DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, November 5, 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
Aparna Mohan - Board of Governors Representative 2
Zachariah Scinocca - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
Cameron Penny - Faculty of Medicine Representative
Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative
Oluchi Duru - Faculty of Science Representative
William Luton - Faculty of Engineering Representative
Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative
Isabella Paes de Mello de Camargo - International Students’ Representative
Kathrine Guevara - Women Students Representative

Absent with regrets:
Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative

Absent without regrets:
Faculty of Management Representative
Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Faculty of Computer Science Representative
Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
Drew Guyan - LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative

Vacant:
Faculty of Architecture Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Faculty of Health Professions Representative
Students with Disabilities Representative
Students Living in Residence 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 2020-11-05-3.1

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

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

Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-11-05-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on October 22, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: President; Vice President, Student Life

Motion passes.

6. Communications Received

Regrets from Indigenous Students’ Representative.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-11-05-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ and __________ be appointed to the vacant Faculty Representative seats on Oversight Committee.

Moved by: President; seconded by: Vice President, Student Life

Oversight committee has no nominations.

Oluchi Duru, Faculty of Science Representative, is self-nominating.
MOTION 2020-11-05-7.1.1: Filling one blank with Oluchi Duru and leaving the other blank

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-11-05-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee:

___________________

Response Committee has no nominations.

Moved by: President; seconded by: Vice President, Student Life

MOTION 2020-11-05-7.2.1: Leaving the blanks blank

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

8.1 Provost Search Committee Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by Provost Search Committee Lead Laura Godsoe

Documents attached

8.2 LGBTQ+ Admissions Questions Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by Vice President, Academic and External

Documents attached

8.2 DLI & Arriving International Students Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by President

Documents Attached

9. Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-11-05-11.1
WHEREAS Council struck the Response Committee on July 30, 2020 and mandated that the committee report at the last Council meeting of the 2020/21 Fall term and the 2020/21 Winter Term; AND

WHEREAS there have been delays in filling the seats on the committee, such that work has not been able to begin throughout the summer or early fall; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Response Committee will not report at the final Council meeting of the 2020/2021 Fall term but will instead report at the final Council meeting held in February 2021. The mandate to deliver a final report at the final Council meeting of the 2020-2021 Academic Year will be unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Response Committee membership be extended to allow a representative from the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service to participate in a voting capacity.

Moved by the President; seconded by: Faculty of Dentistry

Motion passes.

**MOTION 2020-11-05-11.2: Student concerns**

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the pandemic, students at Dalhousie University have continued to express their concerns around access to campus resources, and barriers attached to online learning,

WHEREAS The Dalhousie University has claimed that students have adequate support in coping with the various health, economic and equity stressors that have become predominant at this time;

WHEREAS, since beginning of the Fall semester the University has not implemented new services or policies to help ease the pressures that online learning and coping during a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, with an increase in 3% tuition for domestic student and even more for international students, students studying at Dalhousie have only seen an increase in fees, workload and stress, paired with a decrease in resources;

WHEREAS, a recent anonymous open forum open to students studying the Faculty of Arts and Social Science provides a snapshot on some of the current barriers, concerns and frustration attached to this new learning environment faced by students; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU lobby the University to implement policy changes and services that will help address some of the concerns that have been outlined by students
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU release a statement outlining students' concerns and calling for the University to take immediate steps to help alleviate the stressor and workload being faced by Dalhousie University students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all councilors endorse the DSU’s statement unless indicated otherwise, in writing to the DSU President, within 24 hours of the statement’s circulation to council.

Moved by: Board of Governors 1; seconded by: Vice President, Internal

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-11-05-11.3

WHEREAS the DSU successfully advocated to the University for an alternative grading option in the 2020 Winter Semester, resulting in the ability for students to opt for “Pass/ILL” grading rather than the standard grade scale; AND

WHEREAS students have, through all forums available to them, expressed continued frustration, concern, and dissatisfaction with the online learning environment and many have reported high levels of anxiety and difficulty completing coursework this semester; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU advocate to the University for adjustments to grading that reflect the unique challenges of this semester and allow students to succeed; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU seek out input from students on which specific grading options or other academic accommodations would be most helpful through the following mediums:

- Councillors will reach out directly to their constituents to solicit input, and will forward this input on to the VPAE along with any of their own thoughts and opinions;
- The Executive will circulate a survey to Councillors that can be used to help engage constituents;
- The Executive will seek out input from general students using the DSU’s official social media channels and will update the website with this information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU will specifically seek student input on:

- The merits of a Pass/Fail grading system compared to Pass/ILL;
- How the adjustments to grading worked for students who took advantage of them last semester;
- Which other adjustments to assessments and academics would be most beneficial to students (e.g. extension of deadlines to withdraw from classes or switch between audit/credit or changing the formats of examinations and final assessments).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the results of this consultation will be compiled, shared with Council, and presented to Senate.
Moved by: President; seconded by: Black Students’ Representative

Motion passes.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report of the President
None.

12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
None.

12.3 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations
None.

12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External
None.

12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life
None.

13. Notice of Motion

The following motions will appear on the agenda for the Council meeting on November 19, 2020:

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed amendments to the Elections and Referenda Policy circulated to Councillors on Thursday, November 5 be approved as presented.

Moved by the President

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed amendments to the Facility Operations Policy circulated to Councillors on Thursday, November 5 be approved as presented.

Moved by the President

13.3 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ________________ be appointed Students With Disabilities Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.
13.4 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ______________ be appointed Students Living in Residence Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.

14. Announcements

14.1 Update Regarding Appointments to Council

14.2 Announcement Regarding Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings

14.2 Announcement Regarding Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination, or Transfer (AUCRETT) consultation

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.