were academic in nature: questions about their grades, teachers not respecting Institutional Student Evaluation Policy (ISEP), uncertainty if their complaints had any validity, etc. I guided them through the process of grade review, talked to the deans before the student contacts them so the student is better prepared. Other cases were about equity: students being treated differently due to ethnicity, race and gender. In these cases, I informed them of the Code of Conduct, and referred them to a social worker. In collaboration with the Clubs coordinator, I handled a case of harassment for which detailed documents needed to be drafted to execute the ban. I have started a Google Forms that would have a built-in flow chart to better direct students when they filed a complaint. While the tool is mostly completed, its pilot year will start in the next mandate. My team of office volunteers and I started an easy-to-read ISEP guidebook because it is of primordial importance that students become familiarized with the document and expecting them to read 48 pages of processes and policies is unrealistic.

As part of my annual plan, I wanted to organize more events with Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) representation so as to foster more diversity in all the spheres of the school. With that in mind, I organized:

- Get Ready for Uni.: It took place in my first semester and was a mix of the academics and advocacy portions of my mandate. It consisted of a panel of BIPOC students who talked about their path, the obstacles they faced and are still facing today, how they tried to overcome it and tricks to flourish in university. The goal was for students to de-stress about starting university and get a chance to talk and hear from students of similar and different backgrounds who were in the same position as they are now.



- Spirituality Week: A three-day long event (though the third day was cancelled due to the hail storm) that exposed students to a myriad of religions, beliefs and spiritualities. The goal was for students to broaden their horizons and contribute to a more tolerant, educated and harmonious community.
- Anti-Neocolianism Art Exhibit: Art from students, teachers and activists in the community relating to neocolonialism, colonialism, imperialism, and other similar themes were compiled into a gallery. Knowing that these concepts are hard to understand, our goal was to facilitate by linking more to emotions and adding a visual aspect.

Committees

I started, with the President, the Student Voice Enhancement Committee. Officially a Senate sub-committee, this group is made of five students, one support staff, a professional, teacher and a dean. It will create a report compiling all the recommendations to make students more involved in the governance of the school, not just through seats on Senate but in qualitative ways as well. It will look at the gaps, at what has been done so far and finally, what can be done. Its mandate is “discovering and designing feasible, viable, and sustainable opportunities for students to share their voice in an attempt to enhance their experience at the college.”

I sat on numerous committees. Below are some highlights that are most relevant to students in the most important committees:

- Senate:
 - French language policy will be implemented. Most, if not all of our communications will be in French or bilingual.
 - There will be a prioritization of certificate holders over non-certificate holders during the admissions process.
 - Blended courses program: students will be able to take courses that are both synchronous and asynchronous if that course has been proven to have added pedagogical value in that format.
 - Strategic Plan:
- ISEP
 - Currently undergoing a massive revamp that will probably be brought to Senate and Board of Governors by the end of Winter 2024
 - They are looking to significantly shorten the policy, transferring a lot of the information and processes into other policies such as the Program Manual, Code of Conduct, etc.
- Accessibility and Mental Health
 - There are new policies being put in place for both.
 - The mental health policy now has extended its scope to all members of the Dawson community, not just students.

Awards

- In collaboration with the VP Finance, we held Fall 2022 awards to highlight the community involvement, dedication to academic rigour and organization of projects for students. In the following semester, we organized an “Awards Night” to celebrate their accomplishments.



Recommendations

- Have an easier way for people to complain and a faster system
- Have a quicker consultation process. When you sit on many committees and have numerous documents sent to you, having a consultation process in place would help the next VP come more prepared to the meetings. I suggest making a group of students that come from different programs and meeting once a week so they can give their input. In the interest of time, the meetings would not be so much for discussion as a suggestion. The documents would be given to the members ahead of time.
- Awards: have just one celebration if you're going to do two sessions of awards in the year. Keep in consideration that two sessions of awards usually results in the same winners.
- Make the representatives more well-prepared. Create a document for every new student representative who has been assigned to a committee, so they're better aware of their responsibilities.

OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS Gabriela Aragon, Vice-President

1. As the VP Internal Affairs & Communications, I was in charge of updating all the social media platforms. My illustrations were unique and sought the attention of the student population. I kept the branding of the DSU as it was established in the last few years, with the predominant colour green and the logo on the left side of all posts.
2. Additionally, as part of my mandate, I managed the website and all involved in its creation and issues. The website was originally in Wix, yet a few years ago, the initiative to change the host to WordPress was something I worked towards. However, our company was not cooperative and charged us significant amounts for minor fix-ups. Hence, the decision to return to Wix looked ideal after a few months; I launched the new website in WordPress. Therefore, a lot of time was spent on the WordPress version to copy and update all the information on the website. Sadly, all that work had to get deleted and changed back to Wix, where I had to do multiple updates and changes.
3. Additionally, I overtook the project of the DSU's Podcast. The Vine Podcast was an idea of previous executives brought to life by my team and me. The Podcast involved purchasing equipment for better sound and a more accessible edition. Additionally, it gave a sense of community to the student that participated. Hence, to create the Podcast, there were multiple people and positions where students could volunteer and have the experience of putting on their C.V. Furthermore, the Podcast was released on Spotify, YouTube, Apple music, and Prime audio, which helped reach more students. The Podcast had broad subjects to which students could relate, and we had different guest speakers offering more educated information and resources.



4. Furthermore, as VP. internal affairs, I assisted multiple faculty meetings and committees. During the sessions, I voiced concerns and raised questions about numerous issues or situations that involved and affected the students. I participated in ISEP and its sub-committees to rewrite and make ISEP a more precise document that can be more readable for students.
5. Lastly, during my mandate, I organized and successfully executed multicultural days during the fall semester. During this time, the V.P. Student Life could not do so, and I took charge of the events and problems brought by clubs and helped with their events. As well as chairing CEOC along with VP. finance. Therefore, I helped with the transition when the student council appointed a club coordinator and events' coordinator.

Recommendations (if any):

- The creation of another insurance committee
- Stay with Wix for website creation and updates

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Kiana Lalavi, Vice-President

1. Organize events/oversee committees on matters of social or political interest: assist in organizing political provincial debate, provincial voting information booth, co-organize environmental strike, co-chair the policy review committee (standing regulations for clubs and spaces)
2. Collaborate with external student unions for events: activist bootcamp (SSMU, CSU), intercollegiate dating show (CASAQ), create the ACC
3. Contribute to the community: Bake sale for Resilience Montreal, Food Drive for Moisson Montreal, Iran Support Event, Mahsa Amini Initiative (mentorship program, guide to organize better more successful awareness campaigns, and bursary for international and refugee Dawson students)

Recommendations (if any):

- From the beginning of the year build stronger bonds with francophone colleges to garner more support for potential work around Law 14
- Better advertise intercollegiate events/activities



OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE
Report prepared by
Thenral Nadarajah, Clubs Coordinator
Alaa Ben Romdhane, Events Coordinator

Clubs Coordinator

1. Reviewed and enforced the creation and necessary amendments to the clubs' constitutions: With the help of my volunteers, I got every current existing club to create or amend their constitution as it is one of the core requirements to keep a club running smoothly.
2. Amended club banning procedure with the Hive: Due to certain events throughout this academic year, we came to the realization that the DSU did not have a proper system on how to proceed with the removal of problematic students from DSU clubs and spaces. With the Hive now back in business, we have established a procedure on how to deal with sensitive situations.
3. Assisted in amending the Clubs Standing Regulations: Through the Policy Review Committee (PRC), I had the opportunity to update the current club standing regulations. My volunteers and I also modified the current club's constitution template and sent it for review by the PRC.
4. Re-established and enforced mandatory executive consent workshops with the Hive: Another obligation that clubs have to keep running, is attending the mandatory consent workshops. Three core executives (President, Secretary, Treasurer) are obligated to attend the consent workshop. We had one during the F22 semester that was organized with the help of the VP Academics & Advocacy, two over the winter break before the W23 semester began and one in late April held by The Hive.
5. Created a simpler filing system to store important club information (executives' info, room codes distribution, attendance at all clubs meeting and consent workshop): Due to not having any paper or digital trail about past and present clubs, I have created a filing system where everything is accessible in one place for anyone who would need access to a club's information.

Recommendations:

- Create a better communication hub between the DSU and Club Executives: Now that I have created a filing system where all club executives' information is available in one place, we can communicate with each club via their email and not an online platform that not all students may use.
- Reformat the Space Reservation form and add a DSU section: The current space reservation form is made by and for CLL. We want to avoid clubs going to CLL to request for things as it is the DSU's responsibility to have the necessary information and equipment to assist them. Adding a DSU section or creating our own system to lend out said equipment with the help of the next VP Operations & Services will make things easier for everyone.



Events Coordinator

As the Event Coordinator for the Dawson Student Union, I am pleased to present my report on the various events organized during my tenure. In this report, I will be discussing three main points, highlighting the successes of the events, and offering recommendations for future coordinators.

1. Black History Month Event: The Black History Month Event was a highly successful event that was organized during my tenure. The event aimed to celebrate Black History and Culture and was attended by a large number of students. The event featured a questionnaire game, food and snacks and dance performances. The conference on Systemic Racism in Youth Protection: A Dialogue Between Black and Indigenous Communities was a highlight of the month. The conference provided an opportunity for attendees to engage in a meaningful discussion and learn from each other's experiences. The event was widely praised for its organization, inclusivity, and diversity.

2. Multicultural Week Event: The Multicultural Week Event was another successful event organized during my tenure. The event aimed to celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of Dawson students and was attended by a large number of students. The event featured a range of activities, including cultural dance performances, food festivals, and a photo booth. The event was widely praised for its organization, inclusivity, and diversity.

3. Collaboration with Vanier Student Association at a Club: The collaboration with Vanier Student Association at a Club was a successful event organized during my tenure. The event aimed to bring together students from both institutions and promote a sense of community. The event featured a range of activities, including live music, dance performances, and food festivals. We hope to keep this event as a tradition for the next years.

Recommendations: Based on my experience as the Event Coordinator, I would like to offer the following recommendations for future coordinators:

- Improve Multicultural Week Event: The Multicultural Week Event was a highly successful event, and I recommend that future coordinators focus on improving this event. Specifically, I suggest making it a week-long event instead of a single day. It would also be great to hold it twice a year. This will provide more opportunities for students to engage with different cultures and learn about their diverse heritage.
- Increase Collaboration with Other Institutions: The collaboration with Vanier Student Association at a Club was a successful event, and I recommend that future coordinators focus on increasing collaboration with other institutions. This will provide opportunities for students to connect with a wider community and promote a sense of community.
- Streamline Event Organization: Finally, I recommend that future coordinators streamline the event organization process. This can be achieved by developing a clear process for event planning and management, establishing a timeline, and delegating responsibilities among the team.



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & EQUITY Report prepared by Benjamin Savard

1. Dawson Dinin'

- With the VP Operations & Services, restarted the Dawson Dinin' service that had closed during the pandemic
- Offers free vegan meals every Wednesday to students that bring reusable containers
- 3 weeks of the year (Peace Week and 2 Earth Weeks) had the service run week-long
- Worked on the hiring of two coordinators of the service in order to make it run more smoothly.

2. Climate Justice Workshop

- Worked with the Climate Justice Organizing Hub
- Organized an education workshop about Climate Justice with professional speakers

3. Climate Strike

Climate change is an issue on many students' minds. Eco-anxiety is known to affect many of us, and getting involved in the climate justice movement is the best way to address it.

- With the VP External, organized a strike general assembly that greatly surpassed quorum (500 students were present, 300 was the minimum).
- Successfully passed the first ever DSU climate strike.
- Negotiated a class cancellation on the strike day. (unfortunately, the admin then chose to add a class day, which we opposed)
- Organized a march starting from Dawson all the way to Jeanne Mance park with Concordia and McGill student groups

4. The Swap

- Offered students the possibility to buy and sell their school books to each other second hand
- Encourages sustainable consuming habits
- Helps students manage the high cost of education

5. The CRUES

- Organized a referendum for the DSU to affiliate to the Coalition of Resistance for a United Student Movement
- Referendum passed with 92% approval
- Will help the DSU in the future mobilize with other student unions for important issues like paid internships for students and climate justice