DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, January 26, 2024 - 6:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers

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 2024-01-26-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as presented.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2024-01-26-4.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on January 12, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

5. Communications Received

6. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2024-01-26-6.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ________ is appointed to Councillor seat on the External Committee for the 2023-24 year;

Moved by Vice President, Academic and External

MOTION 2024-01-26-6.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ is appointed to the Faculty of Computer Science Representative seat on the DSU Council for the year 2023-2024;

Moved by President

Recommended by the Oversight Committee

Document Attached

MOTION 2024-01-26-6.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT __________ is appointed to the Faculty of Health Professions Representative seat on the DSU Council for the year 2023-2024;

Moved by President

Recommended by the Oversight Committee

Document Attached
MOTION 2024-01-26-6.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ______________ is appointed to the Disabled Students’ Community Representative seat on the DSU Council for the year 2023-2024;

Moved by President

Recommended by the Oversight Committee

*Document Attached*

### 7. New Business

MOTION 2024-01-26-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Elections and Referenda Policy be adopted as circulated.

Moved by the President.

*Document attached*

MOTION 2024-01-26-7.2

Be it resolved that the DSU Council approves the Dalhousie Medical Student Society’s referenda question:

*Do you support increasing the Dalhousie Medical Student Society (DMSS) fee from $59.00 to $67.00 annually for full time students? This question applies only to the Halifax and NB campuses.*

MOTION 2024-01-26-7.3

Be it resolved that the DSU Council approves the Dalhousie Agricultural Student Association’s referenda question:

*Do you support increasing the Dalhousie Agricultural Student Association (DASA) student fee levy from $77.47 to $80.00 for full time students and from $38.20 to $40.00 for part-time students and do you also support an annual increase of the DASA student fee levy of no more than 3.5% per year for the next three years, provided the increase is used to maintain current services and is approved annually by both the Society Review Committee (SRC) and the Board of Directors? This question applies only to the Truro campuses and includes the fall, winter and summer semesters.*

MOTION 2024-01-26-7.4
WHEREAS, Postdoctoral fellows (Postdocs) at Dalhousie University, numbering approximately 150, play a crucial role in conducting vital research on topics such as COVID-19, cancer, plastics in oceans, and battery-powered vehicles, contributing significantly to the academic community;

WHEREAS, Postdocs work closely with students, including those involved in undergrad experiential learning, honours projects, and advanced research projects, thereby enhancing the academic experience and imparting practical skills;

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, December 13, postdocs voted to reject the final offer from Dalhousie and have given their bargaining team a strong strike mandate, highlighting concerns about inadequate wage increases during a period of record inflation;

WHEREAS, A potential strike action could impact students directly, particularly those working closely with postdocs, and indirectly, as faculty members may be required to address the resulting workload;

WHEREAS, Improvements to the working conditions of postdocs would not only benefit the postdoctoral community but also positively impact many Ph.D. students for whom becoming a postdoc is a logical career progression;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DSU Council expresses its support for the Postdoctoral fellows in their bargaining efforts and authorizes the writing of a letter to Dalhousie University, urging a fair and timely resolution to the ongoing negotiations.

Moved by Vice President, Academic and External

8. Executive Reports

8.1 Report of the President
8.2 Report of the Vice-President, Internal
8.3 Report of the Vice-President, Finance & Operations
8.4 Report of the Vice-President, Academic & External
8.5 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life

9. Announcements

9.1 The next meeting of DSU Council will be held on Friday, January 26th at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers (SUB).

9.2 DSU Winter General Elections Nominations open on January 29, 2024 at 8 AM to February 9 at 5 PM.
9.3 Queer Hangout on Feb 5th 6-9 PM, RM 303 in SUB!

9.4 Paint Night on Feb 7th 6-9, Council Chambers in SUB!

9.5 Drag Show on Feb 8th at the Grawood!

9.6 CSS Snowball Awards 2024 on Feb 9th at the SUB!

10. Adjournment