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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: December 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers (Student Union Building) and Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

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 2021-12-13-3.1

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 2021-12-13- 5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on November 29, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1 VPAE Winter 2022 Goal

Document attached

Presented by Vice-President, Academic and External

8.2 Strategic Plan Update

Document attached

Presented by President

8.3 Governance Review Update

Document attached

Presented by President

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Society Review Committee Report

Document attached

Presented by Vice-President, Internal

10. Old Business

MOTION 2021-12-13-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year be adopted.

Moved by Vice President, Finance and Operations; approved by Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

MOTION 2021-12-13-10.2

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, and must attend all meetings of Council and any Committees to which they are elected or appointed; and

WHEREAS Councillor Sameer Mohammed, Computer Science Representative, has been absent without regrets from 5 out of 9 meetings of DSU Council and has failed to attend Society Review Committee or Grants Committee meetings, of which he is a member; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Sameer Mohammed, 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 Sameer Mohammed 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.

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-12-13-11.1

WHEREAS the housing crisis in Halifax / Kjiptuk is deeply affecting Dalhousie students in a number of ways, and particularly financially; and

WHEREAS many students are facing emergency housing situations and are in need of funds to offset short-term, one-time costs; and

WHEREAS the rising costs of housing disproportionately affect marginalized community members; and

WHEREAS the Revised 2021-22 Operating Budget includes funds set aside to distribute an emergency housing bursary in February and March of 2022; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council approves the creation of an ad hoc Emergency Housing Bursary and ad hoc Emergency Housing Bursary Committee as outlined in the attached Terms of Reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the purpose of this ad hoc bursary is to support students who are facing a one-time financial need associated with a housing situation, particularly those needs which are tied to equity and/or accessibility issues and particularly students whose financial need is most severe and who have the least access to other resources and supports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the bursary is a total of \$10,000.00, allocated from the Bursary line of the Service department (line 6251 of department 112) in the revised Operating Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the funding limit per applicant is \$400.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee's membership shall consist of the DSU Vice-President Academic and External, another Executive Member, 2 Councillors, and 2 Members at Large; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the bursary's term extends until the end of the 2021-22 Fiscal year, or the time that the fund is resolved, whichever occurs first; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT eligibility and assessment criteria for this bursary will be as established in the attached Terms of Reference as well as the DSU Bursary Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Emergency Housing Bursary and its corresponding Committee will follow all other conditions as outlined in the DSU Bursary Policy.

Document attached.

Moved by Vice-President, Academic & External.

MOTION 2021-12-13-11.2

WHEREAS there is a lack of student consultation on programming for the Dalhousie Mental Health Forum and other University wellness programming and services; and

WHEREAS there is a need for Union programming such as O-Week, as well as society events on campus, to be looked at with a mental health lens to continue working towards the improvement of mental health and well-being for students on campus; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council strike an ad-hoc committee to inform and guide programming for Dalhousie's Annual Mental Health Forum and other University programming, as well as Union and society programming on campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee is named the Mental Health Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Committee is tasked with providing short-term and long-term recommendations for programming on campus to ensure that it reflects the mental health needs and concerns of students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these recommendations are utilized by the Executive Committee in the planning of DSU programming and events, and to advocate for the improvement of University mental health and wellness programming and broader University initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Union Committees such as the Student Life Committee, and DSU societies, can consult the Mental Health Committee on their programming and events either by attending meetings of the committee or by submitting a request to the Vice-President, Student Life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Committee is open to all members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Committee is chaired by the Vice-President, Student Life and includes at least 2 Councillors and 3 members-at-large; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT those who are interested in sitting as voting members of the Committee put their name forward to the Oversight Committee, who will then provide recommendations to Council regarding appointments; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee meet for a one (1) year term of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee submit a report to Council at the end of the Winter, Summer, and Fall semesters of the 2022 year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee's reports to Council include any recommendations regarding the improvement of Union and society programming, University programming such as but not limited to the Mental Health Forum, and other initiatives on campus.

Moved by Vice-President, Student Life.

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

14. Announcements

14.1 The Students with Disabilities Representative title will be known as the Disabled Students Representative moving forward. This change was brought forward by the current rep, Victoria Slipp, based on feedback from her constituency. Members of the constituency feel that changing the title to Disabled Students Rep more adequately represents the perspective of their community and that this change would make them feel better heard by their rep on council and by the DSU more generally. Other titles of community rep positions on council have also changed in the past, to reflect the most accurate and appropriate language for each community. A motion will be brought forward at the next General Meeting to officially update the councillor titles in the DSU Bylaws, based on current practice.

14.2 The DSU is engaging in a conversation around the in-house services of the Grawood, with hopes to increase turnout to events and make the space more engaging and inviting. Since the restructuring in 2019, the Grawood has not been as busy and we are looking to better understand students' perceptions and desires for the space!

Please share [this survey link](#) with your constituents! We'll share findings next semester for interest; operational decisions for the Grawood are under the purview of the DSU Bar Manager. Thank you!

14.3 The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022.

14.4 Council meeting dates for the Winter Term are as follows:

Jan 10	March 14
Jan 24	March 28 (Room 303 instead of Council Chambers)
Feb 7	April 11
Feb 28	April 25

15. Adjournment