DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, December 17 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

Meeting called to order at 6:39PM.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Madeleine Stinson – President
Hanna Stewart - Vice President, Internal
Isa Wright - Vice President, Finance and Operations
Erica Seeleman – Vice President, Academic and External
Jad Ghiz - Vice President, Student Life
Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative 1
Robert Larsen - Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Zachariah Scinocca - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
William Luton - Faculty of Engineering Representative
Hariprashanth Deivasigamani - Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
Cameron Penny - Faculty of Medicine Representative
Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative
Claudia Castillo-Prrentt - Black Students’ Representative
Ken Jacquard - Students with Disabilities Representative
Kathrine Guevara - Women Students Representative

**Absent with regrets:**
Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative
Aaron Sophocleous - Faculty of Management Representative
Oluchi Duru - Faculty of Science Representative

**Absent without regrets:**
Aparna Mohan - Board of Governors Representative 2
Isabella Paes de Mello de Camargo - International Students’ Representative

**Vacant:**
Faculty of Architecture Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Faculty of Computer Science Representative
Faculty of Health Professions Representative
LGBTQ+ Students’ 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)
Lane Harrison – Dal Gazette

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION 2020-12-17-3.1**

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

Moved by: Board of Governors Representative 1; seconded by: Faculty of Dentistry Representative

Motion passes.

### 4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**MOTION 2020-12-17-5.1**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on December 3, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

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

Motion passes.

6. Communications Received

Regrets from the Faculty of Management Representative, Faculty of Science Representative, and Faculty of Engineering Representative.

7. Appointments by Council

**MOTION 2020-12-17-7.1**

Appointing Graduate Studies Representative to Response Committee

Moved by: President; seconded by: Board of Governors Representative 1

Motion passes.

8. Presentations

None.

9. Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

**MOTION 2020-12-17-10.1**

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

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations; seconded by: Faculty of Agriculture Representative

Motion passes.
11. New Business

MOTION 2020-12-17-11.1

WHEREAS the Revised 2020-21 Budget includes funds set aside to distribute an emergency bursary in January and February of 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the 2021 DSU Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference as circulated, including designating the Grants Committee the authority to review applications for this bursary.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations; seconded by: Students with Disabilities Representative

Motion passes.

MOTION 2020-12-17-11.2

WHEREAS the Revised 2020-21 Budget includes funds set aside for the Union to contract an external body to review the Union’s governing documents;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) defining the scope of the planned Governance Review, including the purpose of the review, objectives, and timeline for the project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the RFP will define two phases to the project:

• First, a review of disciplinary and complaint procedures within the DSU with specific focus on defining clear steps to be taken when complaints or allegations are brought forward against a Councillor or Executive Officer. This review should particularly focus on allegations of sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination, and should support the DSU in developing a survivor-centred response process. The goal is to ensure that the DSU has mechanisms to respond to student concerns and hold elected representatives accountable through a clear process, while ensuring that said process does not create unwanted legal ramifications for the DSU or any party involved.
• Second, a general review of the DSU’s governing documents to identify inconsistencies, best practices, and areas for change to better meet the objectives of the organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the draft RFP will be circulated to Council by January 31st, 2021.

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

Motion passes.

President states that these funds will allow the DSU to do governance review as promised. The hired individual will work with the response committee to streamline how complaints and issues will be addressed moving forward. They will also complete a comprehensive review of bylaws and policies to ensure that they work in tandem and don’t contradict one another.
MOTION 2020-12-17-11.3

WHEREAS Council struck the Response Committee on July 30, 2020 on recommendation of the Judicial Board with the purpose: “to ensure that DSU policies and procedures reflect a survivor-centric framework as well as due process, fairness, and transparency; AND

WHEREAS since that time, preliminary conversations have highlighted both the need for a comprehensive review that has a lasting impact and the importance of seeking expert advice and counsel on this complex and multidimensional issue; AND

WHEREAS to this end, the Executive has proposed contracting an external organization to undertake a complete governance review with a specific focus on clarifying discipline and complaint procedures through a survivor-centric framework; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the mandate of the Response Committee be changed to the following:

• To review the process that took place to address the allegations made against the Vice President, Student Life in 2020;
• To consult Executives, Councillors, and other interested parties on their concerns about and perceptions of said process, and their ideas for the development and revision of disciplinary and complaint procedures;
• To develop a report summarizing their findings and the outcome of their consultations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Response Committee will deliver this report to Council by March 30, 2021

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Response Committee Report will guide the Executive Officers, Bylaw and Policy Review Committee, Council, and any other relevant committees or bodies in the implementation of the recommendations about disciplinary and complaint processes delivered in the governance review.

Moved by the President; seconded by: Students with Disabilities 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

Will be sent out in the next few days.

12.4 Report of the Vice President, Academic and External
12.5 Report of the Vice President, Student Life

None.

13. Notice of Motion

None.

14. Announcements

14.1 Announcement regarding Council dates for the Winter term

President states that as per the poll, most individuals are available on Tuesdays from 7 to 8PM. However, many didn’t fill out the form.

Indigenous Students’ Representative states that they are unsure of their class schedule and weren’t able to finalize a time.

President states that meetings will be tentatively set on Tuesdays, with the first scheduled for January 12th. This is subject to change depending on folks’ response.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.