DSU Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: February 28, 2022 at 7:30 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 7:36pm by the Council Chair.

2. **Roll Call**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Madeleine Stinson – President</td>
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<td>Truelee Love - Vice President, Internal</td>
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<td>Mohab Brisha - Vice President, Finance and Operations</td>
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<td>Mazen Brisha - Vice President, Student Life</td>
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<td>Jonathon Frontain – Board of Governors Representative 2</td>
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<td>Stephen Abbott – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative</td>
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<td>Heemal Morakhia – Faculty of Computer Science Representative</td>
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<td>Miranda Walsh - Faculty of Dentistry Representative</td>
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<td>Graham Headley - Faculty of Law Representative</td>
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<td>Riley Lockhart - Faculty of Medicine Representative</td>
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<td>Kathleen Cabillan - Faculty of Science Representative</td>
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<td>Sydney Keyamo - Black Students’ Representative</td>
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<td>Micha Davies-Cole - Indigenous Students’ Representative</td>
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<td>Victoria Slipp – Disabled Students Representative</td>
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<td>Brij Vaghani – International Students’ Representative</td>
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<td>Tam Pham - LGBTQ Students Representative</td>
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<td>Emilia Cordova – Women Students Representative</td>
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<th>ABSENT WITH REGRETS</th>
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<td>Muyu (Murray) Lyu – Board of Governors Representative 1</td>
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<th>ABSENT WITHOUT REGRETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bianca Morelli – Residence Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Frey Verth – Vice President, Academic and External</td>
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<td>Zuhair Zaidi – Faculty of Engineering Representative</td>
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<td>Anika Declan – Faculty of Health Professions Representative</td>
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3. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION 2022-02-28-3.1

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

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by Black Students’ Representative*

*MOTION 2022-02-28-3.1 Passes*

**Motion to Amend Agenda**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Motion 13.1 be added to item 13: Notice of Motion on the agenda

*Moved by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative*

*Seconded by Disabled Students Representative*

*Motion Passes*

4. **Business Arising Out of the Minutes**

*None*

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

MOTION 2022-02-28-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on February 07, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by Black Students’ Representative*

*MOTION 2022-02-28-5.1 Passes*
6. Communications Received

None

Motion to Omnibus

Be it resolved that MOTION 2022-02-28-7.1 – 7.10 be voted upon in omnibus

Moved by President

Seconded by Women Students Representative

Motion Passes

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a general member seat on the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the President

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Hafsa Abbasi

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.1 Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a general member seat on the ad-hoc Wellness Bursary Committee.

Moved by the President

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Kate Fiander

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.2 Passes
MOTION 2022-02-28-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the ad-hoc Wellness Bursary Committee.

Moved by the President

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Emilia Cordova

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.3 Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the ad-hoc Mental Health Committee.

Moved by the Vice-President, Student Life

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Sydney Keyamo

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.4 Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the Student Life Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the Vice-President, Student Life

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Sydney Keyamo

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.5 Passes
MOTION 2022-02-28-7.6

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a community representative seat on the Offices Steering Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the Vice-President, Internal

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Emilia Cordova

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.6 Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.7

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the Society Review Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the Vice-President, Internal

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Emilia Cordova

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.7 Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.8

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the Grants Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the Vice-President, Finance and Operations

Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative

Nominated & Appointed: Heemal Morakhia

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.8 Passes
MOTION 2022-02-28-7.9

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to a faculty representative seat on the Oversight Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the President
Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative
Nominated & Appointed: Anika Daclan

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.9 Passes

Motion to add an extra blank to MOTION 2022-02-28-7.10

Moved by Black Students’ Representative
Seconded by Faculty of Science Representative

Motion Passes

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.10

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____, _____ be appointed to a councillor seat on the External Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by the Vice-President, Academic and External
Seconded by Faculty of Law Representative
Nominated & Appointed: Bianca Bella Morelli & Zuhair Zaidi

MOTION 2022-02-28-7.10 Passes

8. Presentations

8.1 Update on Implementation of Oversight Committee Recommendations
Presented by Chair of Oversight Committee and the President
Documents attached.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Board of Governor’s Caucus Report
Presented by the President
Documents attached.
10. **Old Business**

None

11. **New Business**

MOTION 2022-02-28-11.1

WHEREAS the 2021-22 Operating Budget includes $6000.00 for Indigenous Students programming; and

WHEREAS the Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective Acting President has spoken to the society’s interest in using these funds to create a bursary; and

WHEREAS these funds will move to the DSU’s reserve budget on March 31st, 2022, if not spent; and

WHEREAS there are many Indigenous Students at Dalhousie who face financial barriers to academic success and engaging in the student experience,

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the $6000.00 allocated towards Indigenous Students programming be utilized for an ad-hoc Indigenous Students Assistance Bursary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this bursary run until March 31st or whenever the funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT eligibility for this bursary be limited to students who self-identify as Indigenous and who demonstrate any degree of financial need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the ad-hoc Indigenous Students Assistance Bursary Committee consist of the Indigenous Students’ Representative on Council, a staff member from the DSU Equity & Accessibility Office, the DSU Vice President Internal (chairing), and the DSU Vice President Student Life (non-voting); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the maximum funds awarded to an individual be $500; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the ad-hoc Indigenous Students Assistance Bursary will have a single deadline, and the Committee will meet once to evaluate all applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this bursary follow all other terms as outlined in the Bursary Policy.
Moved by the President

Seconded by Black Students’ Representative

Documents attached.

MOTION 2022-02-28-11.1 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

13. Notice of Motion

WHEREAS Oversight Committee has determined through the Executive Review process and corresponding DSU Council MOTION 2022-02-07-11.1, that Mazen Brisha in his role as Vice-President Student Life of the DSU has failed to call a meeting of the Student Life Committee, has failed to adhere to mandates from DSU Council in MOTION 2022-02-07-11.1, and has reported false information to Council in various reports throughout his term; and

WHEREAS failing to call a meeting of the Student Life Committee, which the Vice-President Student Life chairs, violates section 5.8.f. of the DSU Bylaws which states that the Vice-President Student Life must “Attend all meetings of the Council and the Executive Officers and any Committees of which they are a member,” as well as section 6.5.a. of the DSU Bylaws which states that “Standing Committees shall meet as needed, but not less than once per semester”; and

WHEREAS failing to adhere to mandates from DSU Council violates sections 4.4.h. and 5.8.j. of the DSU Bylaws, which state that councillors shall “Carry out such other duties as Council may from time to time determine”; and

WHEREAS submitting false information to DSU Council through reports violates 4.4.a. of the DSU Bylaws, as well as section 1 of the DSU Code of Conduct Policy, which state that councillors shall “Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Union”; and
WHEREAS DSU Bylaw 4.8.a. states that “Councillors may be disciplined for the following reasons:

i. Failure to perform duties as outlined in the Bylaws, Policies, or the Statement of Office;

ii. Failure to attend Council meetings;

iii. Failure to attend Committee meetings of which the Councillor is a member;

iv. Failure to attend Society meetings of which the Councillor is an ex officio member;

v. Failure to attend meetings of University bodies or committees of which the Councillor is a member;

vi. Theft, fraud, or embezzlement;

vii. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest;

viii. Breach of confidentiality;

ix. Misuse of Union property; or

x. Refusal to sign the Statement of Office”; and

WHEREAS DSU Bylaw 4.8.b. states that “Council may vote by Special Resolution to take disciplinary action against a Councillor, including a verbal warning, a letter of censure, or recall to by-election”; and

WHEREAS DSU Bylaw 1.2.b. confirms that “Use of the words “includes” and “including”, whether or not used with the words “without limitation” or “but not limited to”, shall not be deemed limited by the specific enumeration of items but shall in all cases be deemed to be without limitation and construed and interpreted to mean “includes without limitation” and “including without limitation”; and

WHEREAS DSU Bylaw 4.8.b. - 4.8.f. further outlines the procedure for disciplining members of DSU Council; and

WHEREAS the DSU Oversight Committee is recommending that Mazen Brisha be removed from office;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mazen Brisha be removed from office immediately and that his April honorarium be forfeited.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mazen Brisha submit his DSU office keys, e-mail account passwords, and any equipment considered the property of the DSU to the Director of Facility Operations by 4pm Friday, March 18th.

14. Announcements

14.1 Campaigning in the DSU General Election begins tomorrow. Candidate debates are being held virtually in the evening from March 7-11. You can submit a question using the form at dsu.ca/elections. Attend to hear what your candidates have to say about key student issues.

Voting days are March 14 and 15! Remember to cast your vote and remind your peers/constituents to vote as well.

14.2 The next meeting of DSU Council is on March 14th. Councillors will be informed by March 7th as to whether the meeting will be held virtually or in a hybrid format.

15. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm