DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 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 2022-10-25-3.1

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 2022-10-25-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on October 04, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1 AGM Debrief and Discussion

Presented by the Vice-President, Internal

8.2 Discussion on CUPE 3912 Strike Impacts in Each Faculty

Presented by the Vice-President, Academic and External

8.3 Update on Dalhousie University International Student Fee Proposal

Presented by the President

8.4 Discussion on Homecoming Response

Presented by the President

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2022-10-25-11.1

WHEREAS Bylaw 9.8 and section 5.4 of the Elections and Referenda Policy stipulate that referendum questions are subject to the approval of DSU Council; and
WHEREAS a referendum question must be accompanied by a petition in support of the proposal containing the full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least five (5) percent of members that the change in fees would affect (for changes to existing society levies), or at least ten (10) percent of members that the change in fees would affect (for new society levies); and

WHEREAS the Bylaws and Policies of the Union do not specify whether petition signatures for referenda must be collected physically or electronically and therefore would not prevent the collection of electronic petition signatures; and

WHEREAS allowing for the collection of electronic petition signatures in addition to physical ones will make the referendum process more accessible to the Union’s membership; and

WHEREAS the Elections Committee currently allows for candidate nomination signatures to be collected physically and/or electronically using a Microsoft Form that requires students to first sign in with their Dalhousie email address; and

WHEREAS following this procedure for referenda petition signature collection would ensure consistency during the Winter General Election; and

WHEREAS the use of a specific platform (i.e. Microsoft Forms) for petition signature collection which has additional measures for security (i.e. requiring students to sign in with their Dalhousie email) is important in order to minimize any fraudulent signatures,

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Elections Committee and DSU Council will accept physical and/or electronic signatures for referendum petitions during the 2022-2023 year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT electronic signatures for referendum petitions must only be collected through a Microsoft Form that requires students to sign in with their Dalhousie email address.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that no electronic petition format other than Microsoft Forms be accepted for referenda petitions during the 2022-2023 year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Elections Committee will provide a report to DSU Council in April 2023 regarding electronic signature collection for referendum petitions, including any recommendations for amendments to the Elections and Referenda Policy.

Moved by Chair of the Elections Committee

Recommended for approval by the Elections Committee

MOTION 2022-10-25-11.2

WHEREAS on September 13, 2022 DSU Council approved a motion stating that the 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; and

WHEREAS negotiations between Dalhousie University and CUPE 3912 failed on October 18th and CUPE 3912 has been legally on strike since October 19th; and
WHEREAS the External Committee is meeting on Thursday, October 27th from 2-3 PM in the SUB Council Chambers to host a letter-writing session for DSU members to write letters to Dalhousie Administration in solidarity with CUPE 3912,

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of DSU Council are strongly encouraged to write to Dalhousie University administration expressing their support for living wages and fair working conditions for CUPE 3912 and calling for Dalhousie University to return to negotiations immediately and meet CUPE’s demands, to facilitate a swift end to the strike.

Moved by the Vice-President, Academic and External

MOTION 2022-10-25-11.3

WHEREAS on October 1st, 2022, some students studying at Dalhousie University attended unsanctioned street parties spurred by Canadian Party Life; and

WHEREAS the unsanctioned events heavily impacted many Dalhousie students and community members in the surrounding areas through property damage and noise complaints; and

WHEREAS Dalhousie University and the City of Halifax failed to develop a cohesive and proactive plan to address the unsanctioned gatherings,

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union write and release a statement in response to unsanctioned street parties that took place during Homecoming in October 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this statement be reflective of discussion and consultation from Councillors during this October 25th meeting of Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this statement be circulated to councillors for approval via e-mail on Wednesday, October 26th with a deadline of Friday, October 28th for submission of votes.

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 The DSU’s Annual Survey went live on October 24th. Please fill it out and share it with your constituents!

14.2 Voting in the DSU Fall By-Election is now open and closes at 11:59pm tomorrow, October 26th! Remember to cast your vote and spread the word about voting.

14.3 External Committee is meeting on Thursday, October 27th from 2-3 PM in the SUB Council Chambers. They will be hosting a letter-writing session, for members of the DSU to write letters to Dalhousie Administration in support of CUPE 3912, as well as with their thoughts about the University’s newly proposed international tuition model. All DSU members are welcome to attend!

14.4 There will be a goal-setting session for DSU Councillors on November 1st from 6-7 PM in Room 224 of the SUB. Come on out to brainstorm your goals for the year and how to go about achieving them. This is an opportunity to connect and collaborate with your fellow councillors. There will be food!

14.5 The DSU is hosting a Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Town Hall on November 14th. Save the date!

14.6 The next meeting of DSU Council will be held on Tuesday, November 15th at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers (SUB).

15. Adjournment