DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers (Student Union Building)

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 2022-09-13-3.1

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 2022-08-15-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on August 15, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2022-09-13-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Elections Committee for the 2022-23 academic year.

Moved by the President

Nominations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

MOTION 2022-09-13-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed as a general member to the Oversight Committee for the 2022-23 academic year.

Moved by the President

Nominations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

8. Presentations

8.1 Executive Goals Update

Presented by the Executive Committee

Documents attached

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business
11. New Business

MOTION 2022-09-13-11.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union’s audited financial statements for fiscal year 2022 are approved.

Moved by Vice President, Finance and Operations
Documents attached

MOTION 2022-09-13-11.2

WHEREAS the Union Bylaws mandate that Council shall approve the appointment of the Union’s auditor each year;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Union’s continued use of the firm BDO Canada for preparation of financial statements for the 2023 fiscal year.

Moved by Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2022-09-13-11.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Fall By-Election Schedule be approved as presented.

Moved by the President
Document attached

Recommended for approval by the Elections Committee

MOTION 2022-09-13-11.4

WHEREAS the Canadian Union of Public Employees (Local 3912) represents 3000+ part-time academics (PTAs), teaching assistants (TAs), markers and demonstrators in 4 bargaining units at Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University and Saint Mary’s University;

WHEREAS the Dalhousie Board of Governors approves contracts of employment between the University and its employee groups;

WHEREAS the previous Collective Agreement between the Board and CUPE 3912 expired on August 31, 2020 and negotiations are still ongoing to reach a new four-year agreement from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2024;

WHEREAS the hourly TA wage has remained at $24.41/hour (among the lowest within the U15 schools) and PTA base stipend at $5,232 per course ($2,000 below the national average) for the last two three and Dalhousie’s last proposed agreement (which was voted down by CUPE 3912 members) would only have increased both by about 2% or less per year over the agreement’s 4-year period with no back pay for TAs;
WHEREAS CUPE 3912 has been in a legal strike position since April 2022 and a strike this Fall at Dalhousie University would affect about 1,300 academic workers and may result in class cancellations and other disruptions to learning;

WHEREAS Dalhousie undergraduate domestic tuition has been increasing consistently by at least 3% annually since 2010 and international tuition has been increasing by an additional $1,473 above the general increase since 2019; and

WHEREAS working conditions for part-time academics, teaching assistants, markers and demonstrators define the learning conditions for students; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union stands in full solidarity with CUPE 3912’s demands for wage parity with U15 schools and adjustment for inflation and other improvements in working conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union write and release a statement of solidarity to be approved by Council via email.

Moved by the President

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 There will be a Climate Strike happening on September 23rd. Rally starts at 11:00am in Victoria Park. The DSU will be sharing more information on social media closer to the date.

14.2 The DSU Fall Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday, September 27th at 6:00 pm in the McInnes Room (SUB). Councillors should all be in attendance and spread the word to their constituents. The AGM is a chance for all general members to participate in the governance of the union and have their voice heard! There will also be an after-party in the Grawood and those in attendance at the AGM will receive a free drink ticket for the after-party.

14.3 Nominations for the fall by-election open on October 3rd and close on October 12th! Nomination forms become available on the DSU website starting September 19th.
14.4 The next meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Student Union Building.

15. Adjournment