DSU Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: August 13, 2020 6:00pm
Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

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.

1. Call to Order
   Meeting called to order at 6:09PM

2. Roll Call
   Present:
   Madeleine Stinson – President
   Hanna Stewart - Vice President, Internal
   Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
   Erica Seelmann – Vice President, Academic and External
   Jad Ghiz - Vice President, Student Life
   Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative 1
   Zachariah Scinocca - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
   Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative
   Jennifer Dubois - Faculty of Management Representative
   Cameron Penny - Faculty of Medicine Representative
   Bakhmala Khan - Faculty of Science Representative
   Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative
   Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative
   Faculty of Agriculture Representative
   Faculty of Computer Science Representative
   Faculty of Engineering Representative

   Absent with regrets:
   Jennifer Dubois - Faculty of Management Representative
   Drew Guyan - LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative

   Vacant:
   Board of Governors Representative 2
   Faculty of Architecture Representative
   Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 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)

3. Approval of the Agenda
   Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative

   Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes
   None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
   MOTION 2020-08-13-5.1
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on July 16, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

   Document attached

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

   Motion passes.

   MOTION 2020-08-13-5.1.1: Motion to amend the minutes.
   Amendment: changing “Seeleman” to “Seelemann”

   Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative

   Motion passes.

   MOTION 2020-08-13-5.1.2: Motion to amend the minutes.
   Amendment: clarification of purpose of the question asked by the Indigenous Students’ Representative. They would like to expand upon the purpose of the question asked during the previous council meeting regarding receipt of the judicial board’s report; the reason they asked this question is because councillors may not have had enough time to look over the report before council meeting.

   Moved by: Indigenous Students’ Representative; seconded by: Vice President, Internal
Motion passes.

6. Communications Received
   Regrets from the Faculty of Management Representative and the LGBTQ+ Students Representative

7. Appointments by Council
   MOTION 2020-08-13-7.1
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT Kate Yau be appointed Chief Returning Officer for the 2020-21 Academic Year.

   Moved by the President. Recommended for adoption by the CRO Hiring Committee

   Motion passes.

   MOTION 2020-08-13-7.2
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____________ be appointed to the Offices Steering Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

   Moved by the Vice President, Internal; seconded by: Indigenous Students’ Representative.
   Nomination to be brought forward by Oversight Committee.

   Document Attached.

   Nominations for Offices Steering Committee seats: Gabrielle Luongo.

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

   Motion passes.

   MOTION 2020-08-13-7.3
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____________ be appointed to the External Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

   Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; seconded by: Indigenous Students’ Representative Nomination to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

   Nominations for External Committee seats: Katarzyna Farrell.

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

   Motion passes.

   MOTION 2020-08-13-7.4
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the following appointments to the Senate Caucus:
Black Students’ Representative: 
Women Students’ Representative: 
Students With Disabilities Representative: 
Continuing Education Representative: 

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; Nominations to be brought forward by Executive Committee

Executive committee will not be bringing forward any nominations.

MOTION 2020-07-30-P1: Motion for a 5-minute recess.
Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by: Board of Governors Representative 1

The Chair explained that the recess was to allow for council to read over statements of intent.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.4.1: Motion to amend the initial motion.
Amendment: striking the Continuing Education Representative from the motion.

Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by: Vice President, Internal

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-07-30-P2: Motion for a 5-minute recess.
Moved by: Indigenous Students’ Representative; seconded by: Vice President, Academic & External

The Chair explained that the recess was to allow for council to vote.

Motion passes.

Nominations for Black Students’ Representative: Raven Ghazzawi
Nominations for Women Students’ Representative: Sierra Sparks
Nominations for Students with Disabilities Representative: Katarzyna Farrell

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

Motion passes.
MOTION 2020-08-13-7.5
BE IT RESOLVED THAT ______________, ______________, ______________, ______________ and ______________ be appointed to the Elections Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the President; seconded by: Black Students’ Representative. Nominations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

Nominations for Elections Committee seats: Damian Mensch and Surbhi Mehta

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

Motion passes.

8. Presentations
8.1 Senate Caucus Appointments Update

Presented by the Vice President, Academic and External

Document Attached

They state that in our current bylaws, there isn’t a clear method to appoint students to the senate caucus and specifically to senate subcommittees. There were 2016 bylaws that were clear, however the amendment lapsed in 2019. Given that it was successful, they propose a similar change and were working to adopt something similar in our bylaws now. Overall, there are three groups within the senate caucus. There’s the entire caucus, which includes any students which choose to attend as members; however, they won’t have a vote. Then there are the voting members and the student senators who will be students that attend Dalhousie senate and senate subcommittees. For some of these subcommittees, one does not need to be a voting member to sit on; this is noteworthy for anyone who is interested but isn’t appointed.

9. Committee Reports
None.

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-08-13-10.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Elections and Referenda Policy be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Elections Policy and Referenda Policies be struck, as well as the Community Representation and Faculty Representation Policies.

Moved by the President; seconded by: Vice President, Internal. Recommended for adoption by Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-08-13-10.1.1: Motion to amend the initial motion.
Amendment: Including clause 9.3.3

Moved by: President; seconded by: Vice President, Academic & External

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-08-13-10.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Terms of Reference be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Bylaw and Policy Review guidelines be struck.

Moved by the President; seconded by: Vice President, Academic & External. Recommended for adoption by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

Motion passes.

11. New Business
MOTION 2020-08-13-11.1
WHEREAS the DSU Bylaws do not outline a process for appointing DSU representatives to Dalhousie University Senate Sub-Committees and the process has not been standardized in recent years; and

WHEREAS the Senate Caucus is an official DSU body with representation from student communities and faculty-level societies; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senate Caucus is tasked with appointing student members to Dalhousie University Senate Sub-Committees for the 2020-21 Academic Year in line with the terms of reference for each Sub-Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate Caucus will prioritize members of the Senate Caucus for available DSU-appointed seats on Senate Sub-Committees, first prioritizing voting members of the Caucus and then non-voting members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Vice President, Academic and External shall report all sub-committee appointments made by the Caucus to Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee and the Senate Caucus be tasked with reviewing current governing documents and practices and developing a bylaw and/or policy amendment(s) to better define the process for appointments to Senate Sub-Committees in the future. Any such bylaw or policy amendments would be subject to approval at General Meeting or Council Meeting, respectively.

Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative.

Motion passes.
12. Executive Reports Documents attached
12.1 Report of the President
Nothing to add.

12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
States that they forgot to add all of the VPI ratification items in their report. If folks are interested in seeing who they approved, the Vice President, Internal, can send a list.

12.3 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations
Nothing to add.

12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External
Nothing to add.

12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life
Nothing to add.

13. Notice of Motion
13.1 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next regular meeting of Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document to be circulated August.

Vice President, Finance and Operations, states that there has been a committee that has been operating for a number of years. However, there isn’t a policy that outlines how they operate. Since there has been a drastic increase in the number of applications seen each month since COVID-19 started, the policy coordinator and Vice President, Finance and Operations, worked on this policy to mandate the committee to review the applications once every 4 weeks. If there are questions or amendments, contact the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

13.2 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next regular meeting of Council:

WHEREAS almost the entirety of the Council Policy is in contradiction with the DSU Bylaws; and

WHEREAS the Union Rules and Procedures policy outlines Council procedures and the responsibilities of Council staff; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council Policy is repealed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to develop a new policy incorporating the provisions of the Union Rules and Procedures Policy in addition to any provisions from the defunct Council Policy that should be maintained or are not covered in other policies.

Moved by the President.
14. Announcements

14.1 Council Meeting Schedule for the 2020 Fall term

Presented by the President

Document attached

Indigenous Students’ Representative states that they do not understand the document. President states that it is a list of dates and times at which council is going to meet. There were issues in finding a time that works for everyone. President states that there is one representative who can’t attend, so they will appoint a proxy, and two representatives who will arrive late.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:39PM.