DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: December 3, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Location: 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.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-12-03-3.1

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

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-12-05.1

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

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council
8. Presentations

8.1 Updates on Senate Advocacy and Pass/ILL Grading Option

Presented by the VPAE

8.2 Presentation of Revised Budget

Presented by the VPFO

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.1

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that students doing online schooling are struggling with excessive workloads and/or unreasonable behaviour from professors;

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that without effective feedback, professors & faculty admin cannot correct the behaviour;

WHEREAS graduate students have found success in formally addressing professors as students on a united front and demanding the change they needed; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT faculty representatives on Council are tasked to contact constituents to compile a report on issues that students in their faculty are facing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these reports will be presented by the first council meeting of 2021 on January 7th

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the VPSL will work with each faculty representative over the winter semester to develop faculty-level advocacy about the issues raised, including submitting formal complaints to official body/ies in each faculty where appropriate.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.2

WHEREAS the Winter General Election timeline has been prepared by the CRO and recommended for approval by the Elections Committee; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the timeline for the DSU Winter General Election be approved as presented.
MOTION 2020-12-03-11.3

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic means that many students are studying from outside the HRM, and that those who are within the HRM must limit their close contacts, and therefore soliciting nominations signatures in person is not feasible; AND

WHEREAS requiring hard copy forms during this pandemic is unfair to those students studying outside HRM; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the purposes of the winter 2020 general election, the Elections and Referenda Policy be interpreted such that all forms and questionnaires will be submitted using web forms instead of paper forms; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for the purposes of the winter general election in 2021, the requirement for nomination forms to include “Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee” (Elections and Referenda Policy s.8.2.2.1) be interpreted to allow for the following process:

Nominees will collect the names, student numbers, and @dal.ca email addresses from at least twenty-five (25) current students who support their candidacy and will submit this information to the Chief Returning Officer using a standardized template. The CRO will email all submitted signatories for a particular nominee to ensure that they do in fact support that individual’s candidacy.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.4

WHEREAS Dalhousie students have expressed widespread concern about financial precarity, rising tuition, and their ability to make ends meet during COVID-19; AND

WHEREAS the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) ended on August 29, 2020 and the majority of the funds allocated to the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) were not distributed, but many students are still without work and unable to access other supports; AND

WHEREAS international students were not covered under the CESB to begin with; AND

WHEREAS the DSU advocates for the rights and needs of international students and all students, and most recently built the NS Needs Students campaign focusing on the need for increased public funding for universities and reduced tuition costs for students; AND

WHEREAS on April 22, 2020, DSU Council voted unanimously in favour of signing on to a petition and open letter by Don’t Forget Students and the Canadian Federation of Students, calling on the Prime Minister to expand CERB to include students and recent graduates, and this petition was a factor in the government’s decision to create the CESB; AND

WHEREAS the April 22, 2020 motion also mandated “THAT the DSU continue to research ways to advocate for better student supports during the COVID-19 pandemic;” THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the executives of DSU sign on to Our Commons petition e-2986 to the Government of Canada, launched by the Canadian Federation of Students and Don’t Forget
Students. The petition calls on the Government of Canada “to implement a plan for pandemic relief and stimulus for Canada’s post-secondary sector and students that:

1. Utilizes the funds originally allocated for the CSSG [Canada Student Service Grant] and remaining funds from the $9 billion allocated for post-secondary students in April to extend the CESB while also including International students;

2. Includes newly graduating students and recent graduates (retroactive to Fall 2019) in Employment Insurance and the new CRB program;

3. Extends the moratorium on student debt loan interest and payments until May 1, 2021, with consideration of further extensions based on the public health and economic situation, and commits to significant student debt relief;

4. Expands the Canada Student Grant, returns to 50-50 cost-sharing with provinces and territories, and increases funding for post-secondary institutions.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Councillors are encouraged to sign on to the petition and to talk about it with their constituents, communities, and peers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU post about the petition on social media and other official channels to encourage our members to sign on in support.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.5

WHEREAS the DSU Council received a presentation on allegations made against an associate professor in the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine on the November 19th meeting of Council; and

WHEREAS the DSU is dedicated to supporting all survivors of sexualized violence;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the DSU Council endorse the attached statement, to be circulated to the membership.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report of the President

12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal

12.3 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life

13. Notice of Motion
The following motions will appear on the agenda for the next Council meeting on December 17, 2020:

13.1: Motion to approve the revised budget

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year be adopted.

*Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.*

13.2: Motion to discipline a councillor

WHEREAS the duties of a DSU councillor, as described in Section 4.4 of the Bylaws, include that they must use reasonable efforts to advance the interests of the constituency they represent, must attend all meetings of Council, and must sit on at least one Union Committee; and

WHEREAS Councillor Sahl Zoor, Computer Science representative, has been absent without regrets from 8 meetings of DSU Council and has not yet joined a Committee; and

WHEREAS Section 4.8 of the DSU Bylaws dictates that councillors may be disciplined for failure to attend Council meetings and/or failure to perform their duties;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Sahl Zoor, Computer Science representative, be recalled-to By Election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council empower the DSU president to formally request that the Dalhousie Computer Science Society nominate a new Computer Science Representative no later than January 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should Councillor Sahl Zoor provide reasonable explanation for his lack of participation, as well as present a plan to ensure his commitments to the student body are met in the future in his response to this motion, that Council consider his response with empathy for his individual circumstances.

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment