DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: January 12, 2021; 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using MS 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 7:07PM.

MOTION 2021-01-12-1.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vice President, Finance and Operations, serve as acting Chair for this session of Council.

Moved by: president; seconded by: Faculty of Agriculture Representative

Motion passes.
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
Hariprashanth Deivasigamani - Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
Aaron Sophocleous - Faculty of Management Representative
Shane Isler - Faculty of Law Representative
Kathrine Guevara - Women Students Representative
Robert Larsen - Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Ken Jacquard - Students with Disabilities Representative

Absent with regrets:

Vice President, Internal

Absent without regrets:

Nik Isaac-Pictou - Indigenous Students’ Representative
Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students’ Representative
Oluchi Duru - Faculty of Science Representative
Isabella Paes de Mello de Camargo - International Students’ Representative
Drew Guyan - LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative
Students Living in Residence Representative
Vacant:

Faculty of Architecture Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Faculty of Health Professions Representative
Faculty of Engineering Representative
Faculty of Computer Science 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 2021-01-12-3.1

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

Moved by: Students with Disabilities Representative; seconded by: Vice President, Academic & External

Motion passes.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2021-01-12-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on December 17, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: president; seconded by: Board of Governors 2

Motion passed.
6. Communications Received

None.

7. Appointments by Council

None.

8. Presentations

8.1 Update on Ascension Barber Shop Tenancy Agreement

Presented by the President

Documents to be circulated during meeting.

MOTION 2021-01-12-P1: Motion to move in-camera

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

Motion passes.

8.2 Update on International Students Isolation

Presented by the President

President states that the DSU is responding to student concerns about inequitable treatment of international students who are being mandated to quarantine in a hotel. The DSU is calling on the university, the government of Nova Scotia, and the Federal government to acknowledge and remedy the situation. Students are being forced to pay for accommodations when they would otherwise have places they can stay. Some students don’t have adequate food, internet, or heat. There is also an informational document attached that will be on the website shortly; it gives international students information about why this is happening and who is responsible. It also gives details about financing and who to contact if there are any issues.

Documents attached.

8.3 Presentation of Executive Feedback on the Dalhousie Consultation Framework

Presented by the President

Documents attached.

President states that earlier this month, the student affairs office asked council to give feedback on the Dalhousie Consultation Framework. The writing in black is from the university and that in red is by the DSU. President states that the DSU asks that students be consulted on all policies, rather than just key policies. The DSU also asks that consultation occur in an equitable manner and that students be compensated when consulted about policies.

Board of Governors 2 states that the comments in red weren’t included in the package.
President states that the PDF that was presented was the one that was sent.

9. Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

Motion 2021-02-12-11.1

WHEREAS international students and domestic members have raised multiple concerns over the inequitable treatment of international students returning to Nova Scotia to pursue a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS these students are calling for action from Dalhousie and the government; and

WHEREAS the University and government have failed to create meaningful, universally accessible supports for all international students returning to Nova Scotia;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached press release is endorsed by the DSU Council and published.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any updates on the situation be provided to Council in future executive reports of the President.

Documents attached.

Moved by: President; seconded by: Students with Disabilities Representative

Motion passes.

Abstention: Faculty of Agriculture Representative

Faculty of Agriculture Representative states that they wish to abstain from the vote because, while they agree with much of what is presented in this motion, they have not heard similar concerns from international students in their constituency.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report of the President

None.
12.2 Report of the Vice President, Internal
Will accept questions via email.

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 motion will appear on the agenda for the council meeting on January 26, 2020.

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Senate Student Caucus for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by Vice President Academic and External

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Society Review Committee for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the Vice President Internal

14. Announcements
The DSU Vice President, Internal and President are exploring how the DSU can support students who are a part of equity-deserving groups through policy. If you are a member who identifies with one of these groups and are interested in developing an Issues Policy under the DSU to advocate for the rights of your peers, please contact dsuvpi@dal.ca.

15. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn

Moved by: Students with Disabilities Representative; seconded by: Vice President, Academic & External

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56PM.