



**W2025AGA-21-5b**

## **DAWSON STUDENT UNION W2025AGA-21**

- 5. Reports
  - b. Executive Officers

### **2024-2025 Executive End-of-Year 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 2024-2025 Executive Officers are as follows:

1. President (Board Director): Kenneth Clarence Oledan
2. Vice-President Finance (Board Director): Alain Chris Dalen Maniratanga
3. Vice-President Academics & Advocacy (Board Director): Victoria Ormiston
4. Vice-President Operations & Services (Board Director): Olivier Lamoureux
5. Vice-President External Affairs: Leilah Doyle
6. Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications: Philippe Beauchemin
7. Vice-President Student Life: Faye Rasno
8. Vice-President Sustainability & Equity: Leila Pozzi



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**Kenneth Clarence Oledan, President (Board Director)**

1. Student Insurance

I oversaw the first year of implementing the Health and Dental Plan. Throughout the year, I held meetings with a representative from the insurance broker to ensure a smooth rollout. Despite these efforts, several unforeseen challenges arose. Students faced difficulties with the opt-out process and navigating the website and Omni app, and many reported negative experiences with the insurance broker's customer service. I directly raised these complaints with the broker's liaison and expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of customer service. As a result, the opt-out periods for both the fall and winter semesters were extended and a review of the customer service department was done by the insurance broker. To address increased demand for support, I requested that a representative from the insurance broker be onsite during these periods to assist students, which was implemented and greatly helped students navigate the process. I also advocated for a clear, step-by-step guide for the opt-out process and navigation of the Omni app and recommended that the insurance broker hire a dedicated employee to be stationed at the College year-round to assist students beyond the opt-out periods.

2. Protocol Agreement

My predecessor formally called on the Director of Student Services to renegotiate the DSU–Dawson College Protocol Agreement. The current executive team continued these renegotiation efforts to ensure the DSU's interests were properly reflected. As an observing member of the DSU Protocol Agreement Committee, I contributed insights and suggestions throughout the review process. Following the committee's work, I led the negotiation of the revised agreement with the Director of Student Services. The updated agreement was forwarded to the College's DG Group for review. However, I was later informed that some proposed changes would not be accepted and that the original expectation of finalizing and signing the agreement before May 31, 2025, would not be met.

3. Policy and Regulations Review Committee

I chaired the Policy and Regulations Review Committee, which was convened to amend the Clubs and Spaces Standing Regulations. Several issues arose during the year, highlighting the need for revisions. The committee incorporated proposed amendments from various Executive Officers. The amended Standing Regulations are now pending approval by the Student Council, scheduled for May 29, 2025.

4. Human Resources

The growing operations of the Union highlighted the need to expand staffing. I called for applications for the Office Assistant/Receptionist position. After screening and multiple interview phases, a candidate was selected and began training in May. Additionally, I conducted a review of salaries for the DSU's permanent employees and contractors and implemented appropriate wage adjustments based on the DSU's financial capacity to ensure fair compensation.



## 5. The Plant

Following discussions around the proposed incorporation of The Plant, I met with its team during Fall 2024 to discuss a potential referendum on funding and incorporation. Although the initial referendum did not pass, I later met with the new Editor-in-Chief who planned a second referendum for Winter 2025. Video shoots and promotional materials were coordinated, featuring both myself and the Editor-in-Chief, and the DSU fully supported the campaign. The Winter 2025 referendum ultimately passed.

## 6. DSU Visibility and Merchandise

I focused on increasing student awareness of the DSU and its services. I launched a “Meet Your Student Council” initiative, organizing events in both Fall and Winter semesters to encourage interaction between students and elected representatives. I also ensured updated promotional materials were visible on campus, including banners and table covers featuring the DSU logo, which significantly boosted visibility. Additionally, I organized the DSU’s 20th Anniversary Celebration, bringing together students, former executives, College staff, and DSU employees. Commemorative items, including DSU-branded T-shirts, tote bags, pens, and reusable utensil kits, were distributed and highly appreciated, helping to strengthen the Union’s connection with its members. I also oversaw the completion and distribution of the student agenda in Fall 2024, a return after many years without a DSU agenda. Its positive reception has led to the development of a new agenda for the 2025–2026 academic year, which is nearing completion.

## 7. Petitions

To assist students wishing to submit petitions, I created the Instructions for Organizing a Petition document, outlining steps for initiating petitions, collecting valid signatures, and requesting a Special General Assembly if needed. A standardized petition template was also made available to facilitate verification. This improved clarity and efficiency in handling petitions.

## 8. Campaigns and Media

Together with the VP External Affairs, I actively worked on a petition to exempt Indigenous students from the provisions of Law 14. Both of us received media training and advocated for the petition on and off campus. I also supported the DTU-led protests against budget cuts and responded to media inquiries about the impact on Dawson College and education more broadly. In connection with the investigation involving Dawson and Vanier Colleges, I was interviewed by Ministry investigators for two hours about the scope and mandate of the inquiry.

## Recommendations:

### 1. Human Resources

To address ongoing staffing needs, I recommend exploring internship opportunities. Future



Presidents should consider reaching out to Dawson College departments or other educational institutions to host student interns at the DSU, particularly in event planning and logistics roles.

2. Strategic Plan

There is a strong need for a new long-term Strategic Plan. I encourage the next administration to develop an ambitious, forward-looking strategy that outlines the Union's goals and explores additional financial resources to support DSU operations and growth.

3. Standing Regulations

A clear and comprehensive Standing Regulation for elections and referenda is necessary. The past year revealed significant gaps in formal procedures, underscoring the need for structured guidelines to ensure fairness, clarity, and accountability in DSU electoral and referendum processes.

4. Ratification of SGA Decisions

To strengthen democratic participation and ensure major decisions reflect the broader student body's will, I recommend implementing a ratification process for decisions passed at Special General Assemblies (SGAs). Under this proposal, any significant decision, such as one mandating a student strike, would require ratification through a campus-wide online vote open to all DSU members after the SGA. This would allow students unable to attend the SGA to have their voices heard, increase transparency, and enhance the legitimacy of important decisions.

5. Media Training

Over the term of an executive team, media interviews are inevitable. I highly recommend that, at the beginning of the mandate, the team, especially the President and the VP External Affairs, undergo media training to ensure they are well-prepared to represent the Union effectively and confidently.

**OFFICE OF FINANCE**  
**Alain Chris Dalen, Vice-President (Board Director)**

1. Initiatives

This year, VP Operations & Services and I invested in new initiatives that directly benefited students. These included OFReP, a program that reimbursed 50% of students' monthly Opus fare, and Dawson Snackin', which provided free fruits and coffee on a weekly basis. We also expanded Dawson Dinin' to include Continued Education students, ensuring more inclusive access to our services.



## 2. Clubs

This year, the finance committee implemented a policy requiring all clubs to submit a budget proposal before the start of the Fall semester. These proposals will then be reviewed and either approved or amended by the Finance Committee. Previously, each club was allocated a fixed budget of \$1,500, regardless of its actual financial needs. The problem with this was that some clubs barely used their funding, while others required more than the set amount. To address this, the Finance Committee agreed on the implementation of a needs-based budget, where each club's funding will better reflect what they actually plan to do.

## 3. Operations

With the support of our Administrative Director and Accountant, we successfully transitioned from DocuSign to Xero Expense Claim. This transition facilitated the reimbursement process for both clubs and executive officers, as it is far less time-consuming than DocuSign and provides better tracking for reimbursements.

## Recommendations:

### 1. Funding Sources

During my time as VP Finance, I realized that relying on student fees as our main source of funding is not sustainable, especially given the continuous growth of DSU. Each new executive team comes with new initiatives, and this reliance on student fees could eventually limit the Union's ability to support them. I strongly recommend that the next VP Finance explores ways to diversify DSU's funding sources. This would benefit Dawson students in multiple ways, by giving room to DSU's expansion with more initiatives, more events and more projects targeted to the wellbeing of students at Dawson.

### 2. Finance Committee Representation

I recommend the next VP Finance to work towards the implementation of a proportional representation of each Academic Sector in the Finance Committee.

## **OFFICE OF ACADEMICS & ADVOCACY Victoria Ormiston, Vice-President (Board Director)**

### 1. Governance & Representation in Academics

The Dawson College committees would not be as student-centred without the students. However, to ensure that those students have enough knowledge to comfortably participate and make a diverse within these committees it is important that they are trained adequately. On the other hand, I also wanted to ensure that the students would be well prepared when their time within Dawson came to a close by offering enriching experiential learning opportunities that facilitated growth and knowledge in diverse academic sectors.



- a. Completed the Student Representatives Guidebook/Training
- b. Created the Student Rep Caucus Teams
- c. Filled every Dawson College committee with a diverse group of student representatives.
- d. In collaboration with the VP Internal Affairs, we outlined all volunteering positions at the DSU and led a successful volunteering campaign.
- e. Had two meetings with the Academic Dean to discuss academic freedom, department policies, tech student workloads, etc.
- f. Use of new promotional methods such as Instagram and Mio to find student representatives from every academic sector.
- g. Assumed my role as a Student Senator and emphasized the need for more student representation on committees and the mental health of students.
- h. In collaboration with SMSE Councillor Ella Dube, organized the first edition of STEM Talk.
- i. Participated in the Revision of the ISEP, contributing a key perspective as a Social Science Student.
- j. Organized a trip to Bishop's University for the Bishops' Forum Lite.
- k. Found a loophole with the lack of awareness of transparency about department Policies.

## 2. Advocacy

This year my main goal was to ensure that the Union emphasized its position within the student-body as community and student-centred. I did so by helping students with social justice initiatives, community art projects, and educational workshops. I also ensured our awards we're more transparent, by creating official guidelines and criteria for the selection and review of each candidate. By leading these activities and creating new guidelines I hope that the Union solidifies its place in our membership as one that uses its abundant resources to advance the rights of our students and the issues that matter the most to them. As liberation for one, is liberation for us all.

- a. Organized an Indigenous catering event that fed over 400 students.
- b. Co-organized the CRARR Forum of Systemic Racism and Interviewed with CityTV News.
- c. In collaboration with the Etcetera club and the Hive, organize workshops on the topic of Queer joy.
- d. Helped members of our membership lead social justice initiatives such as the Special General Assembly for the Student Strike for Palestine, the one-day strike for Palestine, the walk-out against student repression.
- e. Organized Black History Events, in collaboration with The Legacy, The Hive and VP Student Life, such as BIPOC in Higher Education.
- f. Co-created two new DSU Awards; the Resilience award for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQI+ students and the Breakout Award for student artists.
- g. Led community-building workshops such as the strike banner-making and the Black History Month banner-making.
- h. Created a new guideline and evaluation criteria for the DSU Awards to ensure transparency and democracy in our selection process.



- i. Assisted around 60 students in academic grievance procedures and complaints of a non-academic nature throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. This includes but is not limited to aiding students in understanding college policies, initiating and accompanying students to meetings with members of administration, making referrals to mental health resources, etc.
- j. Amended and created new positions to update terminology to reflect the current realities of our society.

#### Recommendations:

1. Continue utilizing the Student Representatives training guide to give them the tools needed to sit on Dawson College committees.
2. Chair at least 3 Student Representatives' Caucus meetings and maintain the Teams server.
3. Ensure students from diverse academic and social backgrounds become Student Representatives to adequately serve our membership (not just DSU Executives and Councillors).
4. Organize tabling events catering to Continuing Education students, a portion of our membership that remains underrepresented.
5. Use the Volunteer document to outreach to students and ensure they understand the vast possibilities within the Union.
6. Organize more community events for social justice initiatives like banner-makings and food events.
7. Ensure the guidelines and evaluation criteria are enforced for the DSU Awards.
8. Re-format the DSU Committees and ensure their longevity.
9. Make sure to give students all tools necessary during academic grievances, like mental-health services, academic skills center, etc.

### **OFFICE OF OPERATIONS & SERVICES**

**Olivier Lamoureux, Vice-President (Board Director)**

1. Union Operations
  - a. Development of the Storage Optimization and Inventory System Expansion Strategy (SOISES), which expanded the Fixed Assets List to include club and Union storage bins, allowing for better tracking of all assets.
  - b. Creation of the Unfixed Assets List, an inventory database of all Union promotional merchandise, which allowed for better tracking and distribution of DSU merch.
2. Spaces
  - a. Implementation of the Space Beautification Strategy, a set of binding guidelines regulating the decoration of Union spaces. Decorative supports were provided to clubs, staff members, and executive officers to personalize Union spaces.
  - b. Diversification of usage of Union spaces, notably through the conversion of room 2C.10.1 into an office space and the opening of club spaces to interim clubs.
  - c. Development of a new club space attribution system in the Winter semester, which allowed for more flexible club space schedules. This change resulted in an increased use of 2C.03 and 2C.11.





### 3. Services

- a. Dawson Dinin' was expanded this year, not only in the number of meals prepared for each day of service, which increased to 130, but also in its weekly occurrence. Along with maintaining the two weekly lunch services, an evening service, called DSU Cont. Ed Dinin' was implemented in the Winter semester in collaboration with the College's Office of Sustainability.
- b. Dawson Snackin', a weekly initiative providing free fruit and coffee, was implemented in the Winter semester, in collaboration with VP Finance. The selection of fresh fruit and coffee was greatly appreciated by the students who tried Dawson Snackin'. Some users suggested a wider variety of drinks, for example with the addition of hot infusions.
- c. In consultation with different on-campus specialists, Dawson Nappin' was developed during the academic year. Although all documentation, equipment, and procedures were ready to be implemented, staffing issues prevented the nap service from being implemented this year.
- d. The DSU OPUS Fare Reimbursement Program (DSU OFReP) was implemented in two pilot phases in the Winter semester. The first phase covered 50% of the monthly OPUS passes of ten students in February and March. The second phase covered 50% of the monthly OPUS passes of seventy students in April and May. The recruitment of a volunteer project manager and collaborating with VP Finance during the development of the program greatly facilitated OFReP's management.

### 4. Other

- a. During the Fall semester, VP Operations and Services chaired the Protocol Agreement Standing Committee (PASC), tasked with revising the PA with the College. In the Winter semester, VP Operations and Services represented PASC during negotiations with the College administration. Although the new PA will not be signed this year, major gains were obtained for the DSU, including the addition of two new prayer rooms in the Forum campus.
- b. Between January and May 2025, VP Operations chaired the DSU-Plant Relations Task Force (DPRTF), which was mandated with reassessing the level of support the DSU should provide The Plant with as the newspaper gets incorporated and obtains a set source of funding through a separate student fee levy. The report of the DPRTF provides recommendations to the future Student Council and executive team.

### Recommendations:

1. Extensive efforts should be maintained regarding assets tracking. Seeing that the Union started counting promotional merchandise as a financial asset this fiscal year, the Unfixed Assets List should be especially prioritized.
2. With the development of four new initiatives this year, overseeing all student-run services is increasingly time and resource consuming for VP Operations & Services. To ensure that all services are appropriately operated, management authority should be delegated to volunteer project managers. Such a change would ensure close management of all services while allowing VP Operations & Services to focus their energy and time on strategic planning and other responsibilities.
3. Documentation and procedures guide should be created for Executive Officers, especially in relations to equipment installation for events and IT best practices.





## **OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Leilah Doyle, Vice-President**

1. Coalition of Anglophone Student Associations of Quebec (CASAQ)
  - a. The website is up and running.
  - b. Instagram and Facebook pages are very up to date now and active.
  - c. ARTZ showcase, led and organized by my office, was an intercollegiate success thanks to the presence of CASAQ.
2. Political Representation & Indigenous Affairs
  - a. Petition against Law 14; approximately 5000 signatures. It was of course not accepted by the CAQ; however, it does not stop the DSU and CASAQ from continuing the work next year.
  - b. Work with la FECQ for student rights against government budgetary cuts.

### **Recommendations:**

1. **DSU Health & Dental Plan (Studentcare)**
  - a. More information for students on opting out and reimbursements.
  - b. Step-by-step process on how to access the Omni app.
2. **CASAQ**
  - a. Implement an increase in the CASAQ budget to better support intercollegiate projects.
  - b. Increase outreach, especially politically, to create a louder voice for student rights.
  - c. Contact other anglophone CEGEPs to see about collaborating with them and possibly have them join the association.
3. **Communications and Outreach**
  - a. Use student polls and feedback forms to guide external advocacy priorities.

## **OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS**

**Philippe Beauchemin, Vice-President**

1. Branding
  - a. Focused on defining brand identity
  - b. Created a brand guideline
  - c. Created templates and branding content for services
2. Communications: Social Media, Promotion and Outreach
  - a. Streamlined content creation
  - b. Created a weekly story initiative
  - c. Created a Q&A stories initiative
  - d. Created content aligned with new brand identity for Welcome Days and CASAQ
  - e. Collaborated on new Student Bulletin and other Dawson Communications Office projects (ex. Open House content, website)
  - f. Created a DSU community on Omnivox
  - g. Created a DSU TikTok
  - h. Produced a year-long weekly videos initiative on Instagram and TikTok



- i. Reorganized the DSU Linktree
- j. Cleaned the Instagram profile: removed over 4000 following and made bio look more official
- k. Created new designations for Student Groups alongside Campus Life
- l. Posted Office Hours for the Fall semester
- m. Reorganized archives for DSU content: on Canva and website

3. Other

- a. Founded the DSU Student Accessibility Committee (SAC)
- b. DSU SAC collaborated with students for the Resilience and Achievement Initiative, winning Forces Avenir, AVENIR Société, communications et education
- c. Collaborated with the other Executive Officers for all their projects and initiatives year-long

Recommendations:

- 1. Brand identity: less is more, start little and then add onto it if needed
- 2. Brand guideline: keep it updated
- 3. Instagram stories: keep posting, keep students informed and engaged
- 4. Welcome Days and CASAQ content: keep it updated
- 5. Use Student Bulletin more for DSU promotion (services, events, etc.)
- 6. Use DSU community on Omnivox for DSU promotion, but also specifically club events: get more control over it or more reliable communication with Campus Life
- 7. DSU Linktree: keep it updated
- 8. Avoid compromising the legitimacy of the Instagram account: image MATTERS
- 9. Enforce the new designations for Student Groups alongside Campus Life: work on content to really explain the differences, avoid grey zones (legal issues)
- 10. DSU TikTok: opportunity to connect better with membership
- 11. Office Hours: very demanding on EOs, now there is an Office Assistant-Reception
- 12. DSU SAC: appoint VP Internal Affairs and Communications as chair
- 13. Archives: keep it organized when adding new content

**OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE**  
**Faye Rasno, Vice-President**

1. Clubs (Student Group Governance)

- a. Added a timeline for club registration which made accrediting clubs consistent and organized.
- b. Creation of 8 DSU Clubs and revival of 1 DSU Club; 1 Independent Student Group

2024-2025 New DSU Clubs

- i. Dawson Astronomical Society (DAS): Interim F24, Official starting W25
- ii. The Wordlings: Interim F24, Official starting W25
- iii. Filipino Society at Dawson (FILSAD): Interim F24, Official starting W25
- iv. Dawson Business Association (DBA): Interim W25, Official starting F25
- v. Persian Arts and Recreation Society (PARS): Interim W25, Official starting F25



- vi. Dawson Student Improvisation Club (DSIC): Interim W25, Official starting F25

Returnee(s)

- i. Dawson Kitchen and Food Club (DKFC): Interim F24, Official starting W25

2025-2026 New DSU Clubs

- i. Dawson White Coat Society (DWCS): Interim F25
- ii. Electronics and Computing Club (ECC): Interim F25

NOTE: New Independent Student Group

Hope & Care: Supervised by the College/Campus Life (CL)

- c. Migrated DSU Clubs and volunteer network platform to Microsoft Teams (very active presence of DSU Executives and DSU Club Executives)
- d. Organized club consultations and small workshops
- e. Created and tested the “Event Report” form
- f. Formed a possible definition for Independent Student Group: External organizations created and led by Dawson students. Note: The College is now supervising them.
- g. Revived and reconstructed the Clubs and Events Committee, formerly known as the Campus Events and Operations Committee
- h. Built stronger relations with clubs:
  - i. Worked on making communication more efficient between DSU and its clubs.
  - ii. Increased participation among club executives.
  - iii. More collaboration with the DSU and its clubs.
  - iv. Collected more feedback and reports from club executives.
  - v. Revised the “Event Proposal” and “Space Reservation” forms, and Club Standing Regulations.
- i. Organized a “Club Elections Fair”.

2. Events

- a. Increase in collaborations with student groups and other departments
- b. 11-12 Events were held (3-4 more than expected)
- c. More involvement from students
  - i. Corn Roast with Campus Life
    - Organized a Club Fair during the event
    - DSU Booth with free merch
    - Worked using no budget from the DSU
  - ii. Geek Week with Campus Life
    - Tier Ranking Board (Very popular)
    - Cosplay days
    - Kahoot
    - Movie Night with free pop corn
    - Gaming Night
  - iii. Spooky Week with CL, LatinO, Book Club, Etcetera, The Wordlings, and D. Instrumental and Vocal Club
    - Kahoot
    - Spooky Slime Station jointed with Pumpkin Carving (CL)
    - Halloween Activities, Costume Contest, Day of The Dead with LatinO



- Haunted House with Book Club, Etcetera, The Wordlings
- Jointed with Halloween Party (DVIC)
- iv. Winter Week with D. Christian Fellowship
  - Pajamas Days
  - Free candy canes
  - Movie Screening with free pop corn
  - Jointed with Cozy Christmas Night (DCF)
- v. Winter Ball + DSU Award Ceremony
  - Jointed with Winter Week
  - Performances by Dawson students and alumni (30 applicants)
  - Diverse selection of food and drinks
  - Outer Space Themed
- vi. Black History Month organized by The Legacy (DSU Club)
  - The Hive and the Office of Academic Affairs & Advocacy joined in
- vii. Valentine's Day Activities
  - Cupid's Mail led by a member of the Clubs and Events Committee (Mariana B.)
  - Chocolate Dipped Strawberries for sale
- viii. Multicultural Week with CL, North African Now, The Legacy, D. Chinese Culture Club, PARS, and SPHRD
  - Activities organized with the NAN, The Legacy, and DCCC
  - Workshops jointed with SPHRD's Tatreez Workshop
  - Fashion Show with The Legacy and NAN
  - Multiculture Week Buffet with CL, NAN, PARS, and The Legacy. Organized both Day and Night (for night students and Ramadan).
- ix. Art Week with ACE
  - Art Market with both Dawson students and external vendors
  - LED Art Workshop
  - Art Contest
- x. End-of-Year Event "DSU Clubbin'" with the help of VP Sustainability & Equity
  - Bar La Shop
  - Ticket booth
  - Free drink for each guest

Recommendations: Start planning in Fall, work with your team, choose a venue known to have worked with student unions, try making online registration possible, have the event after exams.
- xi. DSU 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Mainly led and organized by DSU President
  - Gala joint event with DSU Awards Ceremony
- xii. Club Fairs
  - Maps of the floor plan and schedule were helpful to club executives and students
  - Overall successful and good numbers of participants.
  - During Corn Roast: It was not pleasant due to the HOT weather and overwhelming numbers of activities which distracted students from the fair.
  - F24: In Conrod's, slots were limited, space was too small and cramped, hours were too long.
  - W25: Change of space (down to the Lower Atrium), more visibility, rush hours, more free range in slots, panels were great for posters and other decorations, a little windy at times so have panels to protect the booths.



#### Issues/Challenges:

1. Lack of Engagement from Membership

I have noticed that engagement from membership was inconsistent. I felt like students were more active in Fall rather than in Winter. As a student myself, I got less motivated throughout the semester. I think that Winter is a tough semester for most students since they're either graduating or overwhelmed with finals. I wished I could've taken the time to find a solution to bring the spirit up. I don't think that it is an issue that can be fixed however it can be worked on. Giving out freebies to students during this time can encourage them to go through this rough time. Although there's more engagement in Fall, save up your energy for Winter instead.

2. Enforcing DSU Policies

I think that clubs did an amazing job keeping up with their obligations and DSU policies, however it was really challenging to encourage them to comply. It took a lot of time and effort to ensure that clubs follow our rules.

3. Managing Volunteers

This term, I revived and reconstructed the Clubs and Events Committee, which was formerly known as the Campus Events and Operations Committee. I previously volunteered for my predecessor's office and thought of increasing the numbers of volunteers during my mandate, which I did. However, it was not easy to manage a big group of people. I still think the more the merrier, but I highly suggest that more time is taken to guide volunteers. The office of Student Life is huge and there should be more organized volunteer groups.

4. DSU Presence at Events

Lastly, I received complaints that the presence of DSU executives at events has been lacking throughout the semester. We have other commitments so I understand we cannot necessarily be present all the time. However, presence does not only mean participation but also support. We were so invested in our own offices that we forgot that we represented a team and an organization, that is the DSU. Although we were assigned different positions, supporting each other should still be a priority. I tried to work on my own to not bother my other colleagues, but it has become extremely unsustainable.

#### Recommendations:

1. Organize more workshops. (Clubs are good sources!)
2. Only have a registration period in the Winter semester so the upcoming clubs can have 1 academic year to settle in.
3. Make the "Event Report" form accessible to all Dawson students. Advertise it well.
4. Revise club documents such as the Clubs Standing Regulations, Club Constitution, Event Proposal, and Space Reservation forms regularly.
5. Maintain strong relations with clubs.
6. Prioritize DSU clubs over DSU events.
7. Encourage more volunteers. Have students involved in your projects.
8. Work on improving the Teams platform for communication.
9. Participate in non-DSU events!



**OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & EQUITY**  
**Leila Pozzi, Vice-President**

1. EARTH WEEK 2025

- a. Organized a range of educational and engaging activities during Earth Week in collaboration with:
  - Sustainable Dawson, DSU clubs, and the Dawson **Mini Fauna project**
  - Events focused on raising awareness of local biodiversity, eco-anxiety, and collective climate action
  - Supported club-run workshops and interactive activities that promoted sustainable practices and community-building

2. CLIMATE EDUCATION: ECO-EXPO

- a. Held a major climate education and mobilization event in the form of the Eco-Expo:
  - Brought together students from six CEGEPs to present and exchange ideas on sustainability initiatives in their schools
  - Created space for interschool dialogue, peer education, and collective learning
  - Amplified student-led climate efforts across Montreal and encouraged new collaborations

3. THE SWAP

- a. Expanded *The Swap*, a service allowing students to exchange second-hand school materials:
  - Improved accessibility: extended hours (open until 6 PM), welcoming all Dawson students including ContEd students, offering volunteer opportunities for ContEd students
  - Digital presence: created an Instagram account for inventory updates, FAQs, and student engagement
  - Clear communication: published updated policies and procedures on Instagram and posted them in 2C.10
  - Website inclusion: added The Swap to the DSU website for better visibility and access
  - Expanded donation categories: added lab coats and other essential school materials
  - Included receipt: upon every purchase, I sent an email to the seller indicating that they should have received their sum equivalent to the book(s) sold. This acted as their proof of receipt.

4. DAWSON SNACKIN'

- a. Worked with the VP Finance and VP Operations & Services to implement Dawson Snackin', a student-run initiative providing:
  - Affordable, healthy food options on campus once a week
  - Ethically sourced snacks, including locally grown fruit and Fairtrade coffee
  - A pilot toward a longer-term vision of a student-run sustainable café

5. SUSTAINABLE GUIDEBOOK

- a. Created a Sustainable-Guidebook alongside VP Internal Affairs:
  - Resource made available to all DSU clubs and event organizers



- Offers step-by-step tools and ideas to reduce waste during campus events
- Promotes eco-conscious planning, reuse of materials, and community awareness

6. REUSABLE UTENSIL KITS

- a. Distributed free reusable utensil kits to students to reduce waste and promote equitable access:
- A response to the cafeteria's policy of charging students for disposable utensils
  - Each kit included a reusable fork, knife, spoon, straw, straw cleaners, chopsticks and its case
  - The kits were enthusiastically received by students and aligned with the union's environmental justice values

Recommendations:

Based on my experience as the VP of Sustainability & Equity, I would like to offer the following recommendations for future coordinators:

1. Revive and Reimagine the Free Thrift Sales  
While the thrift sales didn't take place this year, there is strong interest from students in affordable, sustainable clothing options. Future VPs should consider collaborating with clubs or Sustainable Dawson to co-host thrift pop-ups. Integrating them into larger events like Earth Week or Welcome Week could boost visibility and participation.
2. Expand Inter-Campus Collaboration  
The Eco-Expo proved the value of cross-CEGEP mobilization. I recommend continuing and deepening these partnerships, possibly forming a permanent climate coalition of CEGEP sustainability reps to coordinate events, actions, and campaigns throughout the year.
3. Strengthen Institutional Memory for The Swap  
Now that The Swap has an updated system and strong digital presence, future coordinators should maintain clear documentation of its procedures, contacts, and layout designs. This ensures continuity, especially during transitions, and helps new team members manage the service smoothly. Find a clear system for the yearly-version of the swap to count inventory and keep track of the books.
4. Promote Use of the Zero-Waste Events Guide  
The guide is a helpful resource, but more can be done to promote it. I recommend hosting a short training for club leaders at the start of each semester or incorporating the guide into DSU's club onboarding process.
5. Turn the Reusable Utensil Kits into DSU Merchandise  
The utensil kits were very popular and met a real student need. Future execs should consider offering them regularly, potentially as affordable or branded DSU merchandise, to promote sustainability and visibility at the same time.