Subin Rajendran

Director of Science, Medicine and Agriculture

January to April

Report

April 25th, 2019

**Internal**

**Hiring committee: Office manager**

As part of the three-member hiring committee, candidate profiles were evaluated (February) followed by interview of three candidates. Following the interviews, and based on references, Shauna DeGruchy was hired for the position. Working the VP academic and VP external along the president on this process was productive and enriching for me as well.

**Events and Programming:**

**Lunch and learn event (Feb 15th):**

A lunch and learn was organized on Feb 15th (jointly with CUPE3912). The purpose of the event was to increase the awareness about CUPE3912 (and the collective agreement) in the campus among graduate student community, collecting feedback from members and increase student teaching assistant involvement in CUPE3912. The lunch and learn was also seen as an opportunity to engage with CUPE3912 graduate students from different faculties and assign TA representatives. The event was attended from a wide variety of different departments and faculties (Engineering, Management, Social Sciences and Science). The attendees also provided feedback regarding TA pay issues, communication gaps with the union, additional hours, and inclusivity in the departments.

Members suggested that better communication through the departmental level is necessary to ensure better connectivity. Attending TA orientation in different departments was suggested as one of the solutions to raise awareness among the new and incoming TAs. Decentralizing communications from CUPE 3912 was also suggested, with more communications directed preferably from departmental TA coordinators. It was also mentioned that accessing (navigating) information about TA opportunities through the CUPE3912 website was found to be difficult for some attendees. All the help provide by the DAGS president in facilitating and arranging this event is acknowledged.

**Graduate student conference**

Assisted in organizing the graduate student conference. The attendance from science disciplines were relatively lower than expected. Promotions and emails were sent to individual department representatives. Promotions were also put up in notice boards. Increased engagement with departments very early is necessary, especially the faculty (supervisors) to encourage graduate student participation in local conferences.

**Mental Health Week**

Assisted the president in arranging events for the mental health week. Promoted the event and encouraged attendance from the other graduate student members in the faculty of science, especially the department of chemistry.

Increased focus should be placed at the departmental levels to ensure that faculty and graduate students are aware of mental health concerns for graduate students.

**External relations**:

**Meetings with FGS, CUPE3912, CFS NS- AGM, DFA and SURGE**

Represented graduate student interests in meetings with the FGS. Attended FGS faculty council. Resources such as MITACS internship opportunities were relayed to graduate student members in the faculty.

SURGE (sandbox) was contacted and communicated to better serve graduate student interests. Courses designed for graduate students was made as suggestion. There is a significant lack of available graduate level courses in the faculty of Science. More emphasis needs to be done in this regard in the future.

Constant emphasis was placed on graduate student representation in various levels of departmental and faculty level committees during meetings with FGS and DFA.

**Acknowledgements:**

It was a pleasure working with Kaitynne, Adebayo, Maxine, Laura and Jay. Their efforts inspired me to run for this position.

Department level counselors and graduate society presidents have a very significant role to play in the success of DAGS. The endeavors of Joseph Tassone and Kasper Macaulay has to be appreciated.