DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: September 10, 2020
Location: Virtual Meeting – 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 6:38PM.

2. Roll Call
   Present:
   - Hanna Stewart - Vice President, Internal
   - Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
   - Erica Seelemann – Vice President, Academic and External
   - 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 Engineering Representative
   - International Students’ Representative
Drew Guyan - LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative

Absent with regrets:
Madeleine Stinson – President
Jad Ghiz - Vice President, Student Life

Absent without regrets:
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 Graduate Studies Representative
Faculty of Health Professions 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

MOTION 2020-09-10-3.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Faculty of Law Representative; seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-09-10-3.1.1: Motion to amend the minutes.
Amendment: Move motion 11.1 to after approval of minutes.

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

Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes
None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Motion 2020-09-10-5.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on August 13, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

Moved by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative; Seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative

Motion passes.

6. Communications Received
Regrets from the President and Vice President, Student Life.

7. Appointments by Council
Motion 2020-09-10-7.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the committee appointments recommended by Oversight Committee.

Recommendations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee on September 10, 2020.

Nominations for Oversight Committee seats: Surbhi Mehta.
Nominations for Society Review Committee seats: William Luton.
Nominations for Student Life Committee seats: Ferwa Tariq.
Nominations for Finance Committee seats: None.
Nominations for Offices Steering Committee seats: None.

Chief Returning Officer states that the only reason the severity for this position is high is because October 5th is when nomination period begins; therefore, they would like to pass the nomination forms by the elections committee before then, at least 2 weeks prior. The Chief Returning Officer also states that October 5th is the beginning of a very intensive period for the elections committee; the committee will need to have their training and have an understanding of what is expected of them prior to that. The Chief Returning Officer states that although this is going to be a smaller run compared to the winter elections, they anticipate that there will be a number of issues in terms of campaign. They would like to have the committee ready beforehand so that byelections and winter elections can run smooth.

Moved by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

Motion passes.
8. Presentations

8.1 Centre for Learning and Teaching Presentation

*Presenter: Brad Wuehlerick, CLT Executive Director*

8.2 Fall SUB Operation Updates

*Presenter: President*

President is not in attendance

Presented by Vice President, Finance and Operations.

They state that the DSU building is open. They state if you go to the DSU website and click on student union building, there is a thorough update about the SUB’s and DSU’s physical operations. The basement and first floor are open to students. The whole building is direction and there are lots of stations with hand sanitizers. All of the common spaces are being regularly cleaned. On the first floor, the Tim Hortons is open. The Loaded Ladle is also open; this week they’re handing out snacks. Next week, they’ll be doing lunch service on non-reusable containers. Currently, these are the only two food service open in the building. If there is demand for it, Mezze and Pete’s are likely to be the next to open. If there is enough traffic in the building, the Grawood and Campus Copy would also open.

Currently, the bookstore isn’t open. However, they’re still doing curb-side pickup. So, if one were to call or order online, they could pick up their order at the LeMarchant street entrance. The food bank will still be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 12-5PM or 1-5PM; food boxes can be ordered online as well by filling out the order form. To pick-up an order, students are advised to come to the main doors on University Avenue, where a volunteer will be present. The farmer’s market isn’t open at the moment, but they’re still doing online orders and pickup on Tuesdays. Room bookings are accepted for societies or individuals, as long as the DSU is provided with the number of people who will be attending.

The DSU still has staff working full-time in the building, which is why the second and third floors are closed. This is to keep the DSU staff safe from the student traffic in the SUB. A phased reopening is planned.

As far as the T-Room, Sexton campus isn’t open yet and the DSU hasn’t been given any word on when it might reopen. Once there is enough traffic and Sexton campus is open, the T-Room will be opened.

Masks are mandatory throughout the building. There will a student at the information desk to answer any questions. If a student wishes to speak with an executive or full-time staff member, they are advised to book an appointment.

Indigenous Students’ Representative asks if there is plexiglass or other forms of protection for staff working at the information desk.
Vice President, Finance and Operations, states that the desk is placed in such a way such that there is a socially-distant spacing. In addition, those who aren’t wearing their masks properly will not be allowed into the building. They state that they cannot remember if there is currently plexiglass at the information desk. However, within a week of opening, they will be doing a check-in with staff to gain a greater understanding of what is needed.

9. Committee Reports
None.

10. Old Business
MOTION 2020-09-10-10.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated.

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

*Document attached.*

Equity and Accessibility Office Coordinator asks why the international student bursary committee is allowed to have discretion to decide what students should and should not spend their money on. Given that international students have different needs to domestic students, they don’t understand how the committee can distinguish between essential and non-essential spending. They state that the committee’s actions go directly against the DSU’s equity statements.

Vice President Finance & Operations states that this committee uses an allowable cost model; they also state that the goal of this committee is not to police international students or criticize their spending. They state that the committee only needs to know what the student’s annual income is and what their expenses are in order to see the shortfalls.

Black Students’ Representative states that their main concerns are with points 5.8.3 and 5.9. They state that they have sat on bursary committees and understand the cost of living framework. They don’t understand 5.8.3, which states “the ISEBC was meant to reduce the amount of bursary funding awarded to applicants whose living costs exceed the standard cost outline in the cost of living framework”. They also state that they don’t understand 5.9, which states “the committee may deprioritize or reject applications where the applicant has not demonstrated adequate financial responsibility and an effort to mitigate their financial needs through other means.” They don’t understand how the committee can regulate financial responsibility.
Indigenous Students’ Representative states that this should be tabled. They state that current guidelines need to be revised to accommodate for students who may have difficulty keeping a record of their spending.

Vice President, Academic and External, states that given their experience with bursary committees, they understand where the concerns are coming from. They state that it is difficult, morally and ethically, to find a solution, especially given that the finances available are very finite. They state that they would appreciate having a guide that would allow the committee to make a decision in cases where it is difficult to decide. They state that they appreciate all of the points brought up during this meeting in regard to bursaries.

**MOTION 2020-09-10-10.2:** Motion to postpone indefinitely.

To postpone the adoption of the International Student Emergency Bursary to the next meeting of the DSU council on September 24th.

Moved by: Faculty of Law Representative; seconded by: Vice President, Internal

Motion passes.

**MOTION 2020-09-10-10.3**

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; seconded by: Faculty of Law Representative

Motion passes.

Indigenous Students’ Representative asks, if council policies are repealed, what is there in the meantime? Will there be something to fill the void?

Council chair states that the Union rules and procedures policy covers anything that is needed to know from the council policy. Almost everything else in the council policy is
irrelevant and in direct contradiction with the bylaws. It isn’t currently serving much of a purpose.

11. New Business
MOTION 2020-09-10-11.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Fall By-Election Schedule be approved as proposed. 
Document to be circulated prior to meeting.
Moved by: Faculty of Law Representative; seconded by: Faculty of Management Representative

Motion passes.

Indigenous Students’ Representative asks if the committee was notified of this by-election beforehand.

Vice President, Finance, states that there was mention of the by-election. They state that the bylaws state that if there are vacant positions in the council or executive committee by September 1st, then elections are to be had by October 24th. The Vice President, Finance, also states that the deadline for approval of a by-election is early September; as such, this meeting serves as official notice of the by-election. They also state that there have been passive references to this by-election, but it wasn’t explicitly stated.

Chief Returning Officer states that the reason we are moving quickly through this is because the deadline to pass this is September 14th. The CRO states that there are a number of dates in the document that don’t apply to council. However, the important ones to notice are October 5th and October 12th, which are the dates for the nomination period. October 5th is when registration opens and campaigning can begin. The CRO states that they aim for voting to open by October 21st or October 22nd. They also state that because many students are in different areas of the world, specific times for voting have yet to be determined. In the document, the white dates are past the voting period and are meant to allow for time to deal with appeals and such. The CRO states that the latest end time for this election is November 21st.

12. Executive Reports
12.1 Report of the President
Nothing to report.
12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
Nothing to report.
12.3 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations
Nothing to report.
12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External
Nothing to report.
12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life
13. Notice of Motion
   None.

14. Announcements
   None.

15. Adjournment
   Meeting is adjourned at 8:39PM.