DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: October 8, 2020 6:30pm

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 6:36PM

2. Roll Call

Present:

President
Vice President, Internal
Vice President, Finance and Operations
Vice President, Student Life
Vice President, Academic and External
Board of Governors Representative 1
Faculty of Dentistry Representative
Faculty of Medicine Representative
Faculty of Science Representative
Indigenous Students’ Representative
Faculty of Engineering Representative
Black Students’ Representative
Faculty of Law Representative

Absent with regrets:

Absent without regrets:

Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Faculty of Computer Science Representative
International Students’ Representative
LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative

Vacant:

Board of Governors Representative 2
Faculty of Management Representative
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 2020-10-08-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

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

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-08-3.1.1: Motion to amend the agenda.

Amendment: Add Motions 11.1 and 11.2

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

Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-10-08-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on September 24, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

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

Motion passes.

6. Communications Received

None.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-10-08-7.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee:

Councillors (unlimited): ________________

General members (2): ________________ and ________________

Recommendations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee.

The Oversight Committee has no recommendations.

President states that the Response Committee is the result that came out of Council at the end of July where Council agreed that there was a demonstrated need to review DSU policies, such that they are fair. The Response Committee will review policies, as mandated by Council. They will also bring in someone who works in the field professionally to help advise.

Nominations for Councillors seats: Faculty of Medicine Representative.

Nominations for General Members seats: None.

Moved by: Board of Governors Representative 1; seconded by: Black Students’ Representative

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

8.1 Executive Goals for 2020-2021

Presented by the President and Executive Committee. Document Attached.

9. Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-10-08-11.1

WHEREAS on September 25, 2020 the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) released the results of a Workload Survey Summary Report demonstrating that over 85% of respondents were experiencing higher or substantially higher levels of stress compared to last year, and that many DFA members feel overworked, anxious, and disrespected by the Board of Governors’ actions; AND
WHEREAS on September 22 the DFA filed for a conciliator to aid in collective bargaining negotiations with the university and on October 7 announced that 90.6% of DFA members who voted indicated support for taking strike action to support the bargaining team’s position in collective bargaining; AND

WHEREAS the DSU acts as the official representative of Dalhousie students and the medium of communication between students and Dalhousie leadership; AND

WHEREAS the DSU and the DFA have shared a relationship based in solidarity, including most recently the DFA offering support for the DSU’s Nova Scotia Needs Students campaign; AND

WHEREAS the process and outcome of DFA/Dalhousie negotiations will have a direct impact on students, both by disrupting learning in the event of a strike and because faculty working conditions are also student learning conditions, and students are therefore directly impacted by the support and fairness extended to their professors and instructors; AND

WHEREAS the External Committee met on October 7 and discussed the situation surrounding the DFA, and concluded that they wanted to see the DSU take action to stand in solidarity with faculty;

THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union express solidarity with the Dalhousie Faculty Association and support for a fair and productive bargaining process carried out in good faith; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU supports good working conditions for faculty and respect for the collective bargaining process; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU continue to advocate for the best interests of students, particularly in the event of a strike action; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU work to keep students informed on updates around these negotiations within the restrictions of privacy by amplifying announcements on social media, responding to inquiries, and seeking out information about any potential adjustments to academics that may arise; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU seek out input from students about how a strike action could impact their academics and any other matters of concern around this negotiation process and incorporate this feedback into advocacy efforts going forward.
President states that passing this motion is highly significant. They would like for everyone to either be onboard or offboard because they want to go about this responsibly.

Board of Governors Representative 1 states that they have a board meeting coming up and states that it would be great if folks could come forward with questions they may have so that they can be asked directly to the board. In the past, things that have such a degree of severity usually go in-camera, therefore limiting what folks can say. If the meeting is not in-camera and there is a question period, questions submitted to the BOG or President will be asked.

Oluchi Duru asks what voting ‘yes’ entails.

Vice President, Academic & External responds that the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) is in talk with the University about pay and rights, among other things. When they are not able to come to a conclusion, the DFA and Dalhousie go into a rest period. They then apply for a neutral government conciliator to come in and resolve the situation. The DFA has filed for a conciliator and are currently in a rest period with Dalhousie. Motion 11.2 states that the DSU is in favor of the DFA moving into this rest period. In voting ‘yes’ to this motion, folks are saying that they support the DSU taking a pro-DFA stance, as opposed to supporting the University or remaining neutral.

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

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-08-11.2

Whereas Kethan Kumar Nasapu has expressed their interest, as a student in the Faculty of Continuing Education, in being a voting member of the Student Senate Caucus; and

WHEREAS there are no societies that representative students specifically in the Faculty of Continuing Education

Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that Kethan Kumar Kasapu be appointed as the Faculty of Continuing Education representative to the Student Senate Caucus.

Moved by: Vice President, Academic & External; seconded by Black Students’ Representative

Motion passes.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report of the President

Nothing to add.

12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
12.3 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations
Will send out a report next week. Nothing to report in the interim.

12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External
Noting to add.

12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life
Noting to add.

13. Notice of Motion
None.

14. Announcements
President states that the byelelections are coming up; if you know someone who may be interested, get them to nominate.

Vice President Finance & Operations states that they have been having a hard time getting a hold of community members. Please check your emails in a timely manner.

15. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.