DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: July 16, 2020; 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting 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

Meeting called to order at 6:07PM.

2. Roll Call

Present:

   Madeleine Stinson – President
   Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
   Hanna Stewart - Vice President, Internal
Erica Seeleman – Vice President, Academic and External
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
Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative 1
Bakhmala Khan - Faculty of Science
Sahl Zahoor - Faculty of Computer Science
Cameron Penny - Faculty of Medicine

Absent with regrets:
Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative

Absent without regrets:
Jennifer Dubois - Faculty of Management Representative
Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Faculty of Computer Science Representative

Vacant:
Board of Governors Representative 2
Faculty of Architecture Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Faculty of Engineering Representative
Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
Faculty of Health Professions Representative
International Students’ Representative
Students with Disabilities Representative
Students Living in Residence Representative
Women Students Representative

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)

Aparna Mohan

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-07-16-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Board of Governors Representative 1; seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-16-3.1.1: motion to amend the agenda.

The President put a document in the chat to add to the agenda. It is a motion to adopt a non-disciplinary suspension for the VPSL. This is because the third-party investigator hired has concluded their investigation and, as of last week, the President petitioned the judicial board to see whether any codes have been violated. This inquiry is still ongoing and hasn’t yet concluded.

Moved by: President; seconded by: Vice President Internal

Amendment: Add motion 11.2 to the agenda.

Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-07-16-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on June 18, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

Moved by: LGBTQ+; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

Motion passes.
6. Communications Received

Received regrets from the Black Students’ Representative.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-07-16-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____________ be appointed as the Sexton Campus student representative on the Food Collective for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

Nominations for Food Collective seats: Sowmya Akaraju.

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

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-16-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____________ be appointed to the Oversight Committee as a General Member for the 2020-21 Academic Year.

Moved by: Vice President, Academic and External; seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

Nominations for General Member seats: Emma Miller

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

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

None.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Budget and Finance Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Nothing new to report

9.2 Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Presented by the President

Nothing new to report
9.3 External Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Academic and External*

*Nothing new to report*

9.4 Grants and Sponsorship Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations*

*Nothing new to report*

9.5 International Student Emergency Bursary Fund Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations*

*Nothing new to report*

9.6 Offices Steering Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Internal*

*Nothing new to report. Has only passed one motion so far, to extend the ENA bursary. It was approved until September.*

9.7 Oversight Committee

*Presented by the Oversight Committee Chair*

*Nothing new to report*

9.8 Society Review Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Internal*

*Nothing new to report*

9.9 Student Accessibility Fund Committee

*Presented by the Vice President, Internal*

*Nothing new to report*

9.10 Student Life Committee

*Presented by the President*

*Nothing new to report*

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-07-16-10.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendments to the Sponsorship Policy be adopted as circulated on May 21, 2020

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

Document attached

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-16-10.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserve Fund Policy be adopted as circulated on May 21, 2020.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations; seconded by: President

Document attached.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-16-10.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendments to the Communications Policy be adopted as circulated to Council on June 18, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Social Media Policy be struck, as by this motion its contents have been incorporated into the Communications Policy.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal; seconded by: President

Document attached.

Motion passes.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-07-16.11.1

WHEREAS the situation in Yemen has been declared by the UN as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world

AND WHEREAS the Canadian government has a military equipment contract with Saudi Arabia, one of the countries involved in the conflict and supporting the internationally recognized Yemeni government,

THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT; the DSU write a letter addressed to the Canadian government stating our solidarity with the Yemeni people and opposing their military contract with Saudi Arabia because it is perpetuating violence.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the letter focus on an anti-violence message and ensure that the DSU does not take a side in the ongoing civil war.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; seconded by: LGBTQ+ Representative

The VPAE stated that as a student union, we shouldn’t do anything to alienate any student; however, they feel that it is important to address this matter and to spread an anti-violence message. When the Canadian government approved the arms deal, they stated that if human rights were violated, they would back out of it. Since then, they have been several violations, but the deal has continued. As a student union, we should share a strong anti-violence message and oppose such things.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-16-11.2

WHEREAS Council has adopted consecutive motions since May 07, 2020 to issue non-disciplinary suspensions 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 July 09, 2020, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to extend the latest non-disciplinary suspension by an additional week; AND

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; AND

WHEREAS the DSU has hired a third-party legal investigator and an investigation into the allegations against the VPSL and breaches of DSU bylaws, policies, and codes has concluded; and

WHEREAS the Judicial Board has since been petitioned by the President to provide advisory opinions on alleged breaches of DSU bylaws, policies, and codes but has not yet concluded their inquiry;

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 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 the Judicial Board inquiry to proceed and conclude in an equitable manner.
Moved by the President; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

The President stated that things were going smoothly. The hearing is scheduled for this Monday (July 20th); it will be a closed hearing. She is hoping that on the 30th of July, an extraordinary meeting of council will be called to discuss the advisory opinion; however, this date is still tentative.

Motion passes.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 President

Nothing to report

12.2 Vice President, Internal

Nothing to report

12.3 Vice President, Finance and Operations

Nothing to report

12.4 Vice President, Academic and External

Nothing to report

12.5 Vice President, Student Life

Nothing to report

13. Notice of Motion

None.

14. Announcements

Tentative date for extortionary council meeting is July 30th.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:06PM.