Board of Governor’s Caucus Meeting

Date: February 11, 2022
Board Date: February 15, 2022
Present: Madeleine Stinson (DSU President), Murray Lyu (BoG Rep 1), Jonathon Frontain (BoG Rep 2).

Discussion on the Upcoming Agenda

Divestment

- At the November 2021 Board meeting, the DSU President’s report was focused on divestment, and presentation of that report included a request for the university to provide a report on the outcomes of past decisions at the Board regarding divestment. Dalhousie President, Deep Saini, noted that he would take lead in bringing further discussion to the FAIR and investment committees. At a January meeting of the Dalhousie and DSU Presidents, Dr. Saini assured this work was in progress.

The Dalhousie President’s Report

- No items of significant interest, student representatives will ask questions if they arise.

DSU President’s Report

- No items of significant interest, student representatives will speak to the importance of accessible education and responsible budget management.
- DSU President will ask for an update on the university’s report on divestment work after the presentation of their report.
Budget Advisory Committee Report LXII

- Student representatives will request a report on where the $1 million allocated to bursary and scholarship support goes.
- Student representatives will request a report on how student feedback was reviewed, considered, and integrated into the final report.
- Representatives discussed the need to advocate for Dalhousie to take a stronger stance on the province’s funding for post-secondary, and how this should become a much larger priority moving forward.
  - A tradition of increasing fees has not been matched with a traditional of increasing student supports and services.
  - Past tuition increases have often been higher than the rate of inflation for that year, so arguments for raising tuition based on inflation are not consistent. We need a broader conversation on how to manage inflation in the budget.
  - The constant increases build a divide on campus.

Dalhousie Accessibility Plan Report

- No items of significant interest, student representatives will ask questions if they arise.

Informal Discussion

- Divest DAL will be camping out on the Quad on February 14th before the Board meeting to advocate for divestment [this campout was later cancelled due to weather].
- The DSU is going to explore bringing a motion to Dalhousie Senate for Senators to re-endorse divestment (considering the previous 2016 report from Senate on fossil fuel divestment).
- The DSU will be bringing a report to the Board HR & Governance Committee to explain why Board Rep 2, Jonathon Frontain will be reappointed by the DSU for the 2022-23 academic year (in line with the results of the 2021 DSU By-Election), meaning during the Spring 2023 DSU election, both Board Rep seats will be open. To ensure that Boar Rep seats are staggered moving forward (so students can pass forward knowledge), Board Rep seat 1 will be a two-year term and Board Rep seat 2 will be a one-year term.