DSU Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: August 18, 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm by the Council Chair

2. Roll Call

**PRESENT**

Madeleine Stinson – President
Truelee Love - Vice President, Internal
Mohab Brisha - Vice President, Finance and Operations
Aparna Mohan – Vice President, Academic and External (Interim) & Board of Governors Representative 2
Mazen Brisha - Vice President, Student Life
Patrick Oldfield - Faculty of Engineering Representative
Graham Headley - Faculty of Law Representative
Micha Davies-Cole - Indigenous Students’ Representative
Sydney Keyamo - Black Students’ Representative
Brij Vaghani – International Students’ Representative
Tam Pham - LGBTQ Students Representative
Lane Williams - Faculty of Health Professions Representative
Janna Albarda – Women Students Representative
Anna Gaudet – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS**

Miranda Walsh - Faculty of Dentistry Representative
Riley Lockhart - Faculty of Medicine Representative
Victoria Slipp – Students with Disabilities Representative
Kathleen Cabillan - Faculty of Science Representative

**Absent Without Regrets:** Sameer Mohammed - Faculty of Computer Science Representative
3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2021-08-18-3.1

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

Moved by International Students’ Representative
Seconded by Indigenous Students’ Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-3.1 Passes

Motion to Amend Agenda to Include MOTION 2021-08-18-11.6

Moved by the President
Seconded by Vice President, Academic and External

Motion Passes

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2021-08-18-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on July 21, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Faculty of Law Representative
Seconded by the President

MOTION 2021-08-18-5.1 Passes
6. Communications Received

None

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the following appointments to the Senate Caucus for the 2021-22 Academic Year:

Architecture and Planning Representative: _____ Elizabeth Grace Alexander
Continuing Education Representative: _____ Justin LoRusso
Graduate Students’ Representatives: _____
LGBTQ2S+ Students’ Representative: _____ Christina Flood

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External;
Seconded by Vice President, Internal
Nominations to be brought forward by the Executive Committee.

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.1 Passes

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as a Councillor to the External Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Academics and External
Seconded by Vice President, Finance and Operations
No Nominations were brought forward by Oversight Committee.

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.2 Passes

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as a Community Representative to the Offices Steering Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal;
Seconded by Vice President, Academics and External
Nominated and Appointed: Janna Albarda

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.3 Passes
BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ is appointed as a General Member to the Student Accessibility Fund Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal
Seconded by Vice President, Finance and Operations

No Nominations were brought forward by Oversight Committee. Oversight Committee is waiting until they receive more statements of intent from students with disabilities before bringing forward a nomination.

MOTION 2021-08-18-21-7.4 Passes

8. Presentations
None

9. Committee Reports
None

10. Old Business
None

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.1

WHEREAS the DSU currently offers two bursaries, one for international students and one for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS having a single policy which governs all bursary funds will make it easier for the union to create more bursary funds in the future and to have each bursary fund follow the same general principles, guidelines, and practices; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated, and as approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be repealed.

Document attached.

Moved by the President.

Seconded by Vice President, Academics and External

Discussions and Clarifications about the term “appropriate fund” under paragraph 1.3 of the bursary policy was addressed by the president.

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.1 Passes
Motion to postpone MOTION 2021-08-18-11.1 to an e-vote

Moved Indigenous Student Representative

Seconded by Vice President, Academic and External

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.1 Passes

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.2

WHEREAS the current Hiring Policy does not fully reflect the union’s updated Hiring Manual; and

WHEREAS updating the Hiring Policy in August will allow it to have full effect in September when new student staff begin working; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Hiring Policy be adopted as circulated, and as approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

Document attached.

Moved by the President.

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.2 Passes

Abstention: Indigenous Students’ Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.3

WHEREAS the current Equity Policy does not fully reflect the union’s updated Hiring Manual; and

WHEREAS updating the Equity Policy in August will allow it to have full effect in September when new student staff begin working; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Equity Policy be adopted as circulated, and as approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

Document attached.

Moved by the President.

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.3 Passes

Abstention: Indigenous Students’ Representative
MOTION 2021-08-18-11.4

WHEREAS the Equity Policy was originally adopted as an Issues Policy; and
WHEREAS the Equity Policy has, over time, become not only reflective of the union’s stance on equity but also inclusive of procedures and guidelines that members actively follow and that which the union enforces; therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Equity Policy be adopted as an Operations Policy of the union.

Document attached.

Moved by the President.
Seconded by Black Students’ Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.4 Passes

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.5

WHEREAS the Society Policy was due to be reviewed in June 2021; and
WHEREAS including more detail on processes such as appeals, society complaints, and society training before September will allow societies to begin the fall semester with a clear understanding of how these processes work and what is expected of them during the year; therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Society Policy be adopted as circulated, and as approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

Document attached.

Moved by the President.
Seconded by Vice President, Internal

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.5 Passes

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.6

WHEREAS the Halifax Regional Municipality has been consistently attempting to evict houseless people who are occupying temporary shelters in Kjipuktuk (Halifax), which have been created by Halifax Mutual Aid; and
WHEREAS on August 18th, 2021 the Halifax Regional Police led a violent, forcible mass eviction effort against houseless people from these temporary shelters; and
WHEREAS many protestors were injured and arrested during these events, including post-secondary students from Dalhousie and other institutions; therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU writes and releases a statement condemning the actions of the Halifax Regional Police in leading violent, forcible mass evictions of houseless people from shelters made by Halifax Mutual Aid; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this statement calls on the municipal and provincial government to immediately cease these evictions and put protections in place for those occupying temporary shelters in Kjipuktuk (Halifax), including revoking all fines issued to individuals occupying temporary shelters or protesting the evictions on August 18th; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU donates $500.00 to Halifax Mutual Aid from the sponsorship line of the operating budget in order to support their ongoing initiative to build shelters for houseless people in Kjipuktuk (Halifax).

Moved by the President
Seconded by Black Students’ Representative

MOTION 2021-08-18-11.6 Passes

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
   PDF Documents of All Reports are attached

13. Notice of Motion
   13.1 Seats on Elections Committee will be filled at the next meeting of council.

14. Announcements
   14.1 Council meetings for the fall and winter terms will be held on Mondays starting at 7pm and will follow a hybrid model of in-person and virtual elements until public health announces phase 5 of the COVID reopening plan. Unless a councillor informs the Chair of a reason that they cannot attend council meetings in-person, councillors will be expected to attend meetings in-person in the SUB’s Council Chambers. Due to COVID restrictions, general members who wish to attend council will attend virtually until restrictions are lifted, at which point they will be invited to attend in-person.

   The Council meeting dates are as follows for the 2021-22 fall and winter terms:
   Monday, September 13
   Monday, September 27
   Monday, October 18
   Monday, November 1
Monday, November 15
Monday, November 29
Monday, December 13
Monday, January 10
Monday, January 24
Monday, February 7
Monday, February 28
Monday, March 14
Monday, March 28
Monday, April 11
Monday, April 25

15. **Adjournment**

*Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm*