DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: June 23, 2021 – 6:00 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting on 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

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2021-06-23-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as presented.
4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2021-06-23-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on May 26, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

6.1. The President has received the resignation of the Vice-President, Academic and External. Hannah Surita Beaulieu will be resigning from her position due to personal reasons. We are wishing Hannah all the best and are thankful for her work during her time at the DSU as VPAE. 

*Document attached.*

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as a General Member to the Judicial Board.

*Moved by the President; Nomination to be brought forward by Oversight Committee.*

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.2

WHEREAS the DSU bylaws mandate that a minimum of three general members be elected to seats on the Student Life Committee, but do not impose any limit on how many additional general members may be appointed to the committee; AND

WHEREAS there are currently two general members on the Student Life Committee and at least one general member seat is still available; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individual(s) be appointed to the general member seat(s) on the Student Life Committee for 2021-22: ____________________.

*Moved by the Vice-President, Student Life; Nomination(s) to be brought forward by Oversight Committee.*

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.3

WHEREAS the President has received a written resignation from the Vice President, Academic and External; AND

WHEREAS section 4.6.c. of the DSU Bylaws states that “Should a vacancy arise in the office of a Councillor on or before October 31 of the year in which that person was elected, a by-election shall be held to fill such vacancy. In the case of a vacancy in the office of an Executive Officer,
Council will appoint a Councillor to fulfill the duties of the position on an interim basis until a by-election is called, provided that while the Councillor holds the office of an Executive Officer on an interim basis while still retaining their original position as Councillor, they will fulfill both the original duties of Councillor and the additional duties of Executive Officer but will only be permitted one vote at meetings of Council”; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Vice President, Academic and External until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the interim Vice President, Academic and External continue to fulfill their councillor duties in addition to their executive duties but only be permitted one vote at meetings of Council for the duration of their appointment, in accordance with DSU Bylaws.

Moved by the President.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Black Students’ Community Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Women Students’ Community Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.6

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Students with Disabilities Community Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.7

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Students in Residence Community Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.8

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Agriculture Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.9
BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Architecture and Planning Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.10

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.11

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Graduate Students Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.12

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Management Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

MOTION 2021-06-23-7.13

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as the interim Faculty of Health Professions Representative until the conclusion of the fall by-election.

Moved by the President; Nominee Statements of Intent Document attached.

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-06-23-11.1

CONTENT WARNING: Indigenous genocide, Residential Schools, violence against Indigenous peoples.
WHEREAS Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island have been mourning the lives of 215 children whose remains were found on the grounds of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Residential School in Kamloops, BC; AND

WHEREAS the number of Indigenous children's lives taken by those who operated residential schools across Turtle Island continues to grow, confirming the knowledge that residential school survivors and communities have consistently attempted to bring to light through their testimony in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; AND

WHEREAS the residential schooling system was a systematic and coordinated effort of genocide by the Canadian government and the Catholic Church, which continues to impact Indigenous communities across Turtle Island today, and survivors and their families especially; AND

WHEREAS the Canadian government who is responsible for this genocide and its ongoing effects has failed to implement the 94 Calls to Action that came out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report; AND

WHEREAS the DSU is located on the unceded and unsurrendered lands of the Mi’kmaq nation and fulfilling our treaty obligations involves not only supporting our Mi’kmaw and Indigenous members but supporting their families, communities and the first peoples of this land more broadly, including residential school survivors; AND

WHEREAS the DSU as a student union is a part of the colonial post-secondary education system and Dalhousie University specifically which has its own unique legacy of colonialism and colonial violence, our treaty obligations also include actively working towards the decolonization of the DSU, Dalhousie University, and the broader post-secondary education system, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU reaffirms our commitment to Indigenous students and communities by prioritizing the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action as well as our commitment to supporting efforts to decolonize Dalhousie University, particularly such efforts which are led by Indigenous students, faculty, and staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU writes to local MPs, relevant Provincial and Federal Ministers, and the Prime Minister on behalf of Dalhousie students to urge them to implement all 94 Calls to Action identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU donates $1000.00 to the Native Council of NS Social Youth Outreach Program.

Moved by the President. TRC Calls to Action are attached as a PDF document.

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
13. Notice of Motion

13.1. A motion to appoint students to any vacant seats on Student Senate Caucus for the 2021-22 year will be coming to Council in July.

13.2. A motion to appoint councillors to any vacant councillor seats on committees for the 2021-22 year will be coming to Council in July.

13.3. The following policies will be coming to Council in July with proposed amendments. The wording for the motions and the draft policy changes will be circulated to councillors two weeks in advance of the July meeting of Council.

- Equity Policy
- Hiring Policy
- Society Policy
- Bursary Policy

14. Announcements

14.1. Academic accommodations for Indigenous students currently enrolled in spring/summer courses, such as exam deferrals and deadline extensions, are available at this time. Indigenous students can reach out to their professors to request accommodations.

Resources currently available to Indigenous students include:

- Students can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-Hour National Residential School Crisis Line (1-866 925-4419).
- The Indigenous Students’ Community Representative on DSU Council, Micha Davies-Cole, is available for support and can be reached at dsufabos@dal.ca.
- The Elders in Residence program is available to students across campus for guidance, counsel and support.
- The Indigenous Student Centre helps create a sense of belonging to support student success while at Dalhousie. The Indigenous Student Advisor provides support and advocacy for all of Dalhousie’s Indigenous students.
- Dalhousie’s Human Rights and Equity Services provides confidential advice and support if a member of our community has faced race-based harassment and/or discrimination.
- Students who require immediate support should contact Student Health and Wellness by phone to book an appointment: 902-494-2171 (Halifax); 902-893-6369 (Truro). Additional e-mental health options for students are available, including Good2Talk – free and confidential.
counselling for post-secondary students (dal.ca/good2talk); Ask a Nurse – confidential answers to your health questions within 72 hrs; and TAO – an online mental health library.

14.2. The next meetings of Council will take place (tentatively) on July 21st and August 18th at 6:00pm on Microsoft Teams. The Fall Council schedule will be announced shortly.

15. Adjournment