DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: May 21, 2020; 6:00 pm

Location: Electronic meeting held using Microsoft Teams.

Land Acknowledgement

The Dalhousie Student Union acknowledges that Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union Building are located on traditional, unceded and unsurrendered Mi'kma'ki territory. The Dalhousie Student Union seeks to honour the relational treaty process in its programming, events, and meetings.

Equity Statement

Student union solidarity is based on the principle that all members should be able to participate equally in their union, recognizing that students have diverse experiences of privilege and marginalization. As members of the students’ union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We should neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

It is our collective responsibility to create an inclusive space for discussion and dialogue. Any form or forms of discrimination and/or harassment will not be tolerated, nor will hate speech rooted in, but not limited to, sexist, racist, classist, ableist, homophobic or transphobic sentiments and/or remarks. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate is established. If you violate this understanding, you will be asked to leave.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM by the Vice President, Finance and Operations in the role of Acting Chair.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Madeleine Stinson – President
Hanna Stewart – Vice President, Internal
Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
Erica Seeleman – Vice President, Academic and External
Jad Ghiz - Vice President, Student Life
Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative
Drew Guyan - LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative
Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative
Robert Larsen - Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Zachariah Scinocca - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative
Jennifer Dubois - Faculty of Management Representative
Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative
Bakhmala Khan (Interim) - Faculty of Science
Sahl Zahoor - Faculty of Computer Science

**Vacant:** (Positions not yet appointed)
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
- Second Board of Governors Representative
- Faculty of Architecture Representative
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
- Faculty of Engineering Representative
- Faculty of Health Professions Representative
- International Students Representative
- Faculty of Medicine Representative
- Students with Disabilities Representative
- Students Living in Residence Representative
- Women Students Representative

**Absent with Regrets:**

**Absent without Regrets:**
Non-voting Members: (note: non-voting attendees are listed here only if they contributed during the meeting. DSU members who were present to observe the meeting but did not intervene in discussion are not listed)

Lane Harrison – Dal Gazette
Cameron Penny – Incoming Faculty of Medicine Representative

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-05-21-3.1

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the May 21, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Vice President Academic & External; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

Motion 2020-05-21-3.1 Passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-05-21-5.1

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Vice President Academic & External; Seconded by: Faculty of Management representative

No discussion. Proceed to adopt minutes by general consensus.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-5.2

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the May 7, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

Not everyone received these.

Motion to table this until the next council meeting.

Moved by: President; Seconded by: Vice President, Internal

Motion passes.
6. Communications Received
No communications received.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jamie Samson be appointed Chair of Council for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative
Recommended for adoption by the Chair Hiring Committee
Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Loukman Ghouti be appointed Recording Secretary for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative
Recommended for adoption by the Secretary Hiring Committee
Motion passes.

Motion to suspend the normal rules of order.
Moved by: President; Seconded by: Vice President, Internal
The Chair explained that the rules of order were being suspended to allow for appointments to happen more efficiently during an electronic meeting.
Motion passes by general consensus.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ___________and __________ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Budget and Finance Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT __________ be appointed to the general member seat on the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations
Nominations for Councillor seats: Robert Larsen.
Nominations for General Member seats: Gupreet Singh
All nominees were appointed to their respective positions using an online voting process.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ and __________ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Grants and Sponsorships Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT __________ be appointed to the general member seat on the Grants and Sponsorships Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ representative

Nominations for Community Representative seats: Fatima Beydoun (BoG Representative), Drew Guyan (LGBTQ+ Representative)

Nominations for general member seat: Helen Wong

All nominees were appointed to their respective positions using an online voting process.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ and __________ be appointed to the Community Representative seats on the Offices Steering Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Aline Maybank and __________ be appointed to the general member seats on the Offices Steering Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal; Seconded by: Black Student Representative

Nominees for Community Representative seats: Nik Isaac-Pictou

Nominees for general member seats: Aline Maybank

All nominees were appointed to their respective positions using an online voting process.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.6

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ and __________ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Society Review Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT __________ be appointed to the general member seat on the Society Review Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

Nominees for Councillor seats: Zach Scinocca
Nominees for general member seat: Alexandre Lloyd

All nominees were appointed to their respective positions using an online voting process.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _________ and _________ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Student Accessibility Fund Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _________ and _________ be appointed to the general member seats on the Student Accessibility Fund Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal; Seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative

Nominees for Councillor seats: Claudia Castillo-Prentt; Nik Isaac-Pictou

Nominees for general member seats: Helen Wong; Sam Thompson

All nominees were appointed to their respective positions using an online voting process.

Motion passes.

Motion for 5-minute recess

Moved by VP Finance & Operations; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

Motion passes.

Motion to move ex-camera before the recess begins

Moved by President; Seconded by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

8.1: Update on Recent Online Disclosure

Presented by the President

Document Attached

9. Committee Reports

No committee reports on the agenda.

10. Old Business
MOTION 2020-05-21-10.1 (Motion noticed to Council on May 7, 2020)

WHEREAS a DSU member has put forth allegations of sexualized violence committed by the Vice President Student Life; AND

WHEREAS the Vice President Student Life has thus allegedly breached the following policies of the Code of Conduct Policy:

3.2 Misconduct against persons includes, but is not limited to:
3.2.1 Assault, harassment, intimidation, threats, stalking;
3.2.2 Bullying, and coercion;
3.2.3 Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;
3.2.4 Disorderly or indecent conduct;
3.2.5 Creating a condition that endangers the health, safety or wellbeing of any person;
3.2.6 Coercing, enticing, or inciting a person to commit an act that is humiliating or demeaning to that person or to others;
3.2.7 The use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone and text messages, instant messaging, personal websites, social networking sites and online personal polling websites, to support harassing or hostile behaviour by an individual or group, or that is intended or has the potential to harm others, (e.g. cyberbullying); AND

WHEREAS the DSU has stated that it aims to abide by survivor-centric response to sexualized violence as outlined in Dalhousie’s Human Rights and Equity Guide to Responding when Someone Shares an Experience of Sexualized Violence, and did not reach out to the survivor before taking any further steps - therefore putting survivors at greater risk; AND

WHEREAS the promotional materials, as distributed to council, for the event mentioned in the online disclosure - “Jadfest” - incited hate speech such as racism, sexism, and xenophobia; AND

WHEREAS DSU members are calling for the Vice President Student Life to be disciplined for the duration of the investigation; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jad Ghiz, the current Vice President, Student Life be suspended with honorarium withheld until acquitted, or, until, if not acquitted, Council shall then decide other disciplinary measures at that time.

Moved by the Black Students’ Community Representative

Document attached

Motion 2020-05-21-10.1 is withdrawn.

This motion is being withdrawn by the mover for the best interest of the survivor and solely for the survivor.
11. New Business

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.1

WHEREAS conducting Council using videoconferencing technology differs from conducting Council in person and requires some clarifications and adaptations to Robert’s Rules of Order;
THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached Rules of Order for Electronic DSU Council Meetings be adopted for use during the COVID-19 pandemic; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee be tasked with reviewing and further developing these guidelines for potential amendment in the future, and with considering incorporating them into the Union Rules and Procedures Policy in the event that electronic meetings are needed in the future.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative.

It was report that this is so that we can maintain some sort of order when it comes to video conferencing and so that the bylaw and policy review committee can handle situations such as the confusing process tonight and spend quality time coming up with better and more accessible options for members to use.

Motion 2020-05-21-11.1 passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.2

WHEREAS at the DSU Council meeting on May 7, 2020, Council adopted a motion to issue a non-disciplinary suspension to the current Vice President, Student Life, for a period of one week, with the possibility of extending the suspension by an additional week by special resolution of the Executive Committee; AND

WHEREAS on May 14, 2020, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to extend the non-disciplinary suspension by an additional week; AND

WHEREAS the Judicial Board Policy enables the Judicial Board to take the non-disciplinary action to temporarily suspend an individual respondent for a period of up to one week, should they find potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another individual pending the results of inquiry; AND

WHEREAS the Judicial Board is to be appointed on May 21, the day that the non-disciplinary suspension will expire, and will need to complete training including Council-mandated training in sexualized violence response and the contents of the purple folder prior to beginning their mandate, and will therefore not be able to take immediate action to initiate another suspension upon the expiry of the current suspension;

WHEREAS the DSU is committed, as per the Equity Policy, to creating equitable and inclusive environments free from harassment and discrimination; AND
WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that sexualized violence and rape culture affect people profoundly and differently, and believes that all students have a right to safer campuses; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current Vice President, Student Life, be suspended with pay, effective immediately, for a period of one (1) week as a non-disciplinary action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the Judicial Board has not completed training and been able to meet by the end of said week, this suspension may be renewed for an additional period of up to one (1) week by a special resolution passed by the Executive Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if said suspension is renewed, this decision will be immediately communicated to Councillors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this non-disciplinary suspension be carried out in order to allow for any potential investigative proceedings to be carried out.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative.

The President stated that this motion is relatively similar to the last week’s disciplinary motion because we don’t have the judicial board in place as it stands and there has been considerable will by the student body to not have Jad Ghiz as acting VPSL. In the opinion of the executive, we see that there is considerable desire to continue a suspension and whereas we don’t have the grounds to do so in a disciplinary fashion, this is the best option according to the executive that maintains our obligations to the bylaws and policies but also meets the wishes and will of the student body.

Motion 2020-05-21-11.2 passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.3

WHEREAS the Councillors and Full-Time Staff of the DSU need support in dealing with ongoing events related to the VPSL suspension; AND

WHEREAS the mandate of the Survivor Support Centre is to support, educate, and advocate on issues surrounding sexualized violence; AND

WHEREAS if the Councillors and Full-Time Staff receive support and training in processing events related to sexualized violence, there will be greater capacity to respond to current and future situations, to the benefit of survivors within our membership; AND

WHEREAS the Survivor Support Centre currently has an appropriate capital reserve to provide this support; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT up to $3000.00 of the Survivor Support Centre capital reserve be utilized in the 2020-21 budget year for the purpose of consultation and support for the Dalhousie Student Union Councillors and Staff, with Hardy Consulting.

Moved by the VPFO; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative.

Motion 2020-05-21-11.3 passes.
MOTION 2020-05-21-11.4
WHEREAS the Judicial Board has been appointed on this May 21, 2020; and
WHEREAS addressing the allegations against the VPSL is a time-sensitive process; and
WHEREAS the University has verbally agreed to support the DSU in initiating an investigation in regard to the aforementioned allegations;
THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board start their training immediately, including the sexual violence response training approved by council; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board prepare to receive a report from an investigator and provide recommendations to Council on how to further address the allegations against the VPSL by June 4th, 2020.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: DSU, Vice President Academic

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.4.1: Motion to amend the motion at hand by striking out “June 4” and inserting “June 11”.

Moved by: Black Students’ Representative; Seconded by: Faculty of Agriculture Representative

The amendment is to reflect a change that was made an hour before council started. This amendment would be made to the scope document which defines the same deadline as June 11th. It was at the university’s request that we extend that so that it would be more reasonable to an investigator. So, the amendment would be to change the date from June 4th, 2020 to June 11th, 2020.

Motion 2020-05-21-11.4.1 passes.

The final clause of MOTION 2020-05-21-11.4 now reads:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board prepare to receive a report from an investigator and provide recommendations to Council on how to further address the allegations against the VPSL by June 11th, 2020.

Motion 2020-05-21-11.4 passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.5
WHEREAS the DSU membership has shown considerable desire and will for an investigation to occur that considers the incidences detailed in an online disclosure published to Change.Org on April 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS Dalhousie University has verbally agreed to provide support to such an investigation; And

WHEREAS the survivor has given their consent to the DSU exploring investigative procedures; And

WHEREAS the DSU’s legal counsel has recommended an external, third-party investigation as the next step in addressing membership concerns;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU contracts an unbiased, external, third-party investigator to examine online allegations against the Vice President Student Life made by the survivor, a member of the DSU; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the external investigator have experience working with students, student union governance, and/or university structures; as well as experience working with and/or advocating for oppressed populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the investigation must be conducted with a strong understanding and inclusion of the following policies and concepts: the bylaws, codes, policies, and values of the Dalhousie Student Union; the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct and Dalhousie’s Sexualized Violence Policy; the Purple Folder; anti-oppressive and harm-reduction frameworks including intersectional, survivor-centric, and trauma-informed approaches to investigations of allegations of sexualized violence; the impacts of sexualized violence on marginalized populations including, but not limited to: womxn, transgendered, non-binary, and femme-identifying persons; the oppressive and harm-inducing consequences and history of conventional legal investigations of cases of sexualized violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the findings of the examination must then be applied to the will and intent of the relevant bylaws, codes, and/or policies to determine if any violations have occurred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this report is to be delivered to the DSU’s legal counsel. After reviewing the report, the DSU’s counsel will share the report with the Executive Officers of the DSU, with exception of the Vice President, Student Life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT once the report is reviewed by the approved Executive Officers, the President of the DSU can petition the Judicial Board if necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board will return their findings and recommendations to the President within two weeks of receiving a petition, at which point a meeting of the DSU Council will be called within one week, to be held within two weeks of the return of findings and recommendations. If the Judicial Board requires more time and can
provide justification that it is needed to develop their recommendations, an extension may be approved through special resolution of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Vice President, Student Life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all Councilors, Executive Officers of the DSU, and Judicial Board members are prohibited from altering the findings, intent, or contents of the report in any manner other than to provide summary and/or redact confidential information and/or the identity of persons other than the complainant or respondent. The contents of the report may only be published to the public through special resolution of the DSU Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this procedure is to be followed in this exact sequence, as is required by the Judicial Board Policy of the DSU, and as is necessary to maintain the integrity of the report produced by the third-party investigator.

Moved by the President; Seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

The President stated that as the process stands, the report will not be shared with the council in its entirety. The executive officers will review the report and then the president will petition the judicial board. This board will then ask for the contents of the report, which the president will share. Then the judicial board will report back to the executive committee and then council will be called. If there is a request by council to see the report in its entirety in order to have enough background information to make an accurate ruling on any action to be made, then that can be requested by council and then council will be restricted to the terms of the motion we will ratify (if we do ratify it). This means that the council have to be responsible in the handling of the report and the viewing of the report will likely be in-camera because it will contain sensitive information on elected officials and the status of their employment, so council may see it if they request to.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.5.1: Motion to amend the term “transgendered” to either “transgender” or “trans”.

Moved by: Indigenous Students’ Representative; Seconded by:

Motion to amend passes.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.5.2: Motion to amend to include “Black, Indigenous, and people of color” to the list of marginalized populations.

Moved by: Black Students’ Representative; Seconded by:

Motion to amend passes.

The third Be It Resolved clause of MOTION 2020-05-21-11.5 now reads:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the investigation must be conducted with a strong understanding and inclusion of the following policies and concepts: the bylaws, codes, policies, and values of the Dalhousie Student Union; the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct and Dalhousie’s Sexualized Violence Policy; the
Purple Folder; anti-oppressive and harm-reduction frameworks including intersectional, survivor-centric, and trauma-informed approaches to investigations of allegations of sexualized violence; the impacts of sexualized violence on marginalized populations including, but not limited to: womxn, transgender or trans, non-binary, and femme-identifying persons, and Black, Indigenous, and people of colour; the oppressive and harm-inducing consequences and history of conventional legal investigations of cases of sexualized violence; and

Motion 2020-05-21-11.5 passes.

Motion to extend the meeting by 1 hour.

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Motion to take a 5-minute recess to count votes.

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report Of The President

Document attached

The majority of the president’s time has been spent in addressing allegations against the VPSL and setting up for changes in academic setting (online classes). President has assumed the position of VPSL and is currently working on planning for O-Week.

12.2 Report Of The Vice President, Internal

Document attached

The majority of VP, Internal’s time has been spent on the student accessibility fund committee and working on the website they are hoping to release. They also released re-ratification forms for societies that were ratified last year.

12.3 Report Of The Vice President, Finance And Operations

Document attached

12.4 Report Of The Vice President, Academic And External

Document attached

Most of their time has been spend on tuition and financial issues that a lot of students have been facing with COVID-19. Their team has released a survey asking students asking specifically what they are struggling with during this time.
13. Notice of Motion

13.1 Sponsorship Policy

There are now two notices of motion which will be circulated via email after the meeting. We have two new policies up for review. One of them is a completely revised sponsorship policy, as our current policy hasn’t been revised in almost 10 years. This new policy looks quite different. The motion will be “be it resolve that the existing sponsorship policy be repealed and replaced by the updated sponsorship policy”. The PDF of this policy will be circulated after the meeting. It will be debated at the next council meeting.

The second policy is a completely new policy. It is a reserve fee policy. Currently, we don’t have a formal procedure in place for accessing some of our reserve funds which are levy funds which are collected but not always used within the fiscal year in which they were collected. These are things like the accessibility fund and the international student emergency bursary fund. This will help us ensure greater responsibility around accessing these reserve funds as they sometimes contain large sums of money but should only be used for situations that meet specific criteria.

14. Announcements

The next meeting of Council will be held (tentatively) on June 18, 2020 at 6:00pm, using Microsoft Teams. Confirmation of the meeting date and time will be sent out via email.

Appointments to the following Union committees will be made at the next meeting of Council:

- Bylaw and Policy Review Committee
- Oversight Committee
- Student Life Committee
- External Committee

Motion to reinstate the rules of order.

Moved by: President; Seconded by: Vice President, Academic

Motion passes.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: President; Seconded by: Faculty of Medicine Representative

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17PM.