

**DSU Annual General Meeting**  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Acceptance of the Agenda**

**Motion: to accept the agenda**

Moved by Kayla, seconded by Dustin.

Motion CARRIED

**3. Constitutional Amendments**

- Will go through all of the amendments. If there's something you want to debate, make a motion to sever.
- Title changed from preamble to objectives. Added title to definitions. Added definition of constitution. Defined DSU policies. Struck off "societies recognized by the union" for just "societies", as defined already.
- Change regulation to policies. Policy handbooks will follow. Policies can be changed by council with two week notice. By-laws must be changed at AGM.
- Clarified language around exec not being able to work elsewhere.
- Substantial change around senate seats. Currently there are 4 that the DSU appoints. There are actually, 6- one is the president, and one is the VP A&E. Of the 4 currently elected at large, one must be a grad student. Grad studies is very different, and it's important for them to have representation. Some senate committees require a grad student to be appointed. The change is this: Grad senator is currently elected at large. In the future, grad senator will be an exec from DAGS. Up until last year, DAGS only represented about half of grad students. Engineers and a couple other groups weren't a part. After a referendum, now all groups are a part of DAGS (minus MBA). No one has run for grad senate seat in the last 3 years. Recently, it's been someone from DAGS filling the seat, which has been effective. Want to codify into operating policy.
- Clarify that VPFO is appointed by outgoing council.
- Add another seat to council, one rep from faculty of agriculture. We're in the process of merging with NSAC. It hasn't been finalized, but we're getting close. Target is to have those students being Dal students starting Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Statement of office document, "as amended from time to time," so we can change things such as the year.
- Appeal section in the judicial board section (we send them matter on interpretations of constitution, policies, etc.) was recommended to be removed by our lawyer, as it was a little redundant.
- Fees and levies can no longer be approved at an AGM, but must go to a referendum. Verifying 3500 signatures isn't really reasonable, and it's very easy for referendum questions to be run.
- Instead of relisting all positions to be elected, referred to section above.

- VPFO recruitment has already been defined, so was deleted.
- Added section heading in general meetings. Defined two different types- annual, which has to be held, and special meetings. Before, it wasn't defined that you had to have a general meeting every year.
- Strike out act of incorporation, because we can't actually change it.
- We can now recall members of our board of operations. Board members can also recall board members.
- Again, can't amend act of incorporation.
- Added titles explaining what policies are. Haven't been categorizing policy like that for a long time, so it didn't make sense to have.
- Notice of motion section redundant.
- Policy has to be changed to change policy. Can't just change with a motion at council.
- Changed the structure of the Board of Operations to be more shifted towards students. Currently, the chair is VPFO. In the future, will hire a student to chair the board. The board oversees the health plan, referendum questions, and looks at financial, operational, legal considerations. The board has 5 exec, 5 non-exec students, and then the chair as members. Currently the VPFO is a voting member; this will no longer be the case. They simply bring issues to the board. This makes the composition of the board 6 voting students, 4 voting exec. GM and 2 alumni also sit on the board (non-voting). VPFO is also vice-chair.
- Board members can't work as employees. Chair is responsible for reporting to council. VPFO is responsible for taking notes.
- Crossed out the policy of how the board operates- will be in committee policy.
- Added plebiscite word to by-laws. All referenda must be approved prior to election nominations starting.

**Motion: to accept all constitutional amendments as presented**

Moved by Chris, seconded by Kayla

Motion CARRIED

Jon MaGill, Evan Price and Sarah Estrin in abstention.

**4. Reports of the Executive**

**a. Vice President (Internal)**

- Society resources
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> annual society training.
  - o Society of the month winner. Turned into bimonth winners. Won a VIP night at Grawood, and info on front page of website.
  - o Society collaboration meetings. These were informal, roundtable, open space sessions. Usually had 15-20 members show up to about problems, challenges.
  - o Grants funding was increased by \$10 000 by semester.
  - o Society marketing package. Email in events, and they will be advertised via website, email, facebook page.
  - o Society handbook.

- Society mascot (Sammy the Sociable Salmon).
- Communications
  - Office space for societies (Sandbox). Came out of consultation with societies looking for office space.
  - Started a council blog.
  - We have a mobile site/app.
- Accessibility and diversity
  - Accessible table was acquired for the lobby.
  - Number of accessibility bursaries increased from 2 to 5.
  - Planned Diversity Week, Pink Day and Live Well.
  - Improved food bank operations.
  - Started responsible drinking committee.
- Leadership programming
  - Working on first TedX event.
  - Brains for Change: over 150 students attended.
  - Sandbox.

#### **b. Vice President (Finance and Education)**

- Was more operations focused, and so transferred lots of duties towards that.
- Goals towards financial management
- SUB expansion
  - Addressed this over the summer. Has progressed, but will take a lot longer than 12 months.
- Grawood
  - Made 'lean canvas' business model for Grawood.
  - Charted business aspects, and who it was catering to. Found a couple of problems, and a couple of strengths.
  - Developed a business strategy around booking bands, where the booking fee equals ticket sales.
  - Recommends campus outreach through teams.
- Effectively advertised and filled all DSU positions.
- Innovation Program
  - Established incubator student space "innovation program". Leadership program... resources lacked.
  - Created innovation program so people could have interest free loans, business support
- Financial management
  - Over the summer, did a cash flow analysis. Took 1.2 million off balance sheet and into market (low and medium risk investments). 2.7 million in trust. In last 5 years, our investments have yielded 12.5% return.
- Improved society audit process
  - In the accounting office, the coop student who did audits first term, has stayed on as commissioner for second semester. He is available to meet with groups who have failed their audits .

### **c. Vice President (Academic and External)**

- Academic
  - Co-curricular record launched a few weeks ago. It's a record that goes alongside your transcript, and showcases your extra-curriculars, work, conference attendance, etc. You can start making a profile right now.
  - Student Ratings of Instruction. At the end of every class, you are supposed to fill out a form about the teacher. After this term, those ratings will be available online.
  - Academic integrity. Talk about overhauling appeals processes. A few years ago, discipline hearing process was overhauled. Appeal process (ie. don't like a grade) is different across departments, and biased against the student.
- External
  - ANSSA.
    - ANSSA had two seats at negotiating table for MOU. Will be working to mitigate the effects of those cuts.
    - ANSSA had working groups for the first time ever.
    - Worked with Pathways to Education. Tutoring or mentoring high school youth in Spryfield. Let her know if you're interested.
  - CASA.
    - Chris will talk about.
- Team.
  - DSU had summer camp called Power of Word (PoW). This was run by volunteer Dal students, and coordinated by Dal students.
- Leadership department.
  - Bigger Pitcher Series. Jamie started last year with Brains for Change. Students to get together and talk about ideas. Sometimes there are also speakers.

### **d. Vice President (Student Life)**

- 5 key objectives
- 1<sup>st</sup> year engagement
  - O-Week was focused on moving away from res-competitions, making a Dal identity, and exposing students to opportunities. Randomized groups, and strengthened faculty orientation. Moving forward- get them to become O-Week leaders! This process has already been started.
- Grawood
  - Has taken up a lot of time. Building up the Friday night music scene. Opportunity to impact 400 students every week, in low commitment way. Succeeded in making it a good place for Friday night. Need to make it good for during the day/week.
- Leadership & innovation
  - This was his baby. Opportunity for students to very directly engage with the DSU. Have only scratched the surface.
- Turning SUB into a Hub

- Trying to turn the SUB into the living room of campus. Introduced a chalkboard wall and info desk mural. Hosted beer gardens and concerts in the lobby. Bookshare and musicshare programs coming soon. Still need to work on that. Larger than life chess set?

#### **e. President**

- Has three main jobs. 1. Lobby the government. 2. Lobby university administration. 3. CEO of union.
- External advocacy.
  - ANSSA and CASA.
  - He focused lots of attention on CASA. The organization has 26 other school members, and 320 000 student members. Was chair of board of directors. Took up a fair amount of time. Dal is a strong school when it comes to advocacy.
- University advocacy.
  - Touch on bigger things that happened. Tuition fees went up. MOU that kept tuition frozen ended. Tuition was allowed to increase 3% for general programs, and more for international differential fees and professional programs. University proposed a 10% increase for international, but this was lowered to 6.5% because we lobbied. The university must also write a report on how that money was used for international students.
  - The way fees were raised was embarrassing. Students had very little time to advocate on their own behalf before the vote. The board was pretty upset with the admin for doing that to students. And so, came up with policy of how to consult with students. Fee increases must be announced at least a month before board makes a decision. Must be public consultation session, widely advertised. More transparent of a process. That policy is being followed this year, and will be voted on as governing policy at next board meeting.
- NSAC merger
  - Worked with students at NSAC to make sure they are adequately represented.
- Internal initiatives
  - Were mostly covered by VPs.
  - Leadership department: Pulled all separate parts out and made a department. Shows it is a key priority. Allows them to build a structure. Making a strategic plan for the next 5 years.
- Municipal involvements
  - Will have voter registration drive. We don't spend much time talking to our municipal government, but they have a huge impact on student lives. The municipal elections are coming up, and they just changed rules around eligibility. Before, students only here for 8 months couldn't vote. Rules are being interpreted towards students.

- Last year, we decided not to join with the university on a joint food contract.
- Now we're asking the question- How do we do food right?
- This year, we investigated the possibility of self operative. This would involve all our own staff, decisions, organization, etc. It IS POSSIBLE, but it's also very scary. It would result in doubling the number of DSU staff members.
- Currently going out to RFP. We've presented companies with our values, and are asking "what can you do for us"? Not looking for profit and loss model. We're looking at more innovative models. Share any profits and losses. When we get them back, we will compare.
- How can you help? Created online survey. What are your top 5 priorities when it comes to food in this building? Website is <http://svy.mk/zo6yTJ>
- Timeline. February 21<sup>st</sup>- RFP opens opens. March 16<sup>th</sup> - RFP ends. April 4<sup>th</sup> - presentation to council and board. Also a public presentation. April 11<sup>th</sup> - Board recommendation prepared. April 18<sup>th</sup> - council decision.

## 5. Question and Answer Period

Liam: if SUB goes into self-op, what happens to Tims, Pizza Pizza, etc.

Chris: Tims would stay. It's an anchor to this building. Right now, it's a franchise run by Sodexo. It's needed to be profitable. On self-op, we could franchise, or make our own.

Aaron: Excited but sceptical about consolation. We don't want tuition fees to increase, but they're not going to listen. Part 2. Tom Trave's salary continues to go up as tuition goes up.

Chris: Anecdotaly, yes. Law students requested for tuition increases to be used a certain way for their program. Yes, sometimes the administration makes a decision and sticks their feet in it, but we still need a chance. A \$422 health professions fee was pulled last year less than two days after the DSU found out, when they pointed out flaws.

Part 2: How do we make them not increase tuition when they can? That's hard. We can help the university identify important services- this is what happened with the learning disabilities coordinator last year.

Felix Kettleman: Last year you called for meaningful consultation. How much change has occurred between your draft policy and what will be seen at the Board of Governors vote?

Chris: Felix has a lobby document calling for a consultation document. Lawyers have assisted in drafting a policy. In the actual policy, the situations in which student input must be recruited are specifically laid out. Student input needs to be taken into account in fee increases, or the reason why student input is ignored has to be given. After public consultation is held, a document for president is prepared. Currently quibbling over how that report is given to students. Do they see the same report, or some other document?

Felix: for Sarah and Chris. They mentioned MOU. There are parts of the MOU that don't apply to current students. Fees would be deregulated for international and out-of-province students? Our president has lobbied for changes in allocation.

Chris: Not happy with government. 3% tuition cap only applied to this year. Who knows where it will be next year. There is a lot of uncertainty right now. Don't know what it will look like next year. Regarding how the funding formula works- yes, we want a change to formula, because it's a little unfair (says Dal) towards Dalhousie. There are stipulations that mean Dal gets less money per student. One major component is enrolment figures. Numbers are being used from back in the 90s. We've expanded, but are not getting money to follow that. Dal has grown more than other universities. Other universities need that money to operate, and don't want those cuts.

## 6. Announcements

- After party of sorts down in the Grawood.
- Elections are next week. [Dsuelections.ca](http://Dsuelections.ca).
- Opening session for Sandbox next Wednesday night at 6:30.
- Innovation program is happening right now. Will be giving away \$20 000 in interest free start-up loans.
- Candidate Kareoke tomorrow night at the Grad House.
- Charity Ball will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mellotones will play. We will be supporting the local chapter of United Way. Theme is red and sparkly silver. Weekly planning meetings. See Evan or join Facebook group if you like to help plan. Thursdays at 7pm.

## 7. Adjournment

**Motion: to adjourn the meeting**

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Jon

Motion CARRIED