DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: October 22, 2020; 6:30 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 6:40PM

2. Roll Call

Present:

Madeleine Stinson – President
Hanna Stewart - Vice President, Internal
Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
Jad Ghiz - Vice President, Student Life
Erica Seelemann – Vice President, Academic and External
Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative 1
Zachariah Scinocca - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
Jennifer Dubois - Faculty of Management Representative
Cameron Penny - Faculty of Medicine Representative
Faculty of Science Representative
Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative
Faculty of Engineering Representative
Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative
Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative

Absent with regrets:

Absent without regrets:

Faculty of Computer Science Representative
Faculty of Agriculture Representative
International Students’ 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 Computer Science 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 2020-10-22-3.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as presented.
Moved by: President; seconded by: Board of Governors Representative 1
Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-22-3.1.1: Motion to amend the agenda.
Amendment: change of motion 11.2 wording to "...the attached letter in support..."
Moved by VPAE; seconded by: Board of Governors Representative 1
Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-22-3.1.2: Motion to amend the agenda.
Amendment: include Motion 11.3 to the agenda:
Moved by VPAE; seconded by: Black Students’ Representative
Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-10-22-5.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on October 8, 2020 be adopted as circulated.
Moved by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative; seconded by: Faculty of Science Representative
Motion passes.

6. Communications Received

None.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-10-22-7.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee on recommendation of the Oversight Committee:

Councillors:

General Members:

Oversight committee hasn’t received applications yet. Council members are urged to join a committee if they haven’t done so already.

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

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

None.

9. Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.1

WHEREAS the typical practice at the DSU has been to approve minutes from an Annual General Meeting at the following Annual General Meeting; AND

WHEREAS the last DSU Annual General Meeting to reach a quorum of members was held on April 6, 2016, and because an AGM has not convened since then the minutes of that meeting have not been approved; AND

WHEREAS the DSU’s governing documents do not specify that minutes from an Annual General Meeting must be approved at an Annual General Meeting; AND

WHEREAS some of the amendments to the bylaw amendments proposed in the 2016 meeting were voted on and ratified at the time but have since been recognized to be out of order under Robert’s Rules of Order; AND

WHEREAS the membership of the DSU deserves access to the minutes of the 2016 AGM and transparency with regard to the amendments proposed, passed, and in some cases determined to be out of order; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the minutes of the DSU Annual General Meeting held on April 6, 2016; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council approve the accompanying document titled “Notes on Bylaw Amendments Made at April 6, 2016 Annual General Meeting” which clarifies the
permissibility of amendments to the proposed bylaw amendments that were motioned within
the Annual General Meeting; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The “Notes on Bylaw Amendments Made at April 6, 2016
Annual General Meeting” document be considered an Appendix to and therefore be attached to
the 2016 AGM Minutes. These will be uploaded to the DSU website together as one document
to ensure that all members accessing the minutes also have access to this document.

Documents attached:

- AGM_Minutes_DRAFT_06.04.2016.pdf: draft minutes of the April 2016 AGM
- 2016_Bylaw_Amendment_Notes_18.09.2020.pdf: compiled notes regarding amendments
  and their status as in or out of order
- Correspondence_RE_2016_Bylaws_29.10.2019.pdf: email correspondence between DSU
  President and Policy & Governance Coordinator regarding validity of bylaw amendments
  made on the floor at the April 6 2016 meeting

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

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council sign on to the attached letter to Dalhousie Senate in support of
the creation of an Indigenous Studies Major program.

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

Document attached.

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.3

WHEREAS the DSU is located on the unceded and unsurrendered lands of the Mi’kmaq
nation and fulfilling our treaty obligations involves supporting our Mi’kmaw and
Indigenous members as well as the peoples of this land more broadly; AND

WHEREAS the Mi’kmaq have an inherent right to sovereignty, self-determination, and
safety on their territory; AND

WHEREAS the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed between the Mi’kmaq and the British
in 1725, 1760, and 1761 included an agreement that the British would not interfere with
Mi’kmaw hunting, fishing, and farming, and this agreement was affirmed in 1999
Marshall Decision in the Supreme Court of Canada which stated that Mi’kmaw have the
right to earn a “moderate livelihood” through these activities; AND
WHEREAS the failure of Canadian federal governments to respect Mi’kmaw rights and to collaborate on defining “moderate livelihood” led the Sipekne’katik First Nation to launch their own self-governed fishery on September 17, 2020, the 21st anniversary of the Marshall Decision; AND

WHEREAS settler fishers employed by commercial fisheries have responded to this assertion of treaty rights with violence, intimidation, and anti-Indigenous racism, in some cases claiming that their actions are motivated by concern for the environment, conservation, and the preservation of lobster stocks despite significant evidence to discredit this claim; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU stand wholeheartedly in solidarity with Sipekne’katik First Nation, with the Mi’kmaq asserting their treaty rights, and with the Indigenous people who have been demonstrating and defending these rights despite threats and acts of violence; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU follow the leadership and direction of the Dalhousie Indigenous Student Collective (DISC) in determining the best ways to show support and stand in solidarity on this issue; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU share educational content relating to this dispute on social media and encourage members to get informed and to show solidarity; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU condemn the use of “conservation” as an excuse for anti-Indigenous racism and affirm that decolonization and affirming Indigenous sovereignty are necessary actions for countering environmental destruction.

Moved by: Vice President, Academic and External; seconded by: Indigenous Students’ Representative

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.3.1: Motion to amend motion 11.3

Amendment: correcting date to 1752 and misspelling of ‘whereas’

Moved by: Black Students’ Representative; seconded by: Indigenous Students’ Representative

Motion passes.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report of the President

Nothing to add.

12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
Nothing to add.

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
None.

14. Announcements
None.

Councillors are urged to join a committee if they have not done so already.

15. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.