

**DSU Annual General Meeting**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
*Called to order 6:39; adjourned 8:18*

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Appointment of Chair**

**Motion: nominate Ben Wedge as chair**

Moved by Aaron Wolf, seconded by Beth Croteau

Declared APPOINTED

**3. Acceptance of the Agenda**

**Motion: accept the agenda as presented**

Moved by Mark, seconded by Beth Croteau

**Motion: suspend Section 9, By-law 5 for the duration of this meeting**

Moved by Jamie Arron, seconded by Aaron Wolf

Motion CARRIED

Beth Croteau, Matthew FitzGerald-Chamberlain, Andrew Mecke in opposition

**Motion: add a constitutional amendment regarding external advocacy as item 5a**

Moved by Jamie Arron, seconded by Josh Gummert

Motion CARRIED

**Motion: add a constitutional amendment regarding By-law 3, section 17, which would allow an executive to returning to a job they already have after their term**

Moved by Matthew FitzGerald-Chamberlain, seconded by Sagar Jha

Motion CARRIED

**Motion: change every reference to Sexton Campus in the constitution to 'the better campus'**

Moved by Beth Croteau, seconded by Phil

Motion FAILED

Motion CARRIED

**4. Annual Report and Strategic Plan**

- Introduction to executive: Jamie Arron (president), Aaron Wolf (VP Internal), Edgar Burns (VP Finance & Operations), Aaron Beale (VP Academic & External), and Gavin Jardine (VP Student Life)
- Goals for the year: took a lot of time getting to know each other, and developing a shared vision. What are the building blocks: visibility, access, and accountability; support grassroots leadership; harness our collective voice; make the SUB into a HUB
- Goal #1: Visibility, access, and accountability

- Soapbox
- New website
- Student outreach (cultural, summer fun);
- Integrating Truro- worked with DASA, and developed MOU
- Enhancing communications- bi-weekly dispatch, increased social media presence, to do list in SUB, online budget
- Improving governance- live-streaming council, town hall events
- Goal #2: Support grassroots leadership
  - Simplified how to get grants and ratify a society
  - New Tiger Society, with a centralized events calendar
  - More tailored society training
  - Society transition training
  - Hands On event, making clear entry points into the DSU
  - Free School
  - TedXNS
- Goal #3: Harness our collective voice
  - Municipal elections- hosted debates, developed candidate score cards
  - Motions to the Board of Governors re: transparency
  - Budget deficit
  - Students Unite
  - DSUSO
  - Taking on certain social issues
  - Investment fund
  - Let's Talk series, Know Your Rights series
- Goal #4: Turn the SUB into a HUB
  - Food service
  - SUB fun (book nook, foosball, instrument share, Switch, 24 hour study space, wellness room, movie screening, music)
  - Planning for SUB renovations

### **VP Internal**

- Communication: improved social media strategy, improved web presence (website, Tiger Society, Tiger Books)
- Societies: streamlined society policy, Tiger Society 2.0
- Sexton Advisory: opened T-Room during daytime hours; forms available on Sexton Campus, lobbied university to keep space, SAC developed master plan for underused office.

### **VP Finance and Operations**

- Budget process: did budget process right.
- SEED project: putting money where our mouth is.
- Society audits: need to get Dal to release money to student union faster.

### **VP Academic and External**

- Senate reform proposal: currently, senators don't have a constituency. Proposal to have 1 student senator per faculty.
- Dal Vision2020
- Speakers and Workshops: engaged students who weren't normally involved in the union.
- Community relations
- Awareness campaigns: First Nations and aboriginal, Halloween without racism,

- sexual assault and consent, mental health awareness
- Campaigns: started Students Unite. Main demand is to convert loans into grants. Held Kraft Dinner cookout, student debt bash
- Making headlines: Zombie walk, 25 puppies for 25 million
- Dal budget work: probably will come up next year. Engaged international students
- Lobbying: had policy passed at NDP convention. Went to all 3 policy meetings of main political parties.

## **VP Student Life**

- O-Week: had more leaders than ever before; increased scope of Dalfest- highest attendance ever
- Puppy Room! Received more media attention than ever before- more than 500 media outlets internationally covering it.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. External organization**

**Motion:** BIRT the constitution be amended in the following way (*note that red denotes changes*):

#### **By-law VII - Other Organizations**

1. Any group that wishes:
  - (a) to use the University name; or
  - (b) to solicit funds, membership, or clientele from among the members of the Union, or any part thereof; or
  - (c) to represent the Union as an external advocacy group and
  - (d) to use the facilities of the University for the activities of such group;
 shall make an application for recognition by Council as a Society and shall conform to the By-laws and to any Policies.

#### **Reports to Council**

2. Any Society under the jurisdiction of the Union may be required to present to Council a written report of the activities and financial condition of such Society if, in the opinion of Council, there are reasonable grounds to so require.

#### **Examination by Society Review Committee**

3. For the better administration of finances and the activities of its members, the Society Review Committee shall have the right to examine the records, reports, or minutes of any society under the jurisdiction of the Union.
4. The Society Review Committee shall report any significant results of such examination to Council at the next regular meeting of Council.

#### **External Advocacy Groups**

5. The union shall not enter into an agreement, partnership and/or membership with an external advocacy group where the external organization's by-laws, policy and/or constitution propose to supersede those of the Union.
6. The Union shall not denounce its full membership within an external advocacy group unless a successful referendum is run according to By-law XIV of the Constitution in which the result is in favor of renouncing its full membership with its external federal advocacy group.

7. The Union shall not enter into any new agreements or partnerships with external advocacy group including but not limited to, the *Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)* and the *Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)*, unless a successful referendum is run according to By-law XIV of the Constitution in which the result is in favor of joining an external federal advocacy group.

8. Any proposal to join an external advocacy group shall first be subject to a full review of legal, operational, and financial considerations by the Board of Operations prior to coming forward to Council.

9. The Union may change its existing membership status-level within an external advocacy group through a vote at Council, provided Council has been provided with thirty (30) days notice, and the information made public via the DSU website, and the Board of Operations has reviewed the proposal for operational, financial, and legal considerations.

Moved by Jamie Arron, seconded by Curtis Johnston

- Defines what is an external advocacy group
- We don't want to join an external organization that may undermine our autonomy
- We can't enter or exit any external organization without running a referendum
- Any proposal to join an external organization will be legally and financially reviewed by the Board of Operations, then come to council
- We may choose our existing status in an advocacy group through a vote at council

Curtis: Council was very happy the executive brought this forward. It holds us to a higher accountability.

Beth: It's great that we have policy. Would like to change Section 9 to say membership level, not status (taken as a friendly amendment).

Motion CARRIED

#### **b. Creating a Islamic Community rep**

##### **Motion:**

**BIRT the position of Islamic Cultural Community Representative be added to represent the Muslim Students' Community as part of the Dalhousie Student Union Council.**

**BIFRT Islamic Cultural Community Representative will be elected as a member of the Maritime Muslim Students' Association at Dalhousie University.**

Moved by Jamie Arron, seconded by Aaron Wolf

Jamie: A Council rep is likely not the best way to achieve these goals. Exec has talked about creating an Equity and Inclusion Coordinator (cost-neutral). They would be a direct liaison with different cultural groups on campus.

Rianne Wolf: Originally tried to convince Ramz to create a West-Asian rep; this seems to be an overtly religious position. It will serve to open a Pandora's box that we'll regret for years to come. May cause all religious body's to demand a rep.

##### **Motion: Limit speaking time**

Moved by Jamie Arron, seconded by Beth Croteau

Motion CARRIED

Sam Vlessing: Understands the idea behind it, and it has merit, but this is not the right way to approach it. No other institution has ever added a religious rep to a secular council. It sets a very dangerous and arguably irreversible precedent. If this goes through, where do we say no one else can join? There are other minorities we don't even know about.

Ramz Aziz: This was never meant to cause discord. At the end of the day, let's look at the goals. How do we address discrimination? Agrees with Equity Coordinator position, although would like to suggest a few changes. He's happy the initial proposal led to something. Personally agrees with proposal to retract. The aim was simply to start a conversation that addresses the problem.

Motion FAILED

Andrew Mecke in abstention

Matthew Fitzgerald-Chamberlain, Aaron Beale J.D Hutton, Ramz Aziz, Sagar Jha, Danny Shanahan voted for

**c. Renaming a health professions rep**

**Motion: Be it resolved that the Constitution (and DSU Council policy) be amended to replace the "two (2) representatives from the field of health professions from the Health Sciences Student's Association (HSSA), excluding members from the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry;" with two (2) representatives from the Faculty of Health Professions.**

Moved by Andrew Mecke, seconded by Curtis Johnston

Andrew: HSSA is not a representative organization.

Motion CARRIED

**d. Adding second commerce rep**

**Motion: Be it resolved that the Constitution (and DSU Council policy) be amended to remove the representative from the Faculty of Management and add 2 representatives from the Rowe School of Business (one to Represent Commerce and one to represent Management).**

Moved by Andrew Mecke, seconded by Hima Merdan

- Increasing number of reps. Commerce and management are different programs, but cycle through reps every year. The Faculty of Management is slightly smaller, but almost equivalent to engineering, who has two councillors.

Danny: Where we value groups not feeling underrepresented, this is important to make both groups feel represented.

Motion CARRIED

Alana Fleet in abstention

Thomas Eaton, Curtis Johnston, Aaron Beale and Edgar Burns opposed

**e. Executive Employment After Term**

Chair rules that this item should never have been let onto the agenda. Over-ruling Section 9, By-law 5 got rid of the need for two weeks notice, but not the need for the amendment to be approved by council or brought forth via a petition.

**Motion: Challenge the chair**

Moved by Matthew FitzGerald-Chamberlain, seconded by Christopher Firth

Motion FAILED

**6. Question & Answer Period**

William Coney: King's constitution has an Equity Affairs committee; formally request you to look at that structure when developing your own position.

Matthew Chamberlain: (to Aaron Beale) How do you respond to suggestions that the academic side of your portfolio has been neglected?

Aaron Beale: Would say it's been done and way more. Even before he was voted in, advocated for the position to be split. He didn't sit on a couple Senate committees, but proposal for senator reform was important- we can't make meaningful change without being represented. DalVision2020 is seen to be an academic thing.

Jamie Arron: Has been regularly doing check-ins with executives, and the main functions have always been done. Been doing it all and a whole lot more, maybe just differently than previous years.

Jon Magill: re: equity coordinator. Where's the money coming from to make it cost-neutral?

Aaron Wolf: Traditionally, there has been an accessibility fund that's not very well used. What the person is doing will have to be related to accessibility. This change will go through the proper channels.

Danny Shanahan: Wants to know about Burrito Jax.

Edgar Burns: Burrito Jax will be here Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. They will be at Global Village from 12-4:30pm

Curtis Johnston: re: splitting up the academic and external position. Have you looked into reasons why they got rid of it, and what are the changes in landscape?

Aaron Beale: Part of his vision is to split up the position. Exec should be doing things that require agency, not the minute tasks. All future VPAEs will prioritize one or the other. Campaigns weren't part of the union before. It's important to mobilize students and engage them in the issues.

Jamie Arron: There's no formal document ready to go, but we're always reflecting on what we're doing.

William Coley: What would the plan be with current minority groups represented by the council?

Jamie Arron: Nothing would change. The Equity position would merely provide a centralized source to bring all groups together.

Hima Merdan: What is SWITCH?

Gavin Jardine: On Wednesday, University Ave. will be turned into a pedestrian zone. The ultimate campus master plan is to make it a limited traffic zone. This is a pilot of what we want the space used for. 9am to 9pm this Wednesday.

Aaron Wolf: Would you recommend that everyone votes at [vote.dsu.ca](http://vote.dsu.ca)?

Ethan: When will you announce finalists for Impact Awards?

Aaron Wolf: Already notified societies and people who were finalists. Narrowed down "finalists"- most actual winners have been decided. Only the best and most charitable society have been deemed finalists. Students Offering Support, Dalhousie Commerce Society, and ESports Society are finalists for best society. Dal Community Outreach, Students Offering Support, and ESports Society are finalists most charitable society.

Stephanie: How were Impact Awards decided?

Aaron Wolf: Honour Awards Committee was written in official policy. It was this committee plus a few other people. The committee sat down and decided.

## **7. Adjournment**

**Motion: to adjourn the meeting**

Motion CARRIED