



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2

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DSU Council 2020-21: Compiled Agendas, Reports and Documents

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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, May 7, 2020; 6:00 PM

Location: Held virtually, using Microsoft Teams. Members interested in attending can email dsuchair@dal.ca.

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.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Ratification of Chair and Secretary

MOTION 3.1

WHEREAS the incoming DSU Council Chair has not completed training and will be appointed at the meeting of Council on May 21 and should therefore be considered "absent" for all intents and purposes; and

WHEREAS the Union Rules and Procedures Policy 11.3 states that "In the event of the absence of the Chair of Council, a member of the Executive shall act as Chair of the meeting for the sole purpose of allowing Council, by a two-thirds vote, to appoint an acting Chair," therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grant MacNeil preside over the present session of DSU Council.

MOTION 3.2

WHEREAS the incoming DSU Recording Secretary has not completed training and will be appointed at the meeting of Council on May 21 and should therefore be considered "absent" for all intents and purposes; and

WHEREAS the Union Rules and Procedures Policy 11.4 states that "In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Council may appoint any person as temporary recording secretary, provided that any member of Council so appointed shall not receive an honorarium for such services nor be denied their voting privileges," therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vice President, Internal act as secretary for the present session of DSU Council.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 4.1

Be It Resolved That the agenda for this meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

5. Communications Received

6. Presentations

6.1 South House Presentation

Presented by: Frank Heimpel and Francesca Ekwuyasi

6.2 Report on Recent Online Disclosure of Sexual Violence

Presented by: President

Related Documents: *May 5, 2020: DSU Update on Recent Online Disclosure of Sexual Violence*

7. New Business

MOTION 7.1; Moved by the President

WHEREAS the Judicial Board has not yet been appointed for the 2020-2021 year but will be appointed at the meeting of Council on May 21; and

WHEREAS the Judicial Board reports to Council and Council has greater decision-making power; and

WHEREAS serious allegations of sexual violence have been made online about a member of the DSU Executive; and

WHEREAS the Judicial Board Policy enables the Judicial Board to take the non-disciplinary action to temporarily suspend an individual respondent for a period of up to one week, should they find potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another individual pending the results of inquiry; and

WHEREAS the DSU is committed, as per the Equity Policy, to creating equitable and inclusive environments free from harassment and discrimination; and

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that sexualized violence and rape culture affect people profoundly and differently, and believes that all students have a right to safer campuses; and

WHEREAS the DSU has received feedback from many members, in particular women and non-binary students and others who may experience higher rates of gender-based violence, calling for the DSU to follow survivor-centric principles;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jad Ghiz, current Vice President, Student Life, be suspended with pay, effective immediately, for a period of one week as a non-disciplinary action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT at the end of one (1) week, on May 14, 2020, this suspension may be renewed for an additional period of up to one (1) week by a special resolution passed by the Executive Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if said suspension is renewed, this decision will be immediately communicated to Councillors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this non-disciplinary suspension be carried out in order to allow for any potential investigative proceedings to be carried out.

MOTION 7.2: Moved by the Vice-President, Internal

WHEREAS the DSU distributes bursaries from the Student Accessibility Fund through the Student Accessibility Fund Committee, and these bursaries have been particularly important over the past few weeks in supporting students whose access needs have been exacerbated by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in some cases the financial need described in bursary applications is urgent and a gap in the distribution of bursaries from this fund would negatively impact students with disabilities; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the term of the 2019-20 Student Accessibility Fund Committee be extended until May 21, 2020, at which point the members of the Committee for the 2020-2021 year shall be appointed.

8. Notice of Motion

9. Announcements

The next meeting of Council will be held on May 21, 2020 at 6:00pm, using Microsoft Teams

Appointments to the following Union committees will be made at the next meeting of Council:

- Student Accessibility Fund Committee
- Judicial Board
- Society Review Committee
- Offices Steering Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Grants and Sponsorship Committee

10. Adjournment



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Warning: the following contains discussion of sexual violence

For immediate release.

May 5, 2020: DSU Update on Recent Online Disclosure of Sexual Violence

The Dalhousie Student Union would like to thank all our members who have reached out to us regarding the recent online disclosure of sexual violence and our initial statement. We understand that this situation is distressing, and that as concerned members you are anxious to see action being taken.

The DSU stands in support with its members and is committed to listening to students and integrating their concerns into the actions we take. We recognize that this discussion has impacted our community, especially those who have experienced sexualized violence.

We feel the heaviness and the hurt among our members right now, and we are moving forward with a mind to the well-being of the entire community.

Timeline

On late Wednesday evening, the DSU executive were alerted to the disclosure after seeing it on social media and hearing from DSU members.

After learning of the disclosure, the DSU immediately contacted Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) to discuss the investigative avenues available. The DSU Executive requested a university investigation, as no one had come forward to file a complaint with the university. At that time, HRES was unable to initiate an investigation.

Following the response from HRES, we contacted the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) about the disclosure. To date, we have not had any response from the HRP about this disclosure.

After an update to the petition was made on Monday, we contacted HRES again and have requested that they contact and provide support to the survivor.

Next Steps

As a membership-based organization, the DSU is bound to procedures on Executive suspension, discipline, and investigation which have been democratically approved. While we are aware of the online disclosure and are taking the matter seriously, we must follow specific guidelines for receiving and acting on requests to discipline Executives, as outlined in our Bylaws and Policies.

Council is the oversight body for the Union's Executive. Given the seriousness of these allegations, we have called an extraordinary meeting of Council to be held this Thursday, May 7, 2020. Council will meet to receive updates and determine our next steps.

Two staff people from South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre have agreed to attend this Council meeting to represent and bring forward the perspective of women students, non-binary students, and all students who experience gender-based discrimination and violence. These individuals have expertise in dealing with discussions of sexualized violence.

As per the University's Sexual Violence Policy (the Policy), anyone who comes forward to the Sexualized Violence Advisor to make a disclosure will be treated with dignity, will be provided with resources and options for how they wish to move forward, and may choose to submit a report, prompting either an investigative or non-investigative process.

Disclosure Process

We understand that students may have concerns disclosing to institutions and may opt to disclose to their friends or other community organizations. We support survivors' rights to disclose in ways that feel safest for them. However, as per the Policy and the DSU's policies, disclosures made informally to peers or made through online posts are not automatically deemed to be a report, which would initiate an investigation process.

HRES and the DSU's Survivor Support Centre are mandated to support survivors. This means that they are able help survivors navigate their decisions. If you have experienced sexual violence, we urge you to reach out. The Survivor Support Centre is trained to support individuals who have experienced sexual violence. If an individual chooses to disclose, the Survivor Support Manager will provide confidential, non-judgemental support and give the individual options for how they can find further support and proceed with a complaint if they would like to. For more detailed information on HRES, see the [Dalhousie University Sexual Violence Policy](#).

Please reach out to the DSU President Madeleine Stinson, at dsupres@dal.ca, with any questions or concerns.

Signed,
Madeleine Stinson
DSU President



Please see the following resources available to anyone who may be impacted by the ongoing situation:

Survivor Support Centre

Email: survivorsupport@dal.ca

Phone: (902) 425-1066

South House Halifax

Email: outreach@southhousehalifax.ca

Phone: (902) 494-2432

Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES)

Email: hres@dal.ca

Phone: (902) 494-6672

Dal Student Health & Wellness

Website: dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness

Phone: (902) 494-2171

Dal Security

Email: security@dal.ca

Phone – Halifax: (902) 494-4109

Phone – Truro: (902) 893- 4190



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: May 21, 2020; 6:00 pm

Location: Electronic meeting held using Microsoft Teams. General members may attend by emailing dsuchair@dal.ca as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

Land Acknowledgement

The Dalhousie Student Union acknowledges that Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union Building are located on traditional, unceded and unsundered 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 2020-05-21-3.1

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the May 21, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-05-21-5.1

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

MOTION 2020-05-21-5.2

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the May 7, 2020 meeting of Council be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jamie Samson be appointed Chair of Council for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the President

Recommended for adoption by the Chair Hiring Committee

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Loukman Ghouti be appointed Recording Secretary for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the President

Recommended for adoption by the Secretary Hiring Committee

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Budget and Finance Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the general member seat on the Budget and Finance Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Grants and Sponsorships Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the general member seat on the Grants and Sponsorships Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Community Representative seats on the Offices Steering Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the general member seats on the Offices Steering Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.6

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Society Review Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the general member seat on the Society Review Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.7

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Student Accessibility Fund Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the general member seats on the Student Accessibility Fund Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal

MOTION 2020-05-21-7.8

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____, _____, and _____ be appointed to the Judicial Board for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the President

8. Presentations

8.1: Update on Recent Online Disclosure

Presented by the President

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-05-21-10.1 (Motion noticed to Council on May 7, 2020)

WHEREAS a DSU member has put forth allegations of sexualized violence committed by the Vice President Student Life; AND

WHEREAS the Vice President Student Life has thus allegedly breached the following policies of the Code of Conduct Policy:

3.2 Misconduct against persons includes, but is not limited to:

3.2.1 Assault, harassment, intimidation, threats, stalking;

3.2.2 Bullying, and coercion;

3.2.3 Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;

3.2.4 Disorderly or indecent conduct;

3.2.5 Creating a condition that endangers the health, safety or wellbeing of any person;

3.2.6 Coercing, enticing, or inciting a person to commit an act that is humiliating or demeaning to that person or to others;

3.2.7 The use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone and text messages, instant messaging, personal websites, social networking sites and online personal polling websites, to support harassing or hostile behaviour by an individual or group, or that is intended or has the potential to harm others, (e.g. cyberbullying); AND

WHEREAS the DSU has stated that it aims to abide by survivor-centric response to sexualized violence as outlined in Dalhousie's Human Rights and Equity Guide to Responding when Someone Shares an Experience of Sexualized Violence, and did not reach out to the survivor before taking any further steps - therefore putting survivors at greater risk; AND

WHEREAS the promotional materials, as distributed to council, for the event mentioned in the online disclosure - "Jadfest" - incited hate speech such as racism, sexism, and xenophobia; AND

WHEREAS DSU members are calling for the Vice President Student Life to be disciplined for the duration of the investigation; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jad Ghiz, the current Vice President, Student Life be suspended with honorarium withheld until acquitted, or, until, if not acquitted, Council shall then decide other disciplinary measures at that time.

Moved by the Black Students' Community Representative

Document attached

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.1

WHEREAS conducting Council using videoconferencing technology differs from conducting Council in person and requires some clarifications and adaptations to Robert's Rules of Order; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached Rules of Order for Electronic DSU Council Meetings be adopted for use during the COVID-19 pandemic; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee be tasked with reviewing and further developing these guidelines for potential amendment in the future, and with considering incorporating them into the Union Rules and Procedures Policy in the event that electronic meetings are needed in the future.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.2

WHEREAS at the DSU Council meeting on May 7, 2020, Council adopted a motion to issue a non-disciplinary suspension to the current Vice President, Student Life, for a period of one week, with the possibility of extending the suspension by an additional week by special resolution of the Executive Committee; AND

WHEREAS on May 14, 2020, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to extend the non-disciplinary suspension by an additional week; AND

WHEREAS the Judicial Board Policy enables the Judicial Board to take the non-disciplinary action to temporarily suspend an individual respondent for a period of up to one week, should they find potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another individual pending the results of inquiry; AND

WHEREAS the Judicial Board is to be appointed on May 21, the day that the non-disciplinary suspension will expire, and will need to complete training including Council-mandated training in sexualized violence response and the contents of the purple folder prior to beginning their mandate, and will therefore not be able to take immediate action to initiate another suspension upon the expiry of the current suspension;

WHEREAS the DSU is committed, as per the Equity Policy, to creating equitable and inclusive environments free from harassment and discrimination; AND

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that sexualized violence and rape culture affect people profoundly and differently, and believes that all students have a right to safer campuses; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current Vice President, Student Life, be suspended with pay, effective immediately, for a period of one (1) week as a non-disciplinary action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the Judicial Board has not completed training and been able to meet by the end of said week, this suspension may be renewed for an additional period of up to one (1) week by a special resolution passed by the Executive Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if said suspension is renewed, this decision will be immediately communicated to Councillors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this non-disciplinary suspension be carried out in order to allow for any potential investigative proceedings to be carried out.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.3

WHEREAS the Councillors and Full-Time Staff of the DSU need support in dealing with ongoing events related to the VPSL suspension; AND

WHEREAS the mandate of the Survivor Support Centre is to support, educate, and advocate on issues surrounding sexualized violence; AND

WHEREAS if the Councillors and Full-Time Staff receive support and training in processing events related to sexualized violence, there will be greater capacity to respond to current and future situations, to the benefit of survivors within our membership; AND

WHEREAS the Survivor Support Centre currently has an appropriate capital reserve to provide this support; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT up to \$3000.00 of the Survivor Support Centre capital reserve be utilized in the 2020-21 budget year for the purpose of consultation and support for the Dalhousie Student Union Councillors and Staff, with Hardy Consulting.

Moved by the VPFO.

MOTION 2020-05-21-11.4

WHEREAS the Judicial Board has been appointed on this May 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS addressing the allegations against the VPSL is a time-sensitive process; and

WHEREAS the University has verbally agreed to support the DSU in initiating an investigation in regards to the aforementioned allegations;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board start their training immediately, including the sexual violence response training approved by council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Judicial Board prepare to receive a report from an investigator and provide recommendations to Council on how to further address the allegations against the VPSL by June 4th, 2020.

Moved by the President

12. Executive Reports

12.1 Report Of The President

Document attached

12.2 Report Of The Vice President, Internal

Document attached

12.3 Report Of The Vice President, Finance And Operations

Document attached

12.4 Report Of The Vice President, Academic And External

Document attached

13. Notice of Motion

13.1 Sponsorship Policy

14. Announcements

The next meeting of Council will be held (tentatively) on June 18, 2020 at 6:00pm, using Microsoft Teams. Confirmation of the meeting date and time will be sent out via email.

Appointments to the following Union committees will be made at the next meeting of Council:

- Bylaw and Policy Review Committee
- Oversight Committee
- Student Life Committee
- External Committee

15. Adjournment

Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: Transition & May 01-15, 2020

Council Date: May 21, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- This section of your report should outline work you have been doing within the DSU such as event planning, outreach, campaigns, work on services and operations, meetings with Union committees, etc.
- May 11, 2020: Executive Committee Meeting
 - VPSL's duties reallocated - President to become point-person, Directors, other Execs to have tasks delegated to them
 - Exec Committee in favour of bringing motion to council on certified trauma specialist, as per request of SSC - Isa to take lead
- May 12 & 14, 2020: O-Week planning
 - DR&O and VPFO
 - To meet with Ivan Joseph, V.Provost Student Affairs to discuss University plans
 - To meet with other University executives: CBU, SMU, Western, etc.
 - O-Week Committee research & VPSL transition ongoing
- May 14, 2020: Executive Committee passed Motion 1.1
 - The non-disciplinary, paid, suspension of the VPSL will continue until May 21st

University Affairs and Committees

- May 11, 2020: Senate
 - Introductions; reports; no substantive updates
- May 13, 2020: Student Affairs Introductions;
 - Addition of President to working group for fall online community
- May 14, 2020: Board of Governors: Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
 - Covid-19 Update
 - Academic Affairs Update
 - Student Affairs Update
 - Faculty Accreditation Processes

External and Broader Community

- Tentative meetings with SMU, CBU, Western U to discuss handling of online semesters, O-Week adaptations
- Meetings with sponsors, partners tentative pending VPSL transition
- Shinerama: ongoing conversations with last year's organizers
- Filming video to congratulate graduates for Assistant Registrar

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- No meeting of BOG Caucus

Upcoming Dates

- July 1st: Tentative re-opening of the University
 - Critical personnel only
- June Council: tbd
 - Please submit availability to Chair asap :)



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Transition – May 15th

Council Date: May 21st, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Assisting and collaborating with the Communication's team on the new DSU website. Release date is yet to be finalized. It will be late Summer.
- Meeting bi-weekly with the Student Accessibility Fund Committee to approve bursaries and budget limited funding allocations.
- Working on personal transition activities such as documentation organization, attending transition meetings, and reading the transition guide.
- Working on finalizing my Year-Long Plan while collaborating with other Full Time Staff to help plan.
- Brainstorming online trainings for societies as well as locating transition guides to compile information.
- Planning with Member Services the beginning stages of Society Expo online.
- Released the Re-ratification form for 2020-2021 to those societies that were ratified last year.

University Affairs and Committees

- Classroom Planning Committee on May 20th was cancelled. Next meeting is in June.

External and Broader Community

- Nothing to Report.

Society Review Committee Updates

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates

- None to report.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: Transition – May 15, 2020

Council Date: May 21, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Interim Director of Research and Outreach duties for the month of April
 - This included full time staff support, hiring support for some part-time staff positions, running weekly Outreach meetings, and working on policy and communications support for various issues.
 - Sat on hiring committees for the DSUSO Operations Manager, Director of Research and Outreach, Sponsorship and Advertising Officer, Council Chair, and Recording Secretary
- Participated in transition meetings with incoming executive
 - Sessions included Council Training, Member Services, Policy and Governance Training, Communications, and Survivor Support
- Provided support for DSUSO's year-long planning and goal setting
- Working on a revised budget for internal use during COVID-19 with the Director of Operations and the Controller, with input from the Executive Committee
- DSU Health and Safety Committee on May 15th
 - Discussed logistics related to summer re-opening of the SUB
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings
- Council meeting on May 7, 2020 to discuss VPSL suspension
- Working with the President and Director of Research and Outreach to plan O-Week
- International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on May 7, 2020, we awarded \$9,500 of International Student Emergency Bursaries
- Audits passed this reporting period: DMCRS, Law Student Society, Student Association of Health Sciences, and WUSC

University Affairs and Committees

- Ongoing communications with the Vice-Provost Student Affairs around tuition and auxiliary fees for the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters
- Meetings of the President's Advisory Council on Sustainability and the University Transportation and Security Committee have been paused due to COVID-19

External and Broader Community

- Currently, I have no projects involving the broader community. However, I am currently working on a new Sponsorship Policy (which will create some new sponsorship opportunities) to widen our ability to partner with local grassroots organizations and community groups.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- The Grants and Sponsorship Committee has not met yet this semester. The summer meeting schedule will be as follows:
 - Deadline of **June 3 at noon**, Committee meeting on June 5
 - Deadline of **July 22 at noon**, Committee meeting on July 24



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: May 1, 2020 - May 21, 2020

Council Date: May 21, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Reviewed applicants for the International Student Emergency Student Fund
- Opened conversation with Chartwells about incorporating more local and sustainable practices at franchises in the SUB

University Affairs and Committees

- Reviewed the most recent draft of the Code of Student Conduct
- Ongoing discussion with Dalhousie's administration discussing tuition and fees, with an emphasis on the unique challenges International students are facing.
- Collaborated with Dal Security to begin creating a "Safe Zone" policy during inclement weather
 - The goal of the project is to keep one area on every campus open for one hour after the university shuts down because of inclement weather
 - One of my campaign goals
- Taken a spot on the Open Educational Resources Committee to help push for more financially accessible classroom resources

External and Broader Community

- Preliminary discussion surrounding a hair drive for cancer post-COVID
- Preliminary discussion around incorporating more local businesses into the DSU market and food vendors in the SUB

Senate Caucus Updates

- Nothing noteworthy

Upcoming Dates

- Our survey collecting data on student thoughts on tuition fees ends on May 29th, 2020

May 19, 2020

Procedures for Meetings of DSU Council Using Microsoft Teams

In the absence of a ratified set of Online Rules of Order, this document serves to inform Councillors of how the provisions of the Union Rules and Procedures Policy and Robert's Rules of Order will be carried out while Council is meeting online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting Procedure at a Glance

| Action | Effect/Definition | What to Type in Chat | Priority |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Move a new main motion | Introduce a new action for Council to debate and vote on | "Add [Position] to speaker's list" Once acknowledged by Chair, state the motion aloud and send the text over the chat | Normal |
| Amend the motion at hand | Suggest a change to the motion at hand for Council to debate and vote on | "Add [Position] to speaker's list" Once acknowledged by Chair, state the amendment aloud and send the text over the chat | Normal |
| Raise a Point of Order | Point out that meeting procedure has not been properly followed. | "[Position]: Point of Order" Once acknowledged by the Chair, state your point. | Can interrupt speaker |
| Raise a Question of Privilege | Point out something that is impeding you from participating fully in the meeting | "[Position]: Point of Privilege" Once acknowledged by the Chair, state your point. | Can interrupt speaker |
| Request for Information | Request information that you need to participate fully in the meeting | "[Position]: Request for Information" Once acknowledged by the Chair, state your request/question. | Can interrupt speaker if urgent |
| Be added to the speaker's list | Be "put in line" to speak on the motion at hand: either in favour, | "Add [Position] to speaker's list" | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | against, or to introduce an amendment | You may speak once acknowledged by the Chair | |
| Move for a recess | Request that Council take a break for a set period of time. | “[Position]: Motion to Recess” Once acknowledged by the Chair, state the length of recess you are requesting. | Can be proposed at any time; does not interrupt speaker |
| Vote in favour | Vote in favour of passing the motion at hand | “[Position]: Yes” | Only when a vote has been called |
| Vote against | Vote against passing the motion at hand | “[Position]: No” | Only when a vote has been called |
| Abstain from a vote | Indicate no preference on the motion at hand | Not indicating a vote either way will be counted as an abstention. You can also type “[Position]: Abstain” If you would like your abstention noted in the minutes: “[Position] Abstain – Noted” | Only when a vote has been called |
| Object to a motion being passed by unanimous consent | Send a motion to a vote rather than approving it by unanimous consent | “[Position]: Object” | Only when the chair has suggested a motion be approved by unanimous consent |

Detailed Meeting Procedures for Teams Meeting

Upon Entering the Meeting

When entering Microsoft Teams, names should be listed as **Position, Name (Preferred Name)** for clarity.

Moving and Seconding a Motion

When a motion is proposed, the Chair will seek a mover and a seconder in order to begin debate. “Moving” or “seconding” a motion means you believe it is worthy of debate. Moving/seconding at the request of the Chair will happen using the chat. Type either “[Position]: moved” or “[Position]: seconded” depending on which action is sought by the chair.

Voting:

To facilitate the flow of Council, the Chair may propose that certain non-controversial motions (such as adjournment or the approval of the agenda) be adopted by unanimous consent. Any member who objects to a motion being approved by unanimous consent can type “object” in the chat, and the Chair will proceed with a vote.

The Chair will call for a vote orally (where they will state the motion aloud), and will also send a message in the chat. The message will read: **“VOTING: [Motion Number]. Voting councillors only, vote YES or NO below:”** Councillors will then type **only their position and the word “Yes” or “No” in the chat** (e.g. **“President: Yes”**). Councillors may also type **their position and “Abstain”** to abstain from a vote, or **their position and “Abstain – noted”** to abstain and to have their abstention noted in the minutes.

Any attempt to debate or make comments in the chat will be considered “speaking during a vote” and will be prohibited. Only voting members can vote.

The voting will remain open until either: all councillors have voted OR one minute has elapsed. At that point, the Chair will send another message saying: **“VOTING CLOSED”** and will announce the outcome of the vote orally. Any councillors that do not cast a vote before the close of voting will be counted as abstentions.

Secret Ballot Voting:

If a motion is passed to conduct a vote by secret ballot, the vote will be conducted by email. The Chair will send an email to only the voting members of Council in attendance at the meeting. The email will state the motion in its entirety. Councillors will reply to the email with **either “YES” or “NO” and their name and position.**

Once the Chair sends out the email, voting will remain open until either: all councillors have voted OR five minutes have elapsed. Any councillors that do not cast a vote before the close of voting will be counted as abstentions.

Speaking:

Anyone who would like to be added to the speaker’s list will send a chat message saying **“Add [Position] to the speaker’s list.”** The chair will regularly update the meeting with who is on the speaker’s list.

Speakers should only turn their microphone/camera on when they have been acknowledged by the Chair.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair will ask if everyone has a working microphone – any attendee who does not should indicate this at that point. If an attendee does not have a functioning microphone, they will be permitted to send their comments in the chat instead of speaking, at which point the Chair will read their comments aloud.

Privileged Points

If any Councillor wishes to raise a motion to recess, a question of privilege, a point of order, or a request for information (or any other privileged point/motion), they can type the type of point or motion being raised in the chat, and the Chair will immediately acknowledge them. The text typed in the chat should be simply the *type* of point/motion, not the point/motion itself. (i.e. **“Point of Order;” “Request for Information”**)

Council Update Presentation

Presenter: Madeleine Stinson, President

Council Date: May 21, 2020

Warning: The following contains discussions of sexual violence

Legal Counsel Updates

- As discussed at the last meeting, taking disciplinary measures against a councillor without following any form of investigative process leaves the Union potentially vulnerable to legal action.
 - This vulnerability may extend to the survivor (complainant)
 - The lack of an investigative process may undermine the legitimacy of any sanctions imposed on a councillor
- Given the unavailability of an investigation through HRES, the recommendation from counsel is that a third-party investigation be initiated, conducted by an experienced investigator.
 - Hiring a third party to investigate the allegations will provide a fair and unbiased process.
 - The costs of a third-party investigation are \$15,000 to \$30,000.
- **Wednesday May 20, 2020:**
 - Meeting Results:
 - Taking disciplinary measures (withholding or removing pay) without any investigative process would be unusual and may expose the Union to legal action.
 - However, because 14 days have elapsed since the notice of motion, Council may consider disciplinary measures in accordance with the Union's bylaws and policies
 - Counsel assisted with drafting the scoping document for the investigation.

Survivor Updates

- **May 21, 2020:** tentative meeting with the survivor cancelled
 - 14-day period during which an intake meeting is required for an Equity Policy complaint to move forward has expired
 - Survivor has given their written consent (via email) for the DSU to hire a third party investigator
 - Survivor has given their written consent (via email) for the time being, to participate in an investigation
 - Working on confirming identity (due to the fact that we can't meet in person because of COVID and communications have occurred on unofficial channels)
 - Multiple communications sent & received between May 20 & 21

- *Communications Received:*
 - **May 06, 2020**
 - Complaint received by the Union (under Equity Policy)
 - Interest expressed in aiding an investigation
 - Interest expressed in removing the VPSL from office
 - **May 11, 2020**
 - Questions concerning investigations, HRES, avenues for removing the VPSL, etc.
 - Consent given for the DSU to pursue an investigation through the University
 - **May 15, 2020**
 - Agreed to hold an intake meeting on May 20
 - Request for the DSU to post new statement immediately confirming identity
- *Communications Sent:*
 - **May 08, 2020**
 - Summary of Union's actions taken to date
 - Notice that May 06 email considered an official complaint under the Equity Policy, request to follow up with the required intake meeting
 - Description of options for investigative/non-investigative procedures
 - Supportive resources provided
 - **May 13, 2020**
 - Addressed questions related to impeachment, elections, Equity Policy, etc.
 - Request to follow up with the required intake meeting
 - Update on investigative/non-investigative procedure options
 - Supportive resources provided
 - **May 19, 2020**
 - Meeting invitation for May 20, 2pm sent
 - Supportive resources provided
- Multiple updates to online disclosure(s), communications on multiple social media channels

Vice-President, Student Life Updates

- **Wednesday April 29, 2020:** Allegations against VPSL disclosed online
- **Saturday May 02, 2020:** VPSL posts first social media statement
- **Thursday May 07, 2020:** Council votes to suspend VPSL in a non-disciplinary capacity with pay; motion brought to Council for disciplinary suspension, withholding pay
- **Tuesday May 12, 2020:** Notice of disciplinary motion brought forward to Council on May 7 & the right to submit written response communicated to the VPSL via email; request for working materials sent simultaneously
- **Thursday May 14, 2020:** Executive Committee votes through special resolution to extended the VPSL's standing suspension for 1 more week; VPSL posts second social media statement; Notice of continuation of suspension communicated to

VPSL; notice of violations of Statement of Office and Code of Conduct communicated to VPSL

- **Tuesday May 19, 2020:** Meeting with VPSL, President, VPFO to answer questions related to the violations of the Code of Conduct and Statement of Office
- Multiple updates to online statements, communications on multiple social media channels
- VPSL maintains innocence

Internal Processes & University Relations Updates

- **Tuesday May 12, 2020:** Meeting with SoHo and Policy & Research Coordinator to follow up on the last council meeting
- **Friday May 15, 2020:** University confirmed the B00 communicated via email belongs to a current Dalhousie student with the name 'Olivia MacDonald'
- **Tuesday May 19, 2020:** Meeting with Dalhousie (Dal) Legal, Dal Security, Vice-Provost Student Affairs, Human Rights and Equity Services
 - Approached by Dal Security who had spoken with the University's Legal and suggested that we (DSU & Dal) might be able to work together to come up with an investigative procedure option that could be conducted for the DSU by a third party and supported by the University.
 - Meeting Results:
 - The University has verbally agreed to support the DSU in order to get the matter resolved as quickly as possible, for the sake of everyone involved
 - To be confirmed in writing
 - The DSU is currently in the process of hiring an external, third-party legal investigator to look into incidents in relation to the online disclosure made on April 29th, 2020.
- **Thursday May 21, 2020:** Document defining the preliminary scope of investigation drafted by executive, fielded by legal, and submitted to the working group so a search for an external, 3rd party investigator may begin
- Work (primarily between the VPFO and Survivor Support Centre Manager) to provide necessary trauma services and education to staff
- Multiple public statements made

Community Feedback

- Generally related to student fees and VPSL's paid suspension
- Largely negative
- Emails, social media feedback slowing down

Next Steps

- 1) Hiring of the external, third-party legal investigator
- 2) Investigation occurs
- 3) The investigator is required to produce a comprehensive report which includes the identification of any violations of DSU bylaws, codes and policies identified above and their justifications, and any additional findings deemed relevant and/or significant by the investigator. This report is to be delivered to the DSU's legal counsel. After reviewing the report, the DSU's counsel will share the report

with the Executive Officers of the DSU, with exception of the Vice President, Student Life.

Once reviewed by the approved Executive Officers, the President of the DSU can petition the Judicial Board if necessary. All Councillors, Executive Officers of the DSU, and Judicial Board members are prohibited from altering the findings, intent, or contents of the report in any manner other than to provide summary and/or redact confidential information and/or the identity of persons other than the complainant or respondent. The contents of the report may only be published to the public through special resolution of the DSU Council.

The Judicial Board will prepare to receive any concerns raised, conduct further inquiries if deemed necessary, present findings and provide recommendations to the DSU Council. The Judicial Board will return their findings and recommendations to the President within two weeks of receiving a petition, at which point a meeting of the DSU Council will be called within one week, to be held within two weeks. If the Judicial Board requires more time and can provide justification that it is needed to develop their recommendations, an extension may be approved through special resolution of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Vice President, Student Life.

This procedure is to be followed in this exact sequence, as is required by the Judicial Board Policy of the DSU, and as is necessary to maintain the integrity of the report produced by the third-party investigator.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, June 18, 2020

Location: Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

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.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-06-18-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-06-18-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on May 7, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached.

MOTION 2020-06-18-5.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the DSU Council meeting on May 21, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-06-18-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Councillor seats on the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the general member seat on Bylaw and Policy Review Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-06-18-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Faculty Representative seats on the Oversight Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the Community Representative seats on the Oversight Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the general member seats on the Oversight Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-06-18-7.3

WHEREAS the DSU bylaws mandate that a minimum of two non-executive members of Council and three general members be elected to seats on the Student Life Committee, but do not

impose any limit on how many additional councillors and general members may be appointed to the committee;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the councillor seats on the Student Life Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year: _____; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the general member seats on the Student Life Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year: _____.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-06-18-7.4

WHEREAS the DSU bylaws mandate that a minimum of three non-executive members of Council be elected to seats on the External Committee, but do not impose any limit on how many additional councillors may be appointed to the committee;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the councillor seats on the External Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year: _____.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External

8. Presentations

8.1 DSU Sustainability Office Report on Food Issues

Presented by the DSUSO Food Commissioner. Documents Attached.

Business arising from 8.1: MOTION 2020-06-18-8.1:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt DSUSO'S Report on Food Issues and the included recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council strike a Food Collective under the Terms of Reference proposed by DSUSO as an ad hoc committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Food Collective shall submit a report at the end of the academic year including recommendations as to the long-term goals and updated terms of reference for the Collective, based on which Council will consider establishing the Food Collective as a standing committee of the DSU or other recommended actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the members of the Food Collective appointed by Council shall be appointed at the next regular meeting of Council.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Business Arising from 9.1: MOTION 2020-06-18-9.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 be adopted as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-06-18-11.1

WHEREAS COVID-19 has decreased available jobs and increased the financial burden on International Students; and

WHEREAS there is adequate funding available in the DSU International Student Emergency Bursary Reserve Fund; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$30,000 be allocated from the DSU International Student Emergency Bursary Reserve Fund and used according to the attached proposal.

Moved by: VP Finance and Operations. Document Attached.

MOTION 2020-06-18-11.2

WHEREAS Dalhousie's Board of Governors voted to increase tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year by 3% for all students and an additional \$1473 for International students that began their academics at the University in the Fall 2019 semester or later; and

WHEREAS the DSU has written a letter to the Board of Governors informed by data collected from our survey titled *COVID, Campus and Costs*, which collected data DSU members' opinions on the price of tuition and campus closures and determined the largest issues impacting its members; and

WHEREAS the *COVID, Campus, and Costs* Survey showed that financial aids, such as bursaries, offered by the University and government are difficult to access and do not compensate for the increase in tuition; and

WHEREAS DSU members feel that online learning has an inherently lower value than on campus learning;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council call on Dalhousie University's Board of Governors to:

1. Rescind the decision to increase tuition for domestic and international students in the 2020-2021 academic year;
2. Decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees connected to on-campus experiential learning, campus infrastructure and department specific resources for the 2020-2021 academic year;
3. Issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter 2020 and Summer 2020 semesters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council sign on to the open letter written by the Executive Committee calling for the implementation of these demands

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Councillors be encouraged to send emails in support of these demands using the email templates and mailing list on dsu.ca/rejectthe3 and to call on their constituents to do the same

Moved by the VPAAE. Document Attached

MOTION 2020-06-18-11.3

WHEREAS on June 05, 2020, Council adopted a motion to issue a non-disciplinary suspension to the current Vice President, Student Life, for a period of one week, with the possibility of extending the suspension by an additional week by special resolution of the Executive Committee; AND

WHEREAS on May 11, 2020, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to extend the non-disciplinary suspension by an additional week; AND

WHEREAS the DSU is committed, as per the Equity Policy, to creating equitable and inclusive environments free from harassment and discrimination; AND

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that sexualized violence and rape culture affect people profoundly and differently, and believes that all students have a right to safer campuses; AND

WHEREAS the DSU has hired a third-party and an investigation into the allegations against the VPSL and breaches of DSU bylaws, policies, and codes is underway but not yet complete; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current Vice President, Student Life, be suspended with pay, effective immediately, for a period of one (1) week as a non-disciplinary action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this suspension may be renewed for an additional period of up to one (1) week by a special resolution passed by the Executive Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if said suspension is renewed, this decision will be immediately communicated to Councillors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this non-disciplinary suspension be carried out in order to allow for the investigation to proceed and conclude in an equitable manner.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-06-18.11.4

WHEREAS an ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee met over the course of the 2019-2020 year to develop a five year Strategic Plan for the Union; and

WHEREAS Council ratified the Plan's strategic priorities on April 8, 2020;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the proposed 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

Document attached.

MOTION 2020-06-18.11.5

WHEREAS there has been a consistent rise of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada, the United States, and across the world; and

WHEREAS Police violence, as well as discrimination within employment, housing and academia, is heavily apparent across the globe; and

WHEREAS the recent killings of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, George Floyd, D'Andre Campbell, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Chantel Moore, and Rodney Levi at the hands of police in Canada and the United States have had immense impacts on Black and Indigenous individuals and communities, and sparked conversation around systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada; and

WHEREAS systemic racism and the inappropriate use of police force also occurs within Halifax, as evidenced in the 2019 report by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission which found that Black people in Halifax were up to six times more likely to be street checked than white people; and

WHEREAS the DSU, like many organizations in Canada, must continue to address anti-Black racism, and develop programs and policies that will combat the anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism that is within our institution,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU donate to a cause or business that is run by the Black community and/or focused on supporting the Black community after consulting with the Black Student Advising Centre and Black student societies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all DSU elected representatives and staff take part in an anti-oppression training to ensure we have the skills needed to educate ourselves and address anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all advocacy campaigns developed by the DSU are reflective of the needs of Black and Indigenous students studying at Dalhousie University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU work with Black student representatives to develop programming and campaigns that will enrich the academic and social experiences of Black students at Dalhousie.

Moved by the President

12. Executive Reports

12.1 President

12.2 Vice President, Internal

12.3 Vice President, Finance and Operations

12.4 Vice President, Academic and External

12.5 Vice President, Student Life

13. Notice of Motion

13.1 Notice of Motion to Amend Communications Policy

The following motion will be on the agenda at the next meeting of DSU Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendments to the Communications Policy be adopted as circulated to Council on June 18, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Social Media Policy be struck, as by this motion its contents have been incorporated into the Communications Policy

Moved by the Vice President, Internal. Document to be circulated June 18.

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: May 16, 2020 - June 12, 2020

Council Date: June 18, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- 1) **DSU Council** – May 21st
- 2) **Executive Committee Meetings** – May 19th, May 25th, May 28th, June 1st, June 8th, June 11th
 - i) *May 19*: tentative return to work for essential personnel in SUB offices set for July 6th
 - ii) *May 28*: VPSL suspension vote – passed
 - iii) *June 1*: Tiger Patrol program absolved, Black Lives Matter response, Grawood and T-Room to stay closed until January 2021 or significant increase in on-campus population
 - iv) *June 11*: VPSL suspension vote – passed, investigation extension vote – passed, Erica & Maddie to attend Maritime Student Congress
- 3) **Year-Long Planning Meeting** – May 28th
 - a) Programming set, council dates TBD, dependent on councillor availability submissions
- 4) **DSU Media Training with Rebecca Rose** – June 2nd
- 5) **Investigation Contract Signed** – June 2nd
- 6) **DSU Offices Meeting: DSAS, DSUSO, E&A** – June 2nd
 - a) Discussion on year-long planning, collaborations, set follow-up meetings
- 7) **O-Week Planning and Office O-Week Committee Meetings** – Ongoing
- 8) **Black Lives Matter Solidarity** – Ongoing
 - a) Student & staff support/resources, anti-o training opportunities for staff, outreach to Black student societies, planning of internal & external next steps, policy review
- 9) **“Reject the 3” Campaign** – Ongoing
 - a) Assistance to VPAAE for BoG & Government communications

University Affairs and Committees

- 1) **Meeting of Senate** – June 10th
 - a) Discussion on strategic priorities and diversity and inclusion; presentation from HRES; Sexualized Violence Policy review – proposed revisions

- 2) **Virtual Community & Online Orientation Meetings** – May 19th, May 20th, May 22nd, May 27th, May 29th, June 1st, June 3rd, June 5th, June 9th, June 10th, June 11th
 - a) Provide student representation and feedback
- 3) **Alcohol Advisory Committee Meetings** – May 26th, June 11th
 - a) Review of the drafted policy & forms
- 4) **Student Affairs & DSU Executive Meeting** – June 9th
 - a) Discussions on O-Week, ombudsperson, fall semester

External and Broader Community

- 1) [DSU Solidarity Efforts](#) & [Statement](#) in relation to Black Lives Matter movement
 - a) Outreach, support, and consultation with Black students, societies, and local organizations
 - b) Executive attendance to solidarity events
 - c) Assisting solidarity event organizers

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- 1) **Board of Governors Meeting** – May 26th
 - a) Agenda: 2020-21 Student Fee Proposals (Tuition, Auxiliaries, Residence & Food Services, Student Referendum, Halifax Transit U-Pass), In Camera Session
 - b) [Board of Governors Caucus Report for May 26, 2020 Meeting](#)

Upcoming Dates

1. Juneteenth – US Observation (a.k.a Freedom Day) – June 19th
2. National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21st
3. Annual Board of Governors Meeting – June 23rd
4. (Tentative) Investigation Deadline – June 25th
5. Events & Campaigns Commissioner Hiring – TBD but imminent



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: May 16th – June 12th, 2020

Council Date: June 18th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Student Accessibility Fund Committee met May 19th; 22nd; 29th; & June 5th. We continued to approve bursaries for students with access needs struggling financially during COVID-19.
- Society Review Committee met June 11th for the first time. See Updates for those societies approved at the committee.
- Met with Rigel Biscione Cruz and DSU Member Services, Tabasa, on planning Society Expo online for the Fall on June 12th. In preliminary planning stages.
- Working on reviewing Annual Survey questions for release on July 1st to all students. Sponsorship and incentives are being decided.
- Refining Student Accessibility Fund Committee and Bursary Bylaw drafts for inclusion in DSU Bylaws.
- Spent a large portion of time creating a Society Resources page with necessary information for the new DSU website.
- Website group met on June 4th to discuss needed changes. Website was released to DSU staff for feedback on June 8th by Graphics Coordinator, Abi.
- Joined Hiring Committee for Events and Campaign Commissioners. Committee has yet to officially meet.
- Completing Society Constitution checks and updated the constitution checklist requirements.
- Created new Faculty/Levy Society & Constituent/General Interest Society checklists for ratification approvals.
- Attended Anti-Oppression training on June 10th, led by Carmel Farahbakhsh, through everyseeker.com.
- Met with E&A office and Communications Team to discuss and brainstorm online resources for an “Un-learn with the DSU” webpage, including: resources for Black folks, resources for Indigenous folks, “How to Ally 101”, DSUSO & E&A Book Club, and more.

- Attended Speak Truth to Power: Forum on Anti-Black Racism on June 5th.

University Affairs and Committees

- Attended “Student Experience Committee” via stream. Conversation was feedback for new Dalhousie application for cellular devices. Attended May 19th.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee was cancelled, again, on June 9th. To be pushed two weeks.

External and Broader Community

- Nothing to Report.

Society Review Committee Updates

Society Review Committee ratified the following societies in this period:

- Dalhousie Diploma of Engineering Society (DES)
- Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society (DSPS)
- Dalhousie School of Communication Sciences and Disorders Student Society
- The Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society

Upcoming Dates

- Classroom Planning Committee on June 22nd.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Isa Wright

Reporting Period: May 16 – June 12, 2020

Council Date: June 18, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Regular staff and Executive meetings, including monthly staff meeting and weekly Operations and Executive Committee meetings. Also attended Research and Outreach meeting on June 12, 2020 to discuss virtual orientation.
2. Prepared revised budget for COVID-19, as attached in this week's Council package
 - a. Had one-on-ones with the department heads for services to discuss budgetary changes. Also had several consultation meetings with the Executive Committee.
3. Budget and Finance Committee meeting on June 4, 2020
 - a. Preliminary meeting to discuss committee mandate and timelines.
4. Capital Projects meetings
 - a. Discussed capital projects for the year, including COVID-19 fixtures for the SUB, and equipment for various departments.
5. Weekly deliveries for Loaded Ladle food box programs.
6. COVID-19 Reopening Plans for the SUB and our tenants
 - a. Including anticipated return dates for internal staff, preparing for fall adaptations to events and room capacities, and signage for the SUB.
 - b. Working with Loaded Ladle to prepare for service delivery in the fall!
7. Meetings with DSU Health and Dental Plan to discuss premiums and coverage for upcoming year.
8. Attended several meetings regarding Chartwells opening procedures and contract negotiations.
9. Attended Hiring and Chairing Training on June 12, 2020.
10. International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on June 11, 2020, we awarded \$3,500 in bursaries.
11. Sent out several society updates regarding online audits, reallocation of budgeted funds in order to support racialized students, and overview of new e-transfer guidelines.
12. Planning treasurer training and society training with Member Services, VPI, DSUSO and E&A.
13. Applications for COVID-19 reopening grants, including the

14. Virtual Orientation planning and event tasks.
 - a. Planning of several online events as well as preparations for a few in-person events.
15. Attended Society Review Committee meeting on June 11, 2020 to review ratified society applications.
16. Audits passed this reporting period: Dalhousie Architecture Student Association and Dalhousie Urban Garden Society.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Met with Ivan Joseph and Verity Turpin on June 9, 2020 to discuss orientation activities.

External and Broader Community

1. Discussions with Andy Fillmore, Geoff Regan and Darren Fischer (Halifax area MPs) about legislative limits on the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy, which currently prevent the DSU from applying.
2. Working on in-kind sponsorship packages to distribute to local organizations which support African Nova Scotian and Black communities within the DSU membership and in HRM.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates

1. In order to accommodate and prioritize grant applications from Black and racialized student groups working to develop events and programming for Black Lives Matter, we have extended the June grants deadline to June 17, 2020.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: May 21, 2020- June 18, 2020

Council Date: June 18, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Attended International Student Emergency Student Fund committee
 - a. June 11th
2. Attended Student Accessibility Fund committee
 - a. May 22, May 29, June 5
3. Attended Research and Outreach committee
 - a. May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12
 - b. RejectThe3 planning
 - c. O-week planning

University Affairs and Committees

1. Launched the #RejectThe3 campaign June 9, 2020
 - a. Formally requested the University rescind their decision to reduce tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year, reduce tuition for this period and offer refunds for students who were/are enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 semesters
 - b. Provided email templates for students and community members to sign and send to the University and Government
2. Opened discussion around allowing students with access needs onto campus to use Dalhousie library resources

External and Broader Community

1. News interviews
 - a. Was interviewed by CBC local, CBC national, CTV, News 95.7, The Globe and Mail, and Global News to bring attention to the 3% increase in tuition
2. Discussed ways for Faculty to shift to using open educational resources when developing their remote courses

- a. Discussion with the OER committee, a project within Dalhousie Libraries June 3, 2020

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Senate meeting June 8, 2020

- a. Senate approved a motion to suspend the SRI policy for the Fall 2020 semester
 - i. I was opposed to this motion. I voiced my concerns about taking power and voice away from students during a difficult time. I also argued that if there is to be no reduction in tuition, then it should be expected that online classes will be held at a high standard and the University should be open to student feedback.
- b. Senate approved a motion:
 - i. The office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic will work with Faculty-based leaders to establish a committee, appropriately resources, to develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary major/honors program in **Black and African Diaspora Studies**; to be presented for consideration by Senate no later than April 30, 2021, and;
 - ii. The office of the Vice-President Research and innovation will work with Faculty based researchers to establish a committee, appropriately resources, to develop a proposal for a research institute for **Black Studies in Canada**, to be presented for consideration by Senate no later than April 30, 2021.
 - I was in favour of this motion and voiced my approval

Upcoming Dates

1. Maritime Student Congress

- a. July 15, 2020: hosted by Students Nova Scotia



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DSU Reserve Fund Proposal: June 18, 2020 Council Meeting

Submitted by: DSU VP Finance and Operations

In the last three months of the COVID-10 pandemic, there has been hugely increased demand for International Student Emergency Bursaries. We are now close to exhausting the current year's funds, and still have over 50 applications to review and approve.

I am proposing that Council approve the allocation of \$30,000 from the reserve funds.

Consultation has consisted of informal consultation with international students, all of whom have emphasized that this is an unprecedentedly difficult time for international students, many of whom are stranded in Halifax with no access to government or family support.

There is no availability of other DSU funding to mitigate this use of reserve funds, and I am proposing that \$30,000 be allocated to issue International Student Bursaries in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The funds will be used to issue bursaries according to the usual allowable cost and needs-based model, to a maximum of \$2,000 per student. These funds will be used as needed by the International Student Emergency Bursary Committee. At the current rate of collection and enrollment in the plan, the funds would be replenished within 12 month, subject to international student enrollment in the health plan, which is difficult to predict due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Council's acceptance of this proposal will not prevent the further proposal for use of funds, or require the Committee to exhaust the funds allocated.



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DSU Sustainability Office (DSUSO)

Omah Azubike-Okoro, Food Commissioner 2019-2020

April 27, 2020

Report on Food Issues

Background and Purpose

Food is a substantial aspect of daily living, and it is fundamental that the DSU adopt a food policy to address the needs of students and diminish the particular concerns raised. The aim of this report is to make institutional reforms to food services on campus through the creation of a food collective with formal decision-making abilities.

Survey

In October 2019, the Dalhousie Student Union Sustainability Office (DSUSO) administered a survey to gauge student's opinions about food on campus. The food survey highlighted several food issues on Dalhousie campus and produced some recommendations to improve the current situation. The results of the survey show that students are concerned with single-use plastics and cups that are used at events and by food services like Tim Hortons, Booster juice, among others. Another critical problem is that Sexton Campus only possesses one food service, Fredericks. The lack of food alternatives, especially for students that have unique diets (Halal, Kosher, or cultural meals,) poses a barrier. Another big concern that was raised was the amount of food waste generated by the residence meal hall. Students also pointed out that the food served at meal halls also tends to be unhealthy. The only healthy option is fruits, which is not enough for students to have a balanced nutritious diet. Through the survey administered by DSUSO, we learned what students thought about the affordability, accessibility and diversity of healthy food on campus. Students were specifically asked if there was a food policy, what issues they hoped the policy would tackle.

In total, 99 responses were obtained from the survey; 65.7 % were domestic students, while 34.3% were international students. In a further breakdown, 62.6% of students studied on Studley campus, and 27.3% on Sexton with the remaining 10% on either Carleton or the Agriculture campus in Truro. Some other questions asked were:

- How aware are you about food sustainability issues on campus?
- If they would be interested in attending a workshop on food sustainability and insecurity if offered?
- How would they rate the affordability of healthy food options on campus?
- If food options on campus were diverse?

The questions were asked using a Likert scale from 1-5. An infographic summary of the results can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Analysis

Single-Use Cups

Last year, the Office of Sustainability launched a reusable mug program in the Killam Memorial Library. This was done to reduce single-use cups on campus, with the library the pilot location for the program. Customers were able to select a reusable mug for use in the Atrium area and return it when they were done. This program not only solves the environmental aspect of waste, but saves money for beverage buyers as they get a discount when they bring a mug, cup, bottle, etc. Other universities are beginning to see the value of this initiative as the University of Toronto, Carleton, McGill and Harvard have implemented bring a mug/lug a mug programs at their universities. The structure is similar as a discount given in all food service locations on the campus when students bring their mug. These universities have noted a reduction in disposable paper cups after a reusable cup program was implemented. The University of Toronto mentioned that in an academic year after the program was created, 76, 561 cups did not go into the garbage (University of Toronto, 2014).

A group of students at Dalhousie for ENVS/SUST 3502 completed a study on the Reusable mug program. In the survey they administered, one of the questions was whether students would support the program being implemented campus-wide and 93% of those surveyed indicated support. Only 50% of the people surveyed knew about the pilot project in the Killam, which shows the need for more promotion not only about the program but about discounts given by Dal food service providers when people bring their cup or mug. The study also looked into what percentage of students used disposable cups or brought their own. They found that 83% used disposable cups, 12% brought their reusable mug and only 5% utilized the program-issued mugs. The data collection was done at the Second Cup in the Killam Library (Archibald, Bi, Fong, & Privado, 2019) The study outlined some limitations to the program, which are expected since it is still in the early phase. This should not minimize the potential the program has to offer since evidence from other universities has identified such a program to be useful.

Waste Reduction in Meal Halls

Food waste reduction can reap financial, social and environmental benefits to the university, and is a vital problem at Dalhousie University meal halls. A study found that Howe hall produced 110.8 kilograms of plate waste within a month; this amount of waste is enough to feed an individual for two months (Douglas, 2019). With buffet-style serving, it is no surprise that a tremendous amount of food gets wasted every day. A study conducted by a Dal student on food loss in the Sheriff meal hall found that grains and vegetables were the most wasted food options, that each student wasted 36g of food each day, and that 21g of this food loss could be avoided if better anti-waste strategies were in place (Brown, 2012) . Another study conducted in 2017 by Dalhousie students on food wasting attitudes and behaviours in Howe meal hall found that 87% of students do not finish their food in a sitting. Of the 87%, 78% identified the reason for food waste to be the meal being unappetizing. This indicates that there would likely be a decrease in waste if food quality were increased in meal halls. Although most food waste was attributed to food

quality, 63% of students stated that if possible, they would package their leftovers to eat at a later time (MacDonald, Rotteveel, Selim-Omar, Brown, Qin, Allen, 2017).

Sexton Campus

The survey found that students on Sexton Campus need a second food option. Sexton students need to be assured that the DSU and the University are committed to the needs of all students, not only those on Studley campus. Additional food services on Sexton are needed as the only other options for food on the campus are vending machines or the meal hall (which is only accessible to students with a meal plan) or to leave campus to find food downtown which is not financially or physically accessible for many students.

Potential Solutions

So, what can be done? At the University of Ottawa, for example, they created a “Love Food Not Waste Challenge” to reduce food waste in dining halls. The challenge is geared towards assisting students in keeping good food out of the compost bin by motivating them to pledge to collect less food, go back for seconds and sample new items. This is aimed so that students only take as much as they can eat and prevent wastage. The research conducted on the Sheriff and Howe dining halls also produced recommendations including allowing students to take out leftovers; implementing financial incentives; and offering food samples. Both studies emphasized that changing behaviour is essential to influencing how students prevent waste. This could be executed through financial incentives when students can be charged a \$1 or \$2 if they do not finish their meal. Doing this could deter the tendency to take larger portions that could be wasted. Additionally, offering food samples could be beneficial in providing students with the opportunity to determine what they would like to eat rather than throwing away excess.

Need for a Food Collective

The Food Collective was originally formed to put forth food-related initiatives that would nourish the life of students. Although its presence has been passive, members of the Collective have done various successful work on campus like the breakfast club, which is held on the Sexton campus. We recognized that there is more we can do to make food readily available and make Dalhousie a champion when it comes to advocating for environmental sustainability. To do that, the Collective requires having a formal identity within the institution.

This need is evident from schools where a recognized Food Collective or Coalition was able to make reforms that yielded immense benefits to students. The Concordia Food Coalition, for example, is the most widely known student coalition and deals with “the economic, ecological, and social implications of the food system at Concordia University” (Concordia Food Coalition, n.d). They work with both student societies and community groups to achieve their mandate. The Carleton Food Collective is another example. The collective was formed initially to address food insecurity due to rising tuition and rent costs in Ottawa. The Collective has since then grown to include more members, and puts on events like movie screenings, educational workshops and gardening sessions. McMaster University in Ontario also has a Food Collective dedicated to making sure that food is always accessible to aid students, alumni, and staff dealing with food insecurity.

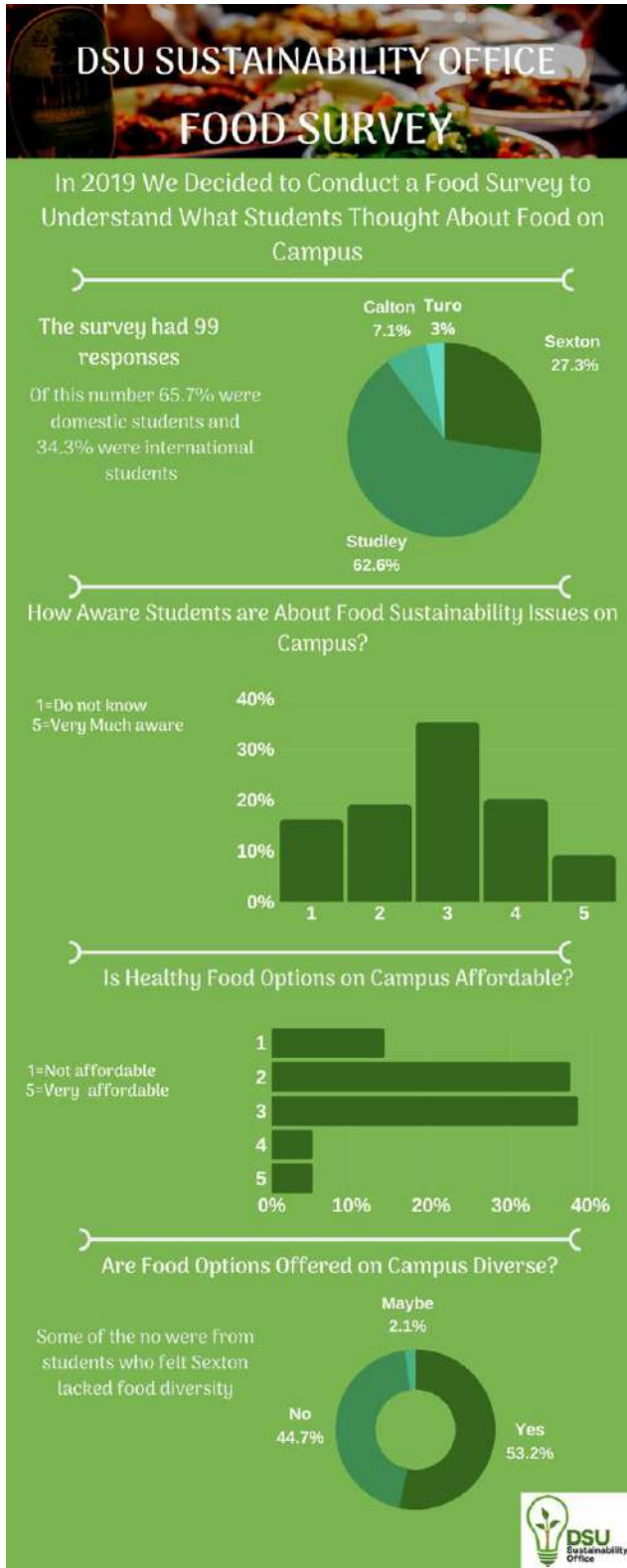
These Collectives are currently thriving and making changes in the lives of students, staff and faculty through their commitment to alleviating food insecurity. The Dalhousie Food Collective would like to follow in their footsteps in formalization. The terms of reference in Appendix B outline the proposed structure and purpose of the Food Collective.

Recommendations Arising from This Report

The DSU Sustainability Office Recommends that the DSU:

1. Work with food service providers on campus to create and promote incentives that support sustainability. For example, Tim Hortons gives customers 10% off their beverage when they bring their own mug or cup.
2. Implement a system that will increase student's use of reusable containers for food on campus.
3. Lobby the University to establish an additional food service on Sexton campus.
4. Lobby the university to enforce stricter waste reduction strategies on campus in collaboration with the DSUSO and the Dalhousie Office of Sustainability (DOS). This is especially needed in residence meal hall, which will necessitate collaboration with the University.
5. Provide the Food Collective with the authority to sit in on meetings between the DSU and food providers especially those concerning food contracts, with voting power, and potentially the ability to veto decisions that are not in the best interest of students.

Appendix A: Food Survey Results Infographic



Appendix B: Proposed Terms of Reference for The Food Collective

DSU Food Collective

Purpose: The Food Collective aims to address food sustainability issues on campus. The Collective brings together representatives from all areas of the DSU that work on food issues in order to advise Council and the Executive on campaigns, services, policy, and operations as they relate to issues of food sovereignty, food security, and sustainable food practices. The Collective is also empowered to organize events and campaigns to educate DSU members about food issues and to prepare and publish surveys and reports on food issues.

Goals:

The Collective aims:

- To ensure that food issues are prioritized as an area of focus for the DSU;
- To collect, create, and provide informed knowledge about food security, food sovereignty, and sustainable food practices to the entire student body;
- To advise the DSU on food issues and how best to meet the food-related needs of DSU members
- To coordinate the DSU's advocacy and research efforts around food issues and to encourage collaboration between offices, departments, and decision-making bodies.

Members:

The voting members of the committee are:

- The DSUSO Food Commissioner, who serves as Chair of the Collective and leads both event planning and research activities;
- The DSU Vice President, Academic and External, who serves as a liaison between the Collective and DSU Council;
- One DSU Food Bank staff member or volunteer appointed by the Food Bank Manager;
- One DSU Market staff member or volunteer appointed by the Market Operations Manager;
- One Loaded Ladle board member, staff member or volunteer appointed by the Loaded Ladle Board, who provides access to programming, and ongoing learning/conferences for other Collective members and offers support for breakfast club and cooking classes offered by DSUSO;
- One general member of the DSU who is conducting research through the Dalhousie Food Policy Lab, to be appointed by the Collective; and
- One general member of the DSU who is taking the majority of their classes at the Sexton campus, to be appointed by Council.

Meetings:

The Collective holds at least one meeting per month. Additional meetings can be called by the Collective Chair as needed, or upon written request from at least three other members of the Committee. All meetings are chaired and scheduled by the Food Commissioner and they prepare the meeting agenda.

Meetings of the Collective are generally open, meaning any DSU member may attend and speak. The Collective can also invite non-members to attend particular meetings to offer unique insight and support. For example, the Collective may wish to invite a researcher from the Dalhousie University Food Policy Lab to discuss policy changes; the DSU Member Services Coordinator to discuss services; or the DSU Director of Operations to discuss changes to SUB operations and/or businesses.

Budget:

The Food Collective does not have its own budget or funds but may submit a request to the Executive Committee to utilize funds from the Advocacy/Campaigns or Programming budgets. Any such requests must be accompanied by a detailed budget for how the money requested will be used and will be subject to applicable approval processes. DSUSO may also choose to allocate funds to particular events or initiatives created by the Food Collective, subject to their own internal approval processes.

Reporting:

After each meeting of the Food Collective, the VP AE will report on their activities at the next meeting of DSU Council. Additional or more detailed reports may from time to time be requested by Council. Any such reports will be prepared in writing by the Collective Chair and will be made available on the DSU website along with other Council documents.

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June 9, 2020

Erica Seelemann, Vice President, Academic and External

Consultation Report: Reject the Three Campaign

This report outlines steps that were taken to consult DSU members about the Reject the Three campaign launching June 9, 2020, as well as the process by which the campaign was developed and implemented. The report serves to both inform Councillors and community members about the process taken to develop this campaign, and to serve as a resource for future campaign development.

Background

Since midway through the Winter 2020 semester, a pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has disrupted DSU members' lives and learning in a number of ways. As concern about the spread of the virus increased, Dalhousie moved to cancel classes for the week of March 16, and to then transition to online learning beginning March 23.¹ On March 19, the University announced that students would need to vacate residences and that Summer 2020 courses would also be taught online,² and the following day all non-essential research activities were suspended. Another update on May 20 announced that classes would be taking place predominantly online in the fall.³ Amidst all of this, students lost jobs both on- and off-campus; had summer work programs cancelled; and had their graduation ceremonies postponed and moved online. These changes disrupted students' abilities to learn and caused financial hardship for many. The DSU received communication from students about the ways they were being affected and responded in multiple ways, which are detailed below.

On May 27, Dalhousie University President Deep Saini announced that in the 2020-2021 budget, tuition would be increasing by 3%; that the University would double financial aid bursary funding; that some student fees would be waived or modified; that \$1 million would be invested in technology development for online learning; and that tuition for international students would increase by an additional \$1473. The Reject the Three campaign was formed in response to all of these factors and the ways we have heard from our members that they are being impacted.

Advocacy Already Undertaken

Recommendations to Senate

On March 24, the DSU Senate Caucus submitted the *Dalhousie Student Union Recommendations for COVID-19-Related Academic Adjustments* to the Dalhousie Senate.⁴ The document noted some of the ways that students were struggling academically due to changes to learning and offered recommendations for how to better accommodate students' needs. Recommendations included transitioning to alternative grading to allow for a pass/fail option; extending add/drop deadlines for classes; and adding a note to all students' transcripts to indicate the strange circumstances of the semester.

On March 26, the University introduced an alternative Pass/Ill grading option in response to these recommendations.⁵ The withdrawal deadline was also extended, and the University has agreed to investigate transcript notes.

Financial Resources

Students quickly expressed concerns about the financial impacts of COVID-19. On March 25, Council voted to allocate funds from the Student Accessibility Fund to provide bursaries to those members affected by job losses or other financial hardships due to COVID-19.⁶ At Council on April 8, the Vice President, Internal reported that due to the restrictions on the use of the Accessibility Fund, the distribution criteria could not in fact be modified in the way Council had authorized. Instead, efforts were made to promote the fund and to encourage students with disabilities whose financial needs were exacerbated by COVID-19 to apply.⁷

Support for #DontForgetStudents and Calls for Expansion of CERB

In response to job losses, the Federal Government introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit on March 25.⁸ Advocacy group Don't Forget Students joined with student organizations across Canada to criticize the gaps in the program, and to call for its expansion to include all students and recent graduates.⁹ On April 22, Council voted to sign on to the open letter; to sign the associated petition; and to continue to research ways to advocate for better student supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰

On April 29, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), which responded to some of the concerns in the open letter, but fell short by offering less money than CERB and continuing to exclude international students.

Support for No One Is Illegal – Halifax/K'jipuktuk

The DSU heard from students and community the need to specifically support and advocate for international students, who were by and large the most heavily disadvantaged by COVID-19 restrictions and measures. As part of responding to the specific needs of international students, on April 22 Council voted to sign on to an open letter by local migrant rights organization No One Is Illegal – Halifax/K'jipuktuk and to join their call for the Nova Scotia government to extend full healthcare access to all, regardless of immigration status.¹¹

Reject The Three Campaign

Input from Members

Shortly after taking office, the Vice President, Academic and External began receiving input from members through various channels including email and social media, raising some of the many concerns regarding how Dalhousie has responded to COVID-19. Architecture students specifically noted that they were unable to access on-campus labs but were still being charged their full schedule of fees. Some graduate students identified difficulties with funding and with the process of finding second and third readers for their theses; while others had research stalled by the halting of non-essential research. International students reported being stranded, unable to travel home due to the virus and forced out of residence into insecure housing situations. Across the board, students expressed frustrations with online learning and the challenges it posed. A number of informal online petitions popped up, with students calling for tuition reductions and refunds. Coupled with the direction that had already been given by Council, this input clearly indicated a need for a focused campaign.

On May 14, the VP AE assembled key staff to begin planning the campaign. The Director of Research and Outreach, Communications Coordinator, Graphic Design and Campaigns Coordinator, and Policy and Governance Coordinator met with the VP AE to identify next steps. While much feedback had already been received in less formal ways, the team agreed that further consultation was needed. Stakeholders were identified as all students, and International students in particular, and the team developed a survey to send out to members under the guidance of the Communications Coordinator. The survey can be found in Appendix A.

The survey was open between May 15 and May 29, and received 526 responses. The link to the survey was shared multiple times on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and larger societies were encouraged to repost it and to encourage their members to

participate. On the whole, the survey showed that students have concerns about the value of online learning and about access to financial resources. A visual summary of the responses can be found in Appendix B. At the meeting on May 21, the VPAAE reported to Council on the work that had been done already on the campaign and asked them to complete it themselves and circulate it to constituents.

Survey Analysis – All Students

The survey shows that students believe remote learning is of a lower quality than in-person classes. Of those surveyed, 89.9% indicated that remote learning does not have the same value as on campus learning. This is a crucial statistic because it directly contradicts the University's actions and statements. Dalhousie chose not to reduce the cost of tuition for the Winter and Summer 2020 semesters despite the switch to online learning, suggesting that they think there was no difference in the value of the systems. Students, the ones actually using online learning, found quite the opposite: in their responses, students detailed difficulty with concentration and focus during online learning; a lack of hands-on engagement; loss of lab work; professors being inaccessible and hard to communicate with; lack of quiet space to work on schoolwork; missing the interpersonal relationships and connections with other learners; and the loss of discussion and engagement that in-person classes offer. Students with learning disabilities stated that the online learning environment made coping with their disabilities harder, or in some cases near impossible, and stated that adequate alternate supports simply did not exist for remote learning. Concerns about online learning came from a broad range of faculties and disciplines.

Simultaneously, the survey confirms that finances are a key concern and students are struggling. Nearly 90% of respondents had accessed some kind of financial assistance, indicating that a vast majority of students have had their income impacted in some way by COVID-19. Students, however, also reported difficulties accessing financial supports. Of those who accessed financial supports, 68.4% had some kind of difficulty: ranging from not meeting specific criteria, to missing deadlines, to lacking proper documentation, to simply being halted by long and confusing application processes. Some noted that they were not aware of financial resources offered by Dalhousie or the DSU. These responses make it clear that while students are experiencing financial pressure, convoluted financial aid systems are not the best way to support most.

These results also support the direction given by the *DSU Strategic Plan 2020-2021: Building our Equitable Futures Today*.¹² Strategic priority #1, "Our Education: Our Priority" states that the DSU seeks to minimize barriers to education and advocate for "accessible, equitable, and quality education," including through the elimination of tuition fees and international student differential fees.¹³

Survey Analysis – International Students

The survey highlighted particularly pressing key areas of concern for international students, including concerns related to travel, living expenses, and online learning. 64.2% of international student respondents indicated that they are currently unable to travel home, due to either travel restrictions, immigration status concerns, sanctions, or financial barrier. In written comments, international students noted that being unable to see their families had led to exacerbated mental health concerns, homesickness, and depression. For some, this also led to unexpected increased rent and living expenses, which could be exacerbated by their home country's economy failing during the pandemic. Overall, 92.6% of international student respondents accessed some kind of financial aid. 65.4% of international student respondents were aware of specific international student financial aids available to them, but a smaller 46.9% accessed these specific aids.

The concerns raised by international students in this survey echo *the Report of the Committee on International Student Issues* that DSU Council received on April 22, 2020.¹⁴ At that meeting, Council voted to consult this report when making "decisions that pertain to or directly impact international students."¹⁵ Among other recommendations, the report called for the DSU to advocate for the reduction or elimination of international differential fees, noting that "International students are concerned that their tuition fees do not reflect the real value of education at Dalhousie University, but are rather being used to fill funding gaps in the University budget."¹⁶

From both the concerns that have been raised by International students in the past and the responses received in this survey, it was clear that financial accessibility for international students must be a campaign priority.

Campaign Development

Following the end of the survey, the campaign team met again on June 2nd and 3rd to discuss the results and how best to advocate for students moving forward. The team identified the themes that had emerged from the survey, including:

- Students feel that they are paying more and getting less
- Financial assistance programs are harder to access than simply decreasing tuition up front
- The University's justifications for maintaining and the increasing tuition do not hold up when we look at the actual value of online learning to students

- International students are facing compounded struggles: both financial and personal, and many cannot bear an additional differential fee increase on top of the regular tuition increase
- The Winter and Summer 2020 semesters were charged at the same rate as the Fall 2019 semester, but were of a lesser value
- Students that make use of on-campus facilities such as labs for their studies should not be charged for the use of these facilities when they will be inaccessible

Out of these themes, the team identified three key demands for the University:

1. Rescind the decision to increase tuition for domestic and international students in the 2020-2021 academic year;
2. Decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees connected to on-campus experiential learning, campus infrastructure and department specific resources for the 2020-2021 academic year; and
3. Issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter 2020 and Summer 2020 semesters.

Because the budget was approved by the Board, this is the body that has the power to change it. Working to represent students in this moment means making it clear to the Board of Governors that the approved 2020-2021 budget does not work for students and that it must be revised.

The recommendations listed above emerge from consultation with students in line with the DSU Consultation Policy. At their meeting on June 18,

The campaign could then be divided into goals, strategies, and tactics:

Goal: The University accepting and implementing all three demands.

Strategy: Pressuring the Board of Governors to amend the budget by accepting and implementing the demands.

Tactics: Organizing around the June 23 BoG meeting, coordinating an email/letter-writing campaign; using strategic social media posts to engage members and to get them to write emails to key decision-makers; reaching out to other student unions and community partners to seek solidarity and support; coordinating with the Board of Governors caucus to ensure we have speaking time at the June 23 meeting.

Specific action items identified:

- Write letter to University Board of Governors and decision-makers
- Create email templates for students and community members to use when emailing the BoG

- Create graphics and social media posts to communicate the survey results and campaign direction to members
- Draft a motion for DSU Council on June 18 regarding this campaign
- Publish campaign materials on June 9, 2020

Next Steps

On June 9, 2020 the DSU Executive will submit these demands to the Board of Governors and will simultaneously publish campaign information and materials on the DSU website. This consultation report will be circulated to Councillors for information. Further feedback and direction on the campaign from Councillors can be directed to the Vice President, Academic and External (dsuypae@dal.ca). At the next meeting of DSU Council on June 18, 2020, the VP AE will bring forward a motion to sign on to the letter to the Board of Governors. If Council votes in favour, the letter will be updated and re-circulated to the Board of Governors.

Students and community members are encouraged to send their own letters using the templates provided on the DSU website, on the dsu.ca/reject-the-3 page that has been set up for this purpose, and to post on social media about the campaign.

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- ⁴ DSU Executive and DSU Senate Caucus, "Dalhousie Student Union Recommendations for COVID-19-Related Academic Adjustments," Dalhousie Student Union, March 24, 2020, http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/COVID_Senate_Recommendations_FINAL_032420.pdf
- ⁵ Balser, Teri, "MARCH 26: NEW GRADE OPTIONS FOR WINTER TERM," Dalhousie University, March 26, 2020, <https://www.dal.ca/novel-coronavirus/march-26--new-grade-options-for-winter-term.html>
- ⁶ *Council Meeting March 25th Minutes* prepared by Dalhousie Student Union (Halifax, NS, 2020), http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/March%2025th_Minutes.pdf
- ⁷ *Council Meeting April 8th Minutes* prepared by Dalhousie Student Union (Halifax, NS, 2020), http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/April8th_Minutes.pdf
- ⁸ Department of Finance Canada, "Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses," Government of Canada, March 25, 2020, <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>
- ⁹ *Consultation Plan and Solidarity Motion: #DontForgetStudents* prepared by Dalhousie Student Union (Halifax, NS, April 16 2020), <http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/CERB%20Solidarity%20Motion%20April%202020.pdf>
- ¹⁰ *Council Meeting April 22nd Minutes* prepared by Dalhousie Student Union (Halifax, NS, 2020), http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/Council_Minutes_22.04.2020_APPROVED.pdf
- ¹¹ *Consultation Plan and Solidarity Motion: Signing Open Letter by No One Is Illegal* prepared by Dalhousie Student Union (Halifax, NS, April 16 2020), <http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/NOII%20Solidarity%20Motion%20April%202020.pdf>; *April 22nd Minutes*, Dalhousie Student Union
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- ¹³ Abawajy, "Strategic Plan," part 2.
- ¹⁴ Goswami, Sara, and Committee on International Student Issues, "Report of the Committee on International Student Issues," Dalhousie Student Union, April 20, 2020, http://dsu.ca/sites/default/files/documents/Int%27L_Students_Issues_Committee_Report_FINAL_01.05.2020.pdf
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- ¹⁶ Goswami, "International Student Issues," Section E.

Appendix A: COVID, Campus, and Costs Survey Questions



COVID, Campus, and Costs: How has COVID-19 affected your learning?

Got 5 minutes? We want to hear how COVID-19 has affected your learning and finances, and how we can support you.

Don't worry—we'll keep all your information confidential and anonymous. The data we gather will be brought to Council to inform our advocacy around student fees, especially during COVID-19.

If you'd like a chance to win a \$50 gift card to a local business of your choice, enter your name and email below!

This survey will be open until 3:30 pm on May 29, 2020.

B00 Number *

This information will be kept confidential and will only be used to confirm you are a Dal student.

Name

Appendix A: COVID, Campus, and Costs Survey Questions

Your name and contact information will be kept confidential and will not be stored after this survey is complete. We will only use this info to enter you into our draw to win a \$50 giftcard!

Email

Your name and contact information will be kept confidential and will not be stored after this survey is complete. We will only use this info to enter you into our draw to win a \$50 giftcard!

Does remote learning have the same value for you as on-campus learning? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain.

What changes have been made to your program due to COVID-19?

How has COVID-19 affected your access to student resources?

Appendix A: COVID, Campus, and Costs Survey Questions

Are you aware of the following financial aid sources? *

(select the applicable options)

- Government assistance (e.g., CERB or CESB)
- Dal assistance
- DSU assistance
- Other

Have you been able to access financial aids from the following sources? *

(select the applicable options)

- Government assistance (e.g., CERB or CESB)
- Dal assistance
- DSU assistance
- Other
- I don't need financial assistance

If you've experienced difficulties accessing financial aid, what were those challenges?

- Didn't meet the criteria
- Missed the deadline
- Didn't have the necessary documentation
- Application process was too difficult
- I did not have any difficulty
- Other

Are you an International Student? *

Appendix A: COVID, Campus, and Costs Survey Questions

- Yes
- No

Are you able to get home?

(whether for financial reasons or because of closed borders)

- Yes
- No

Are you aware of the following financial aids?

(select the applicable options)

- Dal International Student Fund
- DSU International Student Emergency Fund
- Other

Have you been able to access the following financial aids?

(select the applicable options)

- Dal International Student Fund
- DSU International Student Emergency Fund
- Other
- I don't need financial assistance

Additional Comments:

Appendix A: COVID, Campus, and Costs Survey Questions

Do you consent to us using your written statements as testimony? *

If you consent, your information will remain confidential and anonymous. If you're uncomfortable consenting to this, no problem!

- Yes
- No

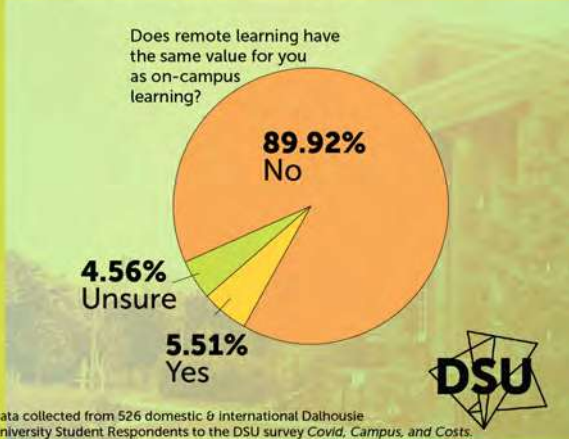
Submit

Never submit passwords through this form. Report malicious form

Appendix B: Graphics Summarizing Survey Results
Consultation Report: Reject the Three Campaign
Dalhousie Student Union Vice President, Academic and External
Set 1: Remote Learning Does Not Have the Same Value

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE



#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

"There is very limited to no access to resources like technology, libraries, and instructor office hours. The efforts to replace these are hampered by technological issues, and communication with instructors and other students is slow and far less effective."

DSU

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

- In our Covid, Campus, & Costs survey, students indicated serious issues with online learning.
 - 89.92% said that they do not feel like remote classes are worth as much as on-campus classes.
 - This contradicts the University's previous claims that they have the same value.
- DSU
- Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

Regardless of the University's one million-dollar investment in remote course development, there are some components that cannot be replaced with online learning.

Things like...

DSU

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

(Continued next page)

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

...Environments where students with different learning abilities can engage meaningfully

"Online learning poses many issues for students living with ADHD. The physical transition between classes, social interaction, and ability to learn in an environment engaging all senses are critical in maintaining attention and comprehending information. Additionally, due to the lack of ability to leave our homes, many of us have no separation of work and rest which is a dangerous combination to leave unseparated."



Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

...A focused space with all the amenities needed

"My living circumstances do not allow me to focus on the lectures and some are synchronous and can't be reviewed at my own time. Also, my living circumstances make it difficult to follow class scheduled lectures early in the morning with everyone else in the household."



Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

...Experiential programs where students gain practical skills

"I'm in nursing and much of what we learn is through in person, hands on experiences that you can't learn through a screen. I'm paying tuition to get that experience in the simulation lab and I feel not getting that impacts my learning and future abilities going into the work force."



Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

...Face to face engagement

"We do not have the same experience of being able to collaborate with our peers, being able to ask the professors questions and listen to our peers' meaningful questions."



Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

REMOTE LEARNING DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME VALUE

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- Email @dalpres with your concerns
- Head to our website for an email template and more info!

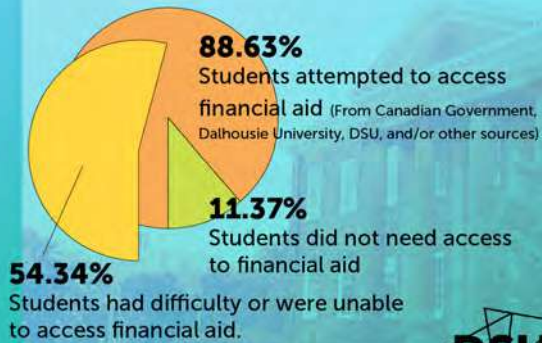
dsu.ca/RejectThe3



Appendix B: Graphics Summarizing Survey Results
Consultation Report: Reject the Three Campaign
Dalhousie Student Union Vice President, Academic and External
Set 2: Reduced Fees Not Just Bursaries

#RejectThe3

REDUCED FEES
NOT JUST BURSARIES



Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey *Covid, Campus, and Costs*.



#RejectThe3

REDUCED FEES
NOT JUST BURSARIES

"Students are struggling financially during this pandemic and asking us to pay the same amount of fees while providing less services and less opportunities is wrong. Students have received very few supports from governments during this pandemic, and academic institutions have a social responsibility to help make their services more accessible and affordable during this crisis."

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey *Covid, Campus, and Costs*.



#RejectThe3

REDUCED FEES
NOT JUST BURSARIES

- Though bursaries can help some students, they do not benefit all. By only providing bursaries, Dalhousie University is only able to assist a handful of students.
- By reducing tuition fees, the University can provide financial relief for all students studying at Dalhousie.

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey *Covid, Campus, and Costs*.



#RejectThe3

REDUCED FEES
NOT JUST BURSARIES

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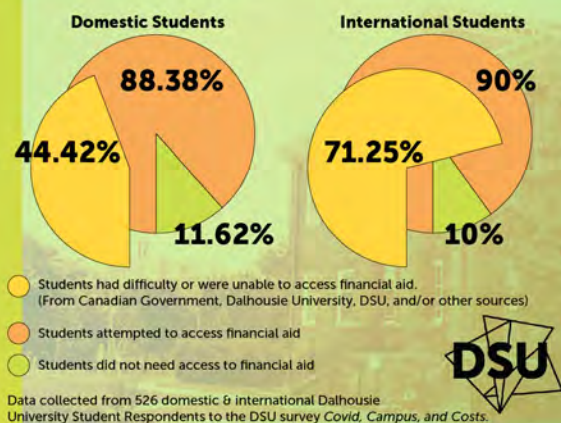
dsu.ca/RejectThe3



Appendix B: Graphics Summarizing Survey Results
 Consultation Report: Reject the Three Campaign
 Dalhousie Student Union Vice President, Academic and External
 Set 3: Domestic & International Barriers to Financial Aid

#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID



#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID

• Financial assistance programs such as CERB, CESB and those offered by Dalhousie University were implemented to provide students and community members with support. However, many students have faced barriers when accessing these programs.

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID

"I was unaware of all the financial aids and still am not aware of how to access them."

"The criteria for receiving financial aid from Dal is much too strict, because there are people like myself who could actually benefit from it but don't qualify."

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie

#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID

"I can't apply to CERB, and CESB requires that you look for a job. Which I feel like I'm unable to do because I live with my father who has MS and I don't want to risk bringing home covid-19 since his immune system is very comprised. I don't have any financial aid at all right now. And my parents aren't working."

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie

#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID

- Of all those who sought to access financial support, 68.44% had difficulty: ranging from not meeting specific criteria, to missing deadlines, to lack of documentation, to simply being halted by long and confusing application processes.
- Only 31.75% of the student respondents were aware of financial aids offered by Dalhousie.
- Even the students that were aware of the temporary financial aids are very clear that bursaries do not compensate for the increase in tuition.

Data collected from 526 domestic & international Dalhousie University Student Respondents to the DSU survey Covid, Campus, and Costs.

#RejectThe3

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL
 BARRIERS TO FINANCIAL AID

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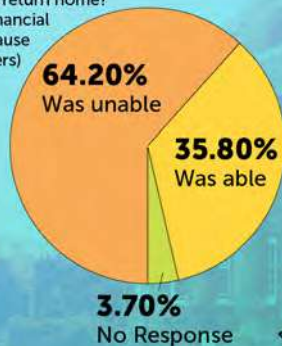
dsu.ca/RejectThe3

Appendix B: Graphics Summarizing Survey Results
Consultation Report: Reject the Three Campaign
Dalhousie Student Union Vice President, Academic and External
Set 4: International Students

#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Are you able to return home?
(Whether for financial reasons or because of closed borders)



Data collected from 81 Dalhousie University International Student Respondents through the DSU survey "Covid, Campus, and Costs."



#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

• As the University Administration and Federal Government develop resources to support domestic students during this global pandemic, International students continue to live in greater financial uncertainty with few resources available to them. Many also have no way to get home.

Data collected from 81 Dalhousie University International Student Respondents through the DSU survey "Covid, Campus, and Costs."



#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

"Big part of the students at Dal are international students and the situation in our hometowns are not very good, and many of us who cannot return to our homes we are going through difficult times financially and emotionally and that they add one more stress knowing that they would increase the tuition by 3%, it seems really absurd to me."

Data collected from 81 Dalhousie University International Student Respondents through the DSU survey "Covid, Campus, and Costs."



#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

"As an international student, I really appreciate Dal is trying the best to help, but the problem we're facing is the high tuition, cannot go back home or really hard to get home, rent is high, and it's hard to get a job ... also, some students lost their co-ops. Since the quality of lectures won't be as good as in-person classes, the tuition doesn't make sense to be raised."

Data collected from 81 Dalhousie University International Student Respondents through the DSU survey "Covid, Campus, and Costs."



#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

• In addition to the 3% increase all students are facing, International students who begin their degrees in the fall of 2020 or later will bear an additional \$1473 increase to their fees.

• These students do not have access to CESB, CERB and health care in the same capacity as domestic students, yet Dalhousie expects these students to pay a significantly higher increase in tuition.

Data collected from 81 Dalhousie University International Student Respondents through the DSU survey "Covid, Campus, and Costs."



#RejectThe3

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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DSU Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

Building our Equitable Futures Today

Strategic Planning Committee Report

May 2020

Aisha Abawajy

DSU President 2019 - 2020

To the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Membership,

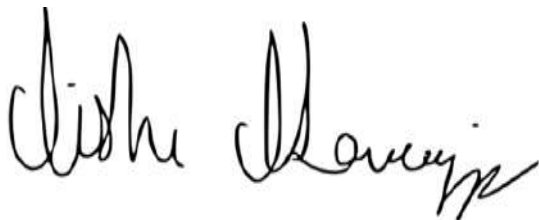
We are excited to present the DSU Strategic Plan for the years 2020 - 2025. We have heard from thousands of students over the years, witnessed the struggles and dreams of our student body, and have seen students continuously take on the task of organizing to support their peers and uplift their community as a whole. Our goal is to represent you, be here for you when you need support, and amplify your voices to the highest levels of governance on the issues that matter to you most.

It has been a very eventful year at the DSU. Reforming an institution takes a lot of work, time and energy, but the results are definitely worth it. I am fully confident that restructuring the full-time staff structure of the DSU has and will continue to allow for a more optimal DSU. The DSU should be working with our members and inspiring each and every one of us to take building our equitable futures into our own hands. Students have historically been the spark of social change and the DSU has the potential to be a catalyst for current and future activists to make a difference.

This plan is emerging at a turning point in our community, and likely a turning point across the world. Students are taking the initiative to advance our knowledge and skills with the goal of bettering their community. However, we are burdened with the financial, physical, and mental costs of going through this colonial white supremacist capitalistic patriarchal system. Costs which disproportionately impact our student body and can impact our ability to achieve our educational and professional goals. We are in a time of uncertainty - a feeling which many students are already incredibly familiar with. We've seen the government prove, by excluding one-third of the student population from accessing benefits they need to cover costs of living, that our interests and lives are considered expendable. Today it is international students being left out of CERB benefits - who will be left out tomorrow?

Your education should be engaging, fulfilling, and a time for personal growth and exploration. We hope to see every student feel fully able to have the experiences and develop the skills and knowledge they wish to acquire. In order to manifest these realities, it is vital that the DSU continues to listen and adapt to the needs of our students. In the same way the challenges that our students face are complex and layered, so should be our solutions. In this strategic plan, our priorities naturally overlap and intersect as we try to remove the barriers our student body faces using a holistic approach. In complex times, our Strategic Plan intends to act as a guiding light that will keep us principled, adaptive, and focused towards an equitable future for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisha Abawajy', written in a cursive style.

Aisha Abawajy

Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Part 1: Values, Vision, Mission & Mandate

Mandate Statement

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is a democratically elected member-based organization that acts as the main representative body of the Dalhousie student population to the University Administration. We serve almost 19,000 students across four campuses in accordance with our Act. The DSU provides resources and services to our members, offers student employment opportunities and advocates for better services, the elimination of tuition fees and safe, inclusive and enriched environments for students to learn, socialize and build a community in. The DSU supports members through events like O-Week, DalFest and Mental Health Week, supports nearly 300 student-led societies and provides services and resources such as the Survivor Support Centre, Campus Copy, the Grawood and T-Room and advocacy services ranging from academic support to issues based policies such as our International Student Policy.

The DSU's role extends beyond the student body, our students spark social change in their communities and many of our students and societies take an active role in bettering our local community. As the collective voice of our student body, the DSU is a dedicated network of students here to advocate, support, entertain, and represent you. Our mission is to serve the students who need our services most and prevent students from falling through the cracks of a broken institution. We are aware of the bigger picture - an equitable post-secondary education system - and consistently consider how we can improve and adapt our practices to achieve our goals. We will ensure all students are uplifted in our path towards a collective future.

The DSU advocates for student rights, builds community on campus through events and by supporting nearly 300 societies, and provides discount services to save you money!

Mission Statement

Our mission consists of five strands, as we aim to...

1. Advocate for the interests of our membership and bring their voices and priorities to the table through campaigns, supporting direct action, and lobbying to Dalhousie University and all levels of government.
2. Provide lasting benefits in the lives of students and our wider community by enabling students to build their skills, capacities, and networks through student societies, participatory governance, and employment or volunteer opportunities.
3. Offer services, businesses, supports, and resources that are relevant, meaningful, and promote the overall wellbeing of the student population.
4. Create space for students to build community, relax, and enjoy themselves in a safe environment, and enable the student community to create these spaces for themselves.
5. Promote social transformation and justice by centering our work within an equitable framework and continuing to re-shape our values, practices, services, and spaces to ensure we're prioritizing the most vulnerable within our communities.

What even is the DSU?

- A member-based organization
- Official representational body of Dalhousie Students
 - To Dalhousie Administration
 - To Government (municipal, provincial and federal)
 - To External organizations
- Student-centric approach to supporting Dalhousie Students
- Fully autonomous and separate body from Dalhousie University
- You could call it the student council for Dalhousie.
- Except we are NOT a government → we are a union with its own unique governance structure.

So, What Do you Actually Do?

- We advocate for our students and their communities
- We act as allies on the multiple fronts of oppression
- We support our members by providing on-campus services and resources
- We engage in social justice organizing
- The DSU's role extends beyond the student body. Our students are a spark of social change in our community.
- Advocate on behalf of students to the Dalhousie Administration and all levels of government.
- Support student societies and serve their members
- Create relevant programming
- Compile and share resources

DSU Services

- Food Bank
- Farmers' Market
- Equity & Accessibility Office
- Survivor Support Centre
- Health & Dental Plan
- Bar Services, Grawood & T-Room
- Campus Copy
- Tiger Patrol
- Grants & Sponsorship
- Food Services
- Equity & Accessibility Office (E&A Office)
- Sustainability Office (DSUSO)
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS)
- Society Membership
- Space Booking in SUB
- DSU Community Closet

What Can Members get from the DSU?

- Fun and safe place to make friends
- Skill building opportunity for students
- Part-time student-centric jobs
- Networks of students – societies and resources
- An avenue to amplify your voice
- Representation at the Dalhousie Board of Governors and Senate
- Advocacy Initiatives taken on behalf of the membership

Strategic Plan Scope

The strategic plan will encompass the mandate of the DSU for 5 years, when it will be reviewed, updated and another 5-year plan will be put in place. The Strategic Plan ensures the functioning of the Union and offers institutional knowledge and guidance to future Council, Executive, relevant staff and members.

Part 2: Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities

The strategic planning Committee has developed five strategic priorities for the DSU and ratified by Council on April 8, 2020. These priorities are:

1. Our Education: Our Priority
You're here to learn, and we're here to make sure nothing stands in your way!
2. Centering the Margins
Challenging the status quo in order to right historical wrongs!
3. Building Collaborative Community
You can't spell union without U and I!
4. Tackling Food Insecurity
Students are hungry for more than just knowledge, let's build solutions together!
5. Student Mental Health & Wellness
School is already stressful for students, supports shouldn't be because no degree is worth paying with your health!

Our Education: Our Priority

You're here to learn, and we're here to make sure nothing stands in your way

The Challenge & Why this Matters

We are all here to get that paper. The one commonality we have is our mission for education and knowledge seeking for the betterment of ourselves and our community. Whether that takes the traditional four years or more, at the end of the day we're all here to get an education. We are part of an ever-changing world where more-and-more, employment is tied to post-secondary achievement. Currently, 70% of jobs require some form of post-secondary education. We know the adage "knowledge is power" and "education is the key to success". What's becoming increasingly clear is that post-secondary education is becoming more-and-more relevant to the economic development of communities today. However, the way the education system is currently structured leaves many behind.

It's important to acknowledge the histories of exclusion that existed within the post-secondary realm. Post-secondary institutions were not made for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Colour, for femme students, for students with disabilities, or for queer and trans students. The existence of these students in our post-secondary spaces should be celebrated, amplified, and structurally supported on all fronts. It's important to note that current funding requirements for post-secondary institutions leave many behind. It is a privilege to even be a post-secondary student and with that privilege comes responsibility. There is a responsibility to advocate for those who are systematically disadvantaged. Our

interest with this priority is to examine what our education looks like today and the areas in which improvements can be made. A fully accessible, equitable, quality and robust post-secondary education is what we all deserve.

When advocating for our educational rights - there are many fronts to this fight. It's important to understand the various bodies and the powers they hold to effectively advocate for change. We believe in a fully accessible post-secondary education for all and that can only be attained through a national strategy. It can be difficult to advocate for this without representation on a federal level. It's also imperative to work with the provinces and municipalities to ensure that our education curricula and physical buildings become accessible, equitable, and representative.

The Vision:

A fully accessible, equitable, and quality education to all students who walk through the doors.

The Aim:

Educate members on their rights and advocate for accessible, equitable, and quality education. Advocate to the Dalhousie Administration on behalf of students for services, resources and systemic change that will enhance their education.

How we can Actually get There:

- Elimination of Tuition Fees
 - Elimination of international student differential fees
 - Reparations Tuition Model: Access for Black & Indigenous students. Phase 1: Mi'kmaq and Historic African Nova Scotian learners receive tuition-free education. Phase 2: All Indigenous and Black learners receive tuition free education
 - Removal of hidden course costs: Tophat/some textbook formats expensive and are an additional barrier of access.
- Decolonize Dalhousie: Moving Beyond a Land Acknowledgment
 - Reimagine EDI policies at Dalhousie. Implementation of EDI policies by certain faculties have been flawed.
 - Implementation of TRC recommendations
 - Full divestment
 - All faculty, staff and administration undergo cultural competency and anti-oppression training
- Diversify the Classroom
 - Hire and retain faculty & staff that are representative of population
 - Representative curriculum that's diverse and quality
- Support Students Navigating the Institution
 - Ombudsperson position should be brought back

- Robust Feedback Mechanisms for students. One About profs course evaluations: SRI's have proven ineffective to support students currently within a course - and often doesn't result in any changes in other iterations of the course. Another About Administrative policies, procedures and structures
- Create comprehensive easy to understand guides explaining Dalhousie vs. provisional gov. Vs. federal gov. Decision-making structure. In order for students to actively take their education into their hands. They need to understand the structures at play.
- Built-in Supports for Students
 - Reduce workload for students (students are currently overworked)
 - Career planning and CO-OP support: professional development
 - Make resources on research opportunities

Centering the Margins

Challenging the status quo in order to right historical wrongs

The Challenge & Why this Matters

Oppression and inequality are barriers to post-secondary education in both access and retention. That's why it is imperative to fight inequities on campus and in the broader society. Human Rights and the value of all people being equal is a widely accepted societal norm - yet that is not always put into practice. Anti-oppressive framework is a fundamental value of the DSU and a mechanism to recognize the inequities that exist and the responsibilities to right them. An anti-oppressive framework must be grounded in the realities of historic injustice and the on-going legacies that play out in society today. It is about understanding that oppression and injustice take place not only on an interpersonal level, but also at an institutional and systemic level. According to Bell Hooks, the problem within society today is a colonial, white supremacist capitalist patriarchy. We are at a point in human history where we are well aware of the historic injustices of the past. Dalhousie's report on slavery, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and so much more academic and official documentation exists adding the realities and previously and purposefully hidden injustices out into the open. So what do we do about it? What is our role as the inheritors of this history? Both the descendants of colonizers and the oppressed are caught in the intergenerational consequences. The realities of marginalization for specific demographics of society are the direct consequence of centering the colonizers and their descendants. And so to move away from that we must centre the margins. What does it mean to centre the margins? It means focusing on communities that have been historically and systemically marginalized. With the understanding that when those communities are focused on, we're all focused on.

Our bylaws and policies did not come out of the objective ethos to create a student union for everybody. The DSU was formed in 1966. Before the last residential school in Atlantic Canada was closed decades later in 1997. Dalhousie university was built on slavery. The gaps between academia and historically marginalized communities are clear. The system has been structured to leave out certain populations and that legacy exists today. It is our duty to identify these structural inequities and address them.

The vision:

An equitable campus community

The Aim:

Bridge the gap between historically marginalized communities and the status quo by empowering and supporting those located on the margins.

How we can Actually get There:

- Knowledge is power: education is empowering
 - Anti-o trainings for societies
 - Train students to be equipped to provide peer-to-peer support
 - Create awareness campaigns
 - Build up Diverse representation in student leadership
 - Building a strong, diverse student senate caucus
- Action through resource allocation
 - Provide support to Council community reps
 - Divest Dalhousie
 - E&A at O-Week
 - More adequate Prayer space in the SUB
 - Utilize resource of space by providing organizations with a mandate of representing/supporting historically marginalized with free/discounted space in the SUB
- Create the culture we want to see
 - partnering with societies that have anti-o/cultural serving mandates to create relevant programming. Support societies with equitable mandate like DalOut and BIPOCUS.
 - International & Domestic Student Solidarity
 - Clearly communicate with membership when issues intersect on marginalized identities
 - Naming & Advocating against systemic oppression at Council
 - Attend and support solidarity rallies hosted by organizations in the community
- Supporting International Student support
 - Develop DSU International Issues Policy
 - DSU becomes an Atlantic Immigration Pilot Designated workplace
 - Collaborate with International Centre to fill in the gaps around
 - Immigration consultation
 - Provide relevant resources to prospective and incoming students around required paperwork
- Indigenous Student Support

- TRC and MMIWG2S Report implement recommendations
- Paying rent to Mi'kmaq nation: could look like scholarships and/or reparations
- Commitment to decolonization efforts
- Reconciliation (which has recently been declared as dead by Indigenous youth)
- Develop Indigenous students' issues policy
- Black Student Support
 - Develop issues policy
 - Reparations for Dalhousie being built off the back of slavery
 - Support BUSA (Black United Students Association)
- 2SLGBTQ+ Support
 - Altering name and pronouns in the university system - thru senate.
 - Homophobia & transphobia in residence
 - Policy and procedural defense against discrimination
- Accessibility
 - Housing Insecurity
 - Dalhousie accessibility audit
 - Alcohol-free spaces
 - Survivor support/reduction (elimination) of sexualized violence and gender-based violence
 - Food accessibility → Halal, kosher, and other special dietary restrictions having more options on campus.
 - Develop Reproductive rights issues policy
 - Religious accessibility

Building Collaborative Community

You can't spell union without U and I!

The Challenge & Why this Matters:

It is no surprise to anyone that a lot of students do not truly understand what the DSU is. The DSU is a complex organization with many moving parts but at the centre of it all the DSU is a community hub for students. The importance of a community cannot be stressed enough. Many correlations have been made between a sense of community and mental health, retention, and higher grades. Therefore it's in everyone's best interests to better promote the DSU. The first step in building a sense of community is better promoting the supports, services, and resources that exist at the DSU. This strategic plan is a first step; however, more work needs to be done to make the DSU governance structure clear, and what decision-making bodies are responsible for. A clearer understanding of how the DSU operates can support the building up of ownership our memberships feel towards the DSU. The DSU previously had a website (Tiger Society) and app (DSU App) that allowed members to see all the societies that existed, learn more about what they do and ways to contact the society. Both of these services were

pulled down - the app was supposed to substitute the website. Then the app was deemed not useful yet no new avenue to reach student societies was created. Times like these are a reminder as to why

The vision:

A united student community

The DSU's Aim:

No point in replicating the wheel, we are stronger together. Pooling our collective skills and strong suits to build vibrant community supports and connections.

How we can Actually get There:

- Build a Sense of Community on Campus
 - Actively promote the collaboration of like-minded societies, community organizations and students
 - Educate students on what community resource are available to them
 - Councillors hold semesterly town halls with their constituents
 - Host semesterly society mixers
- Support Societies as the Lifeblood of the DSU
 - Community care events
 - DSU app and/or website dedicated to showcasing all DSU societies so students can engage directly with them
 - Revamp area on the 3rd floor as a society resource cabinet.
- Intercampus Collaboration and Support
 - Society expo on Agricultural and Sexton campus
 - DSU Bus students to campuses hosting events
- Empower Student Engagement
 - Support the Street Squad
 - Robustly promote DSU committees
 - Presidential Committee
- Education as a tool of collective empowerment
 - Providing first aid training to levy/faculty societies
 - Utilize Member Services training sessions to encourage collaboration and community building
 - Bridging the gap between academia and marginalized communities

Tackling Food Insecurity

Students are hungry for more than just knowledge, let's build solutions together.

The Challenge & Why this Matters:

Throughout our consultation we've heard from a wide range of students about their difficulties accessing healthy and competent food. Food insecurity impacts physical and mental health, and students often are forced to choose between food and essential expenses related to their academics. We are paying for university not only with our money, but with our physical health and mental wellbeing. We know that students are concerned about the future in many different ways, including environmental sustainability. Food security encompasses affordability and nutrition but extends beyond these aspects. In order to hold a holistic view of food insecurity, we need to ensure students have access to sustainable, culturally appropriate, readily available, diverse, fresh, and high-quality food. We are extremely proud of our DSU Food Bank, the DSU Market, and the levied society Loaded Ladle, but understand that services such as these can only go so far on their own in supporting our students and their needs. There is also a lot of structural support needed for the longevity of these services to continue to exist. Students need more accessible, affordable, fresh, and diverse food options on campus. Immediate supports for those facing severe food insecurity must be put in place while we also focus on long-term supports that ultimately address root causes of food insecurity.

The Vision:

Food Security across all 4 Dalhousie Campuses - all students have access to adequate nutrition, dietary requirements, and culturally relevant food that is affordable and locally produced (when possible). A sustainable approach is key so that members do not have to worry about the long-term impacts of our buying habits

The Aim:

Work towards a long-term plan that is structured and supported that allows students to have access to foods regardless of their monetary situation while supporting current needs of students.

How we can Actually get There:

- Data Collection
 - we need to get a comprehensive image of how students are doing on our campuses and where they are falling through the gaps. We need to understand the reality of food insecurity on our campuses.
 - Collect and develop Dalhousie specific data to contextualize the reality of food insecurity on our campus. Conduct relevant research to build up a case for institutional support and funding
- Collaboration & Positive Deviance

- We need to analyze our operations, local operations, and the solutions being developed in similar institutions to capitalize on our successes and build up solutions based on relevant precedent. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, but we can support initiatives already taking place on our campuses.
 - Implement the Food Collective as outlined by the DSUSO Report on Food.
- Fully Self-sufficient DSU Market
 - One full-time staff to run it.
 - Marketing and advertising support from DSU Comms team
 - Breakeven, better funding structure.
 - Try to get running it as a co-op student or course credit, potentially in management or sustainability to support operations
- Viable DSU Foodbank
 - Sustain a robust Volunteer base.
 - Hire part-time food bank coordinator with 15h/week
- Advocacy to the university and government
 - Options in residence, meal hall hours, access to cookware and cooking space, culturally appropriate food/dietary needs.
- Reducing stigma of food insecurity
 - Create a campaign to tackle issues around food insecurity including stigma around being insecure
 - DSU campaign to tackle food insecurity (Highlight what the DSU does)
 - Foodbank reality campaigns
- Build-up the DSU's Structural Capacity
 - Foodbank funding structure within DSU created
 - Define Foodbank structure within DSU
 - Define Market structure within DSU
 - Policy and procedure created to institutionalize Foodbank
 - Policy and procedure created to institutionalize Market
 - part-time food insecurity coordinator
 - Full-time staffer hired
- Prioritize Sustainable Food Access
 - Partner with local farmers, food associations and organizations
 - Implement reusable container program as outlined in the DSUSO Food Report
 - Build partnerships with local organizations to support foodbank

Student Mental Health & Wellness

School is already stressful for students, supports shouldn't be because no degree is worth paying with your health!

The Challenge & Why this Matters:

Stress, anxiety, and sleep difficulties remain the top 3 issues affecting Dalhousie Students performance according to research conducted by Dalhousie (Campus Budget Forum, March 2020). Talk to any student who has accessed the Dalhousie Health & Wellness centre. Students share with each other the councillors to avoid at all costs. The current system has limited capacity to serve Dalhousie - and people are falling through the cracks. Often the most marginalized students are the ones to be the least served. Nature of being in university is stressful; students need to be able to be in a good headspace to be in a place to learn.

The Vision:

A campus community that prioritizes a holistic and culturally competent approach to mental health and wellbeing, where people from every sphere have access to support and resources spanning from the president to the newest student.

The Aim:

Improve students' wellbeing by advocating for an accessible, culturally competent, holistic mental health culture on campus, providing educational opportunities for the university community, facilitating alternative and collaborative programming for the student body, and adequately supporting them to access the support they need.

How we can Actually get There:

Advocacy

- Building the DSU's capacity for mental health advocacy by:
 - Forming a Council Student Mental Health Committee that would be responsible for all mental health related work and allow councillors to take a more active role in advocating for Mental Health on campus.
 - Focusing on data collection by compiling experiences of students with the current system in place and asking councillors to collect feedback from their constituents.
 - Utilizing the grassroots efforts of mental health focused student societies by highlighting their findings and supporting their work.
- Advocate to the University for increased accessibility by:
 - Adding mental health complementary resources to student-accessible platforms such as Brightspace
 - Continuously revisiting the Sexton and Truro services and increasing advertising on appropriate channels (e.g. syllabi of architecture, planning and engineering faculty classes) to ensure students are aware of the services available to them.

- Advocate to the University for better structural and cultural competencies for marginalized groups by:
 - Hiring Health and Wellness staff who speak different languages and can facilitate programming to break down stigmas surrounding mental health for international students.
 - Following a more equitable hiring process, increasing BIPOC health professionals at the Dalhousie Health & Wellness Centre.
 - Educating all counsellors on the importance of cultural competency in their field. This includes education on the institutional and social barriers marginalized students face on our campus and ensuring counsellors unlearn their own biases to better support students.
 - Improving support for Black and Indigenous students by including additional financial and academic support for them. This should include but not be limited to specific grants, emergency bursaries, mental health supports, closed spaces and increased representation across all levels of Dalhousie faculty.
 - Prioritize pairing BIPOC students with BIPOC health professionals following the student's request.
- Advocating to the University for a shift towards a more holistic approach by:
 - Prioritizing harm reduction and safe consumption of alcohol as opposed to adopting a “dry” approach and banning alcohol consumption.
 - Integrating better professional development strategies to teach professors how to maintain a positive relationship with their students and those they are supervising.

Programming

- Facilitate Destressing Programming on campus by:
 - Supporting student societies to host regular community care events.
 - Expand exam distressing programming - developed by the Member Services Department - to include more distress activities by partnering with local BIPOC organizations across the city.
 - Organizing general distressing activities for students, such as bouncy castle, puppy room in the SUB, and accessing green spaces more often, and supporting student societies that do think work.
- Maintain communication channels and collect a wider range of feedback by:
 - Assuring that The Dalhousie Mental Health Forum is running regularly.
 - Hosting a Mental Health town hall on Sexton and Agriculture campuses, to center the student voices and better understand the needs of these unique communities.

Education

- Increasing accessibility of existing services by:

- Developing a concise guide to help students navigate all Dalhousie Health and Wellness Services including the Health Plan.
- Distributing guides to various places, specifically the Dalhousie Health and Wellness offices and on various Dalhousie and DSU online platforms.
- Developing resources that help navigate the healthcare system in Nova Scotia for anyone who is not familiar with it.
- Working with the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) on creating an educational package for graduate students to understand their rights and to feel empowered in their work.
- Keeping the membership updated on changes to the DSU Health Plan as well as services in the University and the Province.

Support

- Adequately supporting student in accessing the services they need by:
 - Working with the University to increase insurance coverage and bursaries to access off campus mental health services especially for graduate students, as Dalhousie Health and Wellness services are often at capacity and can be uncomfortable to access for students who have supervision roles.

Part 3: Department & Institutional Structures

Executive Branch

Where we are at now

The DSU Executive Team works diligently to serve and support our members as they fulfill their role. One area of concern in the past has been the unmanageable expectation put on the DSU Executives. Each executive team leaves the DSU depleted, burnt out and mentally and physically drained at the end of their term – this should not be the case. The pre-existing structure created barriers to fulfilling the responsibilities and time requirements outlined in these positions, while maintaining the regular responsibilities of a student. Throughout the 2019 - 2020 year, significant structural changes took place to create broader institutional and direct support for DSU Executives and staff. If the DSU Executive are effectively supported in their roles, the capacity of the DSU will increase substantially and we can better connect to and represent the needs of our members.

Where we can go

Campus life is constantly changing, and the needs of students today are not the same as they were before. There is a need for the DSU to stay attuned with the needs of students, to take a political stance on these issues, and to truly implement an anti-oppressive framework in the work we do. We are living through a climate crisis and are more aware than ever of the historical and present-day atrocities happening in our society and around the world. Challenging social norms and actively working towards a more equitable future for all is a fundamental part of what the DSU Executive work needs to prioritize. Students should know who their elected representatives are, and Executives should be student-facing: attending society events, giving class talks and doing more general outreach and engagement. Ideally, the DSU Executive are the ones responsible for setting goals, dreaming up projects and figuring out what issues and needs the students have. The Executives then collaborate with the two Directors, who take the lead on implementation, logistics, and come up with strategies to tackle the projects. The Directors then oversee their staff executing the initiatives with Executive feedback and involvement throughout the process.

Member Services Department

Where we are at now

The Member Services Department currently has only one full-time staff member (the Member Services Coordinator) and a team of part-time staff (Member Services Assistants). This is a department that has traditionally operated with minimal resources and staff and there is a lot of room for growth. We are excited to see how this department develops in the years to come. Currently, the department has four main areas of focus: the DSU Food Bank, the DSU Farmer's Market, anything and everything to do with supporting, managing and overseeing the 300+ DSU Societies, and servicing Sexton campus. The Member Services department also provides support for a variety of events under the VP Student Life portfolio including O-Week, Trick or Eat, the Exam Stress Relief Series, and much more.

Where we can go

The Member Services Department's mandate is two-fold: Societies/Member Support, and Food Security. Ideally, this department would have two full-time staff members who are each responsible for one of the mandates. As *Tackling Food Insecurity* has been recognized as an essential part of the DSU's mandate, this proposed position holds significant potential within the DSU. We envision this position overseeing the logistics and operations of the DSU Market and Foodbank. These two services are vital to our student population but have little lasting structure year-to-year and are dependent on the amazing humans who run it. This position would bring together DSU student societies (Loaded Ladle, Urban Garden Society, etc.) as well as DSU Offices (E&A Office, DSUSO, etc.) and other relevant stakeholders across campuses and communities to collectively tackle food insecurity (Food Collective as recommended by the 2017 DSUSO Report on Food Issues). Currently, ongoing work around these issues is taking place in separate spheres. Bringing together stakeholders to support the development of Dalhousie-specific research, educational campaigns, and on-the-ground supports would be a huge asset. Access to affordable, healthy and nutritious sustenance is a basic need and there are so many innovative and impactful ways the DSU could contribute to achieving this goal. See Strategic Priority 1 for more information on specific Foodbank and Market actionables.

The Societies & Support Coordinator would then be able to focus on supporting our students across the four campuses and our 300+ active societies. Our student needs are diverse, and this position would support the execution of student support initiatives as well as create a better baseline for society support. Societies are the life blood of the DSU – it is through societies that most students engage with the DSU during their time at Dalhousie. There are many ways the ratification process, grant application process and training with societies can be improved if given the full attention of a full-time staff person. Furthermore, this would allow for increased proactive communication and consistent engagement with societies. Logistically, ability for the Member Services department to schedule DSU Event staff for events and projects they are working on would be an asset to the department.

Part of the strategic priority *Building a Collaborative Community* entails creating more opportunities for societies to work together. This position could coordinate a yearlong calendar with all events societies are planning as they get approved and provide incentives for collaboration among like-minded societies. The Society Mixer held by the Society Engagement Commissioner in the Fall 2019 allowed society executives to mingle and give feedback on different topics. This event was a great success with a lot of positive participant feedback; hosting those types of events semesterly would be a great way to build community. Another area of focus for this position would be membership training and workshops. We envision a DSU Workshop Suite developed and coordinated by this position in collaboration with Executive, Staff, and DSU Offices. Education is a tool and capacity the DSU should really lean into. Currently, all societies are mandated to receive Anti-Oppression training prior to ratification, but as of the time this report was written, the DSU has not had a standardized module or the capacity to facilitate this. Currently, Primary Event Organizer (PEO) and Treasurer training are the only sessions regularly provided to societies. There is interest in morphing the PEO training into a more useful *Planning Accessible & Equitable Programming Workshop* Module which would contain an array of training facilitated by relevant parties. Other training offered within can include the society treasurer training, financial literacy training, how to navigate and advocate to the Dalhousie administration,

consent culture training, decolonizing academia educational workshop and more. The Societies and Support Coordinator would oversee these workshops, as well as explore the needs of the student population to ensure the offerings are relevant to students.

DSU Offices

Where we are now

Currently, the DSU offices include the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services (DSAS), the Equity and Accessibility Office (E&A), the Dalhousie Student Union Sustainability Office (DSUSO), and the Survivor Support Center. Due to its oversight by a full-time staff person the Survivor Support Center is considered to be distinct from the other offices. The current DSAS, E&A, and DSUSO operate fairly independently with minimal direct oversight and support. Each office acts in accordance with its original levy question and the direction in which its staff choose from year-to-year. There have been years where there is little to no activity from these offices and years where they excel. The Offices Steering Committee - which acts as the current support structure for the offices - operates under the portfolio of the VP Internal. This committee is a recent creation, and acts to review and approve office reports, goal-plans, structure, and hiring, but could still be developed further to best meet the needs of these Offices. Notable activities of the offices this year include revamping the E&A Office structure and mandate, the DSUSO's Report on Food Issues, and DSAS' contributions to feedback on the draft Student Code of Conduct. The DSUSO and the E&A Office both have adequate funding through levies; however, DSAS is funded entirely through the DSU's operational budget. Although it has operated without adequate funding to meet the demands of the student population, this year we were able to significantly increase the funds allocated to DSAS in the annual budget for 2020/2021.

Where we can go

We would like to see each Office review and update their mandate – of they have not already done so - and identify the areas where they align with the DSU strategic priorities. The Survivor Support Centre's Manager has developed an in-depth office mandate and workplan for the 2020-2021 year based on past year successes and gaps. Developing similar documentation for the other offices is highly encouraged. This would enhance the ability to coordinate collaboration between the Offices, student societies, and the DSU Executives. Under the portfolio of the Director of Research and Outreach, offices are able to access additional support for their overall activities and maintain a lasting strong link to the DSU that is not as strongly impacted by year-to-year Executive changeover. As the demand for its services has seen substantial increases, the DSAS will continue to require funding support and allocation with the DSU budget. This office would benefit from additional funding that would allow them to maintain their independence, such as a levy. As well, the DSU Sexton Office can become a part of the DSU Offices. One aspect we'd like to see these offices continue working on is educating students via social media, compiling resources and staying up to date on the issues taking place around the world. It's important that students have an anti-oppressive perspective and are able to relate world struggles of oppression to their time and existence at Dalhousie University.

DSU Sexton Satellite Office

Where we are now

In the 2019/2020 year significant effort was put into growing the DSU's relationship with Sexton campus. We are proud to have successfully expanded some of our services onto Sexton and started the process of rebuilding trust between Sexton Campus and the DSU. The T-Room has historically operated more independently from the DSU than many of our other businesses and services and is a beloved social hub for Sexton students. Mid-way through 2019/2020 a Sexton Coordinator was hired, with input from Sexton stakeholders directly on the hiring committee and made tremendous progress. One highlight was the Sexton Society Expo, which was small but well attended and enjoyed by students. As well, the Sexton Attendants merged with the Member Services Department as Sexton Member Services staff to provide Sexton-specific support to students and student societies.

Significant steps were taken to increase DSU Executive and Council presence on Sexton this year. Office hours were regularly attended in the DSU Sexton Office throughout the summer, and into the Fall until the Sexton Coordinator was in place to act as the official DSU liaison. Council meetings were also held on Studley, Carleton, Sexton, and the Agricultural Campus on a rotating basis. A Sexton Advisory Committee took place in the summer semester, and another meeting was anticipated for the winter semester but was disrupted by COVID-19. Sexton support and the Sexton Coordinator have been placed under the President's budget and portfolio to ensure this relationship will be maintained in the future as a continued priority of the DSU. It is highly recommended that Executives continue to make an effort to attend meetings and events on Sexton, and communicate regularly with stakeholders in Engineering, Planning, and Architecture.

Where we can go

The DSU Sexton Office should operate similar to our other DSU Offices – as an independent entity supported by the resources of the DSU. A Sexton Coordinator should be hired each year, with Sexton students providing direct input on the hiring committee. Measures should be established to ensure each Sexton Coordinator creates a transition report and is allocated adequate time to train the next coordinator. Similar to the other Office structures, the Sexton Coordinator in collaboration with the DSU or Sexton stakeholders can create and deliver programming and support that meets the unique needs of Sexton students. The Sexton Coordinator should report directly to the DSU President and work with the Member Services Department and Sexton Member Services Assistants to implement their goals. In the next year, the focus of the Sexton Coordinator should be on developing a clear mandate for the office, in order to build a framework for future goal-plans, structural proposals, and projects. Issues at the forefront of student feedback that can be targeted in the next 5 years through this office include affordable and culturally competent food options on Sexton, the lack of study spaces, mental health, and support for International students. This office would then have the capacity to act as the voice of the DSU on Sexton and should be able to utilize their direct experience and consultation with students on Sexton to address their specific needs.

Council & Committees

Where we are now

The DSU Council and Committees are prominent channels where students have a direct impact on the decisions and direction of the DSU. Council acts as the highest governing body of the DSU and is, therefore, where students can have the most impact. In the past, there have been difficulties with having a robust and representative Council, specifically prior to Faculty-level societies gaining the ability to elect their representative internally rather than through the overall DSU Election (changes were made to the Elections Policy 2017/18). Significant work was put in by the DSU President in the 2019 Summer Semester to ensure as many seats of Council as possible were filled by their Society-appointed representatives. One particular gap in this area is difficulty in filling Community Representative seats which do not have an officially recognized appointing body, requiring positions such as the Students with Disabilities Representative, Black Students Representative, and Women/Femme Students Representative to run in the DSU General Elections or By-Elections. This often entails that one or more of these positions are vacant for at least a portion of the year, further marginalizing these voices at the DSU.

Council has historically tended to act as a catch-all for any student concern with or related to the DSU or Dalhousie. There is a lack of clarity around what the DSU even is, what we do and the role that council plays. Discussions and decision-making items are placed on the agenda that would be more appropriately and effectively addressed through Committees, other meetings, or internal DSU staffing structures. These items can often reside outside of the knowledge or purview of Council and disrupt the ability of Council to fulfill its annual responsibilities, function efficiently, and maintain focus on broader overall direction of the DSU. Councillors are the official representative of their constituents and should be in contact with members to raise points and concerns on their behalf. Councillors often don't have a full understand about these structures and channels themselves and are therefore unable to effectively and efficiently carry out their role. With Councillors not being properly trained and supported, they are unable to then support the overall student membership navigate their concerns. This by and large impacts Councils ability to direct the DSU at the higher level in which council is meant to function. Furthermore, councillors are expected to represent their constituencies in a professional manner, however, the complex relationship between roles as representatives in a governance system and peers in a student community can create complications unique to a student union setting. In some cases, interpersonal issues may manifest into or otherwise impact Council discussions and decision-making.

A strength of the 2019/20 Council has been in approaching systemic issues through writing statements in solidarity and taking public stances in support of marginalized student communities, which often pass with minimal debate and a focus on collaboration with stakeholders on and off Council. However, it is difficult to ensure consistent long-term contribution and engagement both in Council and its Sub-Committees. For a variety of reasons, some Councillors are minimally engaged with Council, Committees, and their direct Constituents. Due to gaps in communication and consultation, there has been a disconnect between constituents and their council representatives. Members have been bypassing their councillors to directly engage with council – which beats the entire purpose of a representational positions. Low engagement on the Committee level is particularly of concern, as these spaces are essential for the operation of the DSU and should play a large role in developing consultation, discussion, and decisions prior to agenda items being presented at the Council level.

Where we can go

There is a lot of potential for the DSU Council to improve its ability to fully represent the interests and voices of our student population. Ideally, students will feel equipped and comfortable bringing questions, concerns, or issues to the attention of the DSU, through their Council representative as their main avenue of access. Every single student is represented by one (or more) Faculty or Community Representatives - as well as operationally by the DSU Executive at Council. Members are also represented at Dalhousie's highest decision-making body through the two Board of Governors Representatives (and President). Councillors should be knowledgeable of both DSU structure and the needs of their constituents and should feel equipped to engage in consultation and bring forward the voices and concerns of their constituency. This entails engagement around both academic/University structural considerations and social issues that disproportionately impact their constituents.

Essential to the representative ability of DSU Council are the Community Representatives. These include the Black Students Representative, the International Students Representative, the Women's/Femme-identified Representative, the 2SLGBTQ+ (DalOut) Representative, the Indigenous Students' Representative, the Students with Disabilities Representative, and the Residence Students Representative. Some of these representatives have the backing and support of their appointing society, but others do not currently have this type of structural support. Further, some of their constituents may not be aware of or engage directly with them. It is imperative that these representatives are provided support and resources to be able to connect with their constituents, be available for student support, and raise awareness of their role within their community. Supporting the creation and/or recognition of appointing bodies and ensuring that Community Representatives have access to the necessary resources will ideally lead to increased interest in holding or engaging with student leadership positions. Many students want to represent their members, have a seat at the table, and bring change to the DSU for their constituents - and it is the DSU's responsibility to decrease the barriers they face in achieving this. In practice, this could look like support in organizing town halls, collaborations, or providing social media and outreach support to engage their membership. The DSU could advocate on the University-level for Community Representatives to have access to statistics and information on students who are within their constituency. In addition, for Councillors who do not have access to society funding or support, this could look like providing access to a pool of funds that would enable them to host events and do the work of engaging with and representing their constituents.

Furthermore, there are many Council Committees that make important decisions on the operations and activities of the DSU. Often these Committees are attended exclusively by Executives and Councillors due to difficulty in recruiting and retaining engagement from the General Membership. It is imperative that both Councillors and General Members understand the role of these Committees and the value of contributing to their operation. The approach to this can be two-fold: by increasing the promotion, advertisement, and accessibility of information about Committees and by more effective and appropriate use of these Committees. The key to student engagement at this level is ensuring that members feel informed and empowered to contribute and allowing them to contribute in ways that feel important and meaningful. This will allow the DSU to further improve its overall operations and gain a more holistic understanding of the membership. Additionally, Councillors should be encouraged to strike Ad-hoc Committees to address issues or act as a working group on topics that may arise through

the course of the year. These topics may not have an existing appropriate avenue or may be better addressed through the capacity of a Committee rather than by an individual or at the council level.

A robust structure for Council and Committees, which adequately trains its contributors and clearly delineates responsibilities and decision-making power, is essential for democratic operation and participatory governance. Increased awareness of DSU and Dalhousie structures would empower students to bring their voices forward, while allowing the DSU to more easily discern between offhanded or bad-faith commentary and genuine student feedback or concern from those who may not be aware of (or be adequately served by) existing avenues of consultation and redress. Our goal is to provide students who wish to see and/or contribute to change be able to navigate the channels that currently exist and use them for the betterment of the whole student body.

Bar and Food Services

Where we are now

The DSU operates two campus bars, the Grawood on Studley (which operates out of the SUB), and the T-Room on Sexton campus. In the 2019/2020 year, Bar Services underwent significant changes and the DSU no longer manages or oversees the service of alcohol on campus beyond events held within the Student Union and the T-Room. The scaling back of these operations was the result of decisions made by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee but has significantly decreased costs across Bar Services departments and increased the DSU's capacity to focus on developing the structure and operations of the Grawood and T-Room.

In recent years many campus bars have seen stagnation or reduction in attendance, sales, and bookings - and increased competition by University-run or local establishments. The Grawood has historically run a significant deficit, requiring funds to be used to offset these losses rather than for new or expanded student services. The creation of the Director of Operations position intended to, among other things, address this issue by integrating the operations of the campus bars more closely with the other operations of the DSU. This has been a step towards further development of the structure of the bars, with a focus on balancing the ability of student staff to shape programming and operations while ensuring manageable workloads, adequate staff support, and appropriate decision-making structures.

The Grawood has been able to maintain recurring specials and events, such as Trivia and Sex Toy Bingo, but a majority of programming (and, as a result, clientele) within this space is not representative of the diversity of the student population. Events, programming, and services are typically geared towards, and attended by, white domestic students. Additionally, since its creation The Survivor Support Centre has made contributions to create a safer campus bar. Being cognizant of the prevalence on University campuses of sexualized violence, alcohol abuse, and how these issues interact is essential for ensuring our bars are able to operate as safe spaces moving forward. Our student bar staff are skilled in serving alcohol safely and bring their unique perspective and experiences as students. However, there is still a lot of work that can be done to support student staff in managing complex issues and situations and to shift the culture both within our bars and across campuses.

The T-Room has not been as drastically impacted by trends in decreased attendance of Campus bars, and rather is seen as a social hub for Sexton students. Student staff at the T-Room, who are students on Sexton, have managed a significant portion of the operational and programming needs. Feedback suggests that many students feel this space provides programming and regular operations that are relevant to them. The needs of students on this campus are unique, and therefore direct contribution from Sexton students in T-Room operations appears to be imperative for continual success. There can tend to be mixed feedback on suggested improvements to the T-Room, but it would certainly benefit from more direct DSU support on logistical operations and communications through the DSU's Sexton Satellite Office. Additional suggestions brought forward by Sexton students have been expanding hours to allow use as study space, expanding food options, and increased operations during the summer months. As well, there is room to improve in supporting consent culture through the T-Room and specialized measures to better serve the large International student population on Sexton.

Where we can go

A substantial priority for both campus bars going forward is student safety. The Grawood and T-Room should lead by example when it comes to consent culture, which entails a holistic approach including (but not limited to) preventative measures, educational and awareness campaigns, and survivor-centric operations, policies, and practices. Another prominent aspect of student safety is harm reduction and a wellness-based approach to mitigate and address harms associated with binge drinking and alcohol abuse. Substance use and abuse is a significant concern on most University campuses, and our goal is for our campus bars to operate as a safe and accessible alternative to drinking downtown, in residence, or at off-campus house parties. Implementation of best practices and policy around alcohol harm reduction should be a focus of DSU Bar Services and DSU advocacy around University Bar Services.

As both a harm-reduction measure and a way to expand the diversity of bar events and patrons, there is room to increase and improve the range of dry and all-ages programming. First-year students often lack fun and accessible programming and can be the most vulnerable to the risks and harms of drinking culture. These events provide an opportunity for students who are not of legal age, students who choose not to drink, or students who are recovering from (or struggling with) substance abuse to connect with peers in a safe, accessible, and comfortable space. Additionally, developing a menu of non-alcoholic drinks (at reduced cost) would allow students who do not drink to feel more welcome and provide an option for those who may feel pressure to appear as though they are drinking.

Ensuring that both bars can operate as supportive spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ students, BIPOC students, and International students, and other student communities that are historically underserved is also essential moving forward. It is important that Bar Services have diverse student representation, both in terms of staffing and an increase in student/society-led programming that meets the varied interests of our membership. As well, all those involved in bar operations - from security, to staff, to event hosts - should be aware of and take measures to mitigate situations or actions that could further discourage students in marginalized communities from engaging with the Grawood and T-Room. Dal AfroFest was a huge success this year and is one example of what BIPOC-centered programming can look like. Programming like this is very needed and highly requested by our membership, while also increasing our base of clientele. Another example would be programming focused around sports that are not as popular domestically but have a huge following from the International student population, such as soccer. Drag shows have also seen a rise in popularity and could provide opportunities for

students to hold paid performances at a venue accessible to them. Continuing to partner with societies and constituents to plan and host events would further increase the reach of these services. A step for further consultation would be to launch a survey or other outreach around what type of ongoing events or programming students would like to see, particularly students who disproportionately do not visit our campus bars.

Furthermore, a structure in which societies are able to host events in one of the bars for free once a year, similar to how the McInnis Room functions, would be a way to support student-led programming and diversify options for students. The costs of these bookings can be offset by increasing costs for external groups who wish to book space. Having the student bars as accessible as possible for our constituents to host events will both increase awareness of and revenue to our services, while supporting student safety in tandem with other harm-reduction and consent-based measures. Accessibility is super important and initiatives like alcohol-free drinks, culturally competent food, more events that aren't 19+, security that's trained to not be racist, etc. are just a small set of ways in which this can be achieved.

The T-Room is a space that could expand its hours of operation, and potentially incorporate daytime food services to meet students' needs outside the hours of the single cafe on Sexton. Development of the use of T-Room space should be done with direction and feedback from the Sexton Coordinator, T-Room staff, Director of Operations, and other stakeholders as to what daytime uses could look like and what other areas of improvement may exist. Recent discussion has centered around use as study space, chill/hangout space, and expansion of Loaded Ladle services into the T-Room. In summary, our vision for the DSU Bars is student-centric. A service run by students for students that is a hub for all our diverse students on campus.

Workplace Culture

Where we are at:

The DSU is not immune to the systemic injustices that negatively impact all levels of our society. Many organizations across the city, and many student unions across the country, have begun taking steps to identify and address how the structure of their organizations creates and reinforces inequities, regardless of the best intentions of staff. As our society shifts to become more aware and accountable, we have an obligation to our members and staff to be leaders in addressing systemic injustice in a meaningful way. The DSU has long known of many problems that needed addressing. Specifically, workplace bullying, sexism, racism and social cliques are systemic issues that are consistently identified within the DSU. The restructuring process has been one part of the process of tackling these issues. Additionally, with both the full-time and part-time staff unionizing in 2019, some of these issues will begin to be addressed in the years to come – but it will be up to the Executive to set the expectations and examples that can truly create lasting change.

The portfolios of the Director of Operations and Director of Research and Outreach were developed, in part, to centralize Human Resources (HR) responsibilities. Thereby freeing up the time of other staff members to attend to their respective portfolios and preventing the potentially uncomfortable situation of playing a role in the HR of themselves or their peers. Oversight of the range

of departments within the DSU has been split between the Director positions, with each full-time staff person directly reporting to one of the two Directors.

Historically there has been a lack of representation from marginalized communities in both full-time and part-time staff positions, despite the implementation of hiring policy and hiring equity guidelines. Significant effort was made in multiple departments throughout the 2019/20 year to increase outreach to student communities and ensure the limitation of bias during the hiring process. On top of increasing representation, it is equally important that the DSU has the resources to support a wide range of staff needs and prevent workplace exclusion or discrimination. For this reason, it has been essential that the Directors have a deep understanding of workplace equity issues and are accessible and supportive for staff in their department(s) to approach with specific concerns or needs. Comprehensive anti-oppression training was integrated into the annual part-time staff training sessions in 2017 with an overwhelmingly positive response. This type of work, however, is only the beginning.

Workplace bullying – As the faces of the organization, the Executive are particularly susceptible to bullying from the membership, however bullying of/between employees happens at all levels of the DSU. Trolling for example, from rude Facebook comments to flooding of voicemail and inboxes of threats, and even stalking have all been issues faced by employees of the DSU. Favouring a punitive instead of restorative and educational methods creates for a toxic workplace. supportive Developing ways to support each other that centre the needs of the victim and, where possible, focus on reconciliation is essential to all employee's capacity to thrive.

Sexism – The DSU has often been referred to as a “boy's club”, rife with misogyny. Sexist workplace characteristics are so engrained that despite the high number of female and non-binary identifying department managers/leads, and even in years with a mostly female-identifying Executive team, the DSU is seen as a misogynistic organization. In the 2015 – 2016 DSU President General Manager Report, the sexist nature of the office was named a number of times and attributed to the distribution of power namely among the senior leadership. The restructuring took the issue of distribution of power into account when creating two director positions.

Racism – White supremacist workplace characteristics is likely a shocking term to see associated with an organization that you are part of, yet they are present in most organizations. These are aspects of workplace culture that, unintentionally or not, not only favour White employees but actually create barriers to full inclusion for BIPOC employees. These are often things White employees lack the awareness to notice as they are simply considered ‘the standard’ way of doing things in their culture. The problem is, those standards are only the norm in cultures that favour the “White” way of doing things (hence White supremacist workplace characteristics), which means BIPOC employees and members simply cannot thrive under those conditions. A major example of this is the constant sense of urgency that is deeply rooted within the DSU. Tight non-adjustable deadlines, the notion that if you aren't 10 minutes early for a meeting, you're already late and preferencing speed over quality are examples of a White preferencing time management style that isn't present in other cultures. Inflexibility in these (and other) instances upholds racial injustice and creates barriers for BIPOC members. In order to address these issues, employees must center and actively listen to the needs and experiences of BIPOC employees – this is the only way to even begin to understand the ways racism impacts the organization. As these issues are uncovered, being open and flexible to alternate ways of knowing and operating is essential to creating an environment where racism is actively addressed.

Workplace cliques – As often happens, certain employees work more closely together than others. While it is natural for stronger workplace bonds to develop among folks that work closely together or those who have worked together for longer periods of time, it becomes problematic for the organization if those work bonds are depended upon above all else. Part-time staff feel distant from the DSU and depending on which department they work for; their experience and expectations are quite different. In departments where most staff are students that transition each year, there is likely to be a sense of ‘team camaraderie’ but a sense of distance and lack of communication with the core, long-term staffers. In areas where there is a mix of short- and long-term employees (such as the 2nd floor executive and managers), there is often a lot of opportunity for communication, but a greater deal of interpersonal conflict. Finding ways to continually build bonds and connections both within and between the departments of the DSU is vital for creating a workplace where all members can thrive.

The University and Student Union setting comes with its own set of unique strengths and challenges in terms of long-term planning. Although full-time staff have the flexibility to develop their own goals and projects, changes in Government, the University, the DSU, the Executive, and the overall student population can dramatically impact the content and circumstances of work being done at the DSU.

Where we can go:

The DSU as a workplace has been substantially altered by COVID-19 and the necessary shift to online operations. Keeping staff connected and supporting is especially important and especially difficult at this time. One particular concern exists around ensuring there is cross-departmental communication and cohesion between those under the DRO and those under the DO. Strong communication between the Directors and opportunities for cross-departmental updates, discussion, and collaboration should assist in reducing feelings of distance or disconnection from the other department(s).

The workplace is not your family, nor should it be your first priority. For everyone to work in a comfortable space, it is essential that all staff are operating off of the same baseline of mutual respect, professionalism, and team support. We know that staff have built long-lasting and deep relationships with one another and hope that staff will continue to have ample (and increased) opportunities to bond whether through fun socialization events/activities and/or shared passion for the work they do in supporting students. However, it is imperative that these relationships do not become a cause of workplace stress, rather than preventing or alleviating it. The narrative of the workplace as a “family” often comes attached to leveraging these relationships with expectations of time and energy far above what is reasonable to expect of staff. They are workers, but first and foremost they are individuals with lives and priorities that exist outside of this space and it is important that this is acknowledged and respected.

It is essential that, as our staff contribute so substantially to the DSU, they should be provided opportunities to access training and professional development that enrich their work at the DSU and beyond. The health and wellbeing of staff should be the top priority in building and maintaining a strong workplace culture. Providing our part-time and full-time staff with training and professional development opportunities that would translate to a better workplace and service provision is essential. The fast-paced environment of a student union can exacerbate stress related to work. It is always important to consider power dynamics and perspectives when selecting facilitators – remember that

facilitators are an amazing way to engage employees in active listening, choosing facilitators that deeply understand and have lived experience with the topics you're addressing is vital to creating a meaningful educational environment

Space as a Resource

Where we are:

The DSU is fortunate to have the Student Union Building as a hub for our members on campus. With a wide array of spaces and the ability to setup rooms to meet our client's needs, we generate a lot of revenue from external room bookings. Student societies have access to booking rooms in the SUB for free as well as a once a year McInnes room rental. Office space for societies has seen an increase in interest over the years. The fourth-floor houses Dalhousie services like the Bissett and Multi-faith Centre among others. Also located on the fourth floor are the DAGS Offices, and CKDU. The third floor consists of the Society Hub which includes the Society Offices, the Gazette office, a Boardroom, kitchenette and lockers, the DSU Community Closet and Study Space. DSU services on this floor include Campus Copy, the Productions office, the DSUSO office, the DSAS office, the E&A office, Survivor Support Centre and full-time staff offices. Rooms for rent on this floor are Room 301, 302, and 303. The second floor includes the Exec Offices, Staff Offices, Member Services Desk, Commissioner/Comms staff desks, Accounting corner, McInnis room, Council Chambers, bookable rooms, storage space/custodial storage, food services room, 2nd floor kitchenette/storage, and Boardrooms. On the main floor we have the Front Desk, Study Area, Market Set-up area, Green Wall (across from market setup area), Food Services, Atrium, Grawood, Market Storage. And finally, in the basement we have the Food Services Hallway, Dal Bookstore and Book return area, Ascensions Cuts, the Foodbank, NSPIRG, Wellness Room, Wellness Room Office, DSU Storage Room.

Where we can go:

There is a lot of room for better utilization of space in the SUB. Thinking about the spaces we control as a resource and aligning our actions with an anti-oppressive framework, there is so much potential for what the SUB can become.

Art is a representation and dream for what the world can be. The DSU has a lot of prime blank spaces that can be turned into beautiful and meaningful art pieces. With a focus on the strategic priority of centering the margins, we can envision a DSU decorated from head to toe by the art of Black, Indigenous, Queer, Different abled folks, People of Colour and more bring to light their visions for an equitable future. Also thinking about using these blank spaces as a way to educate our members of the realities of those margins, we can install permanent and non-permanent multi-media art pieces highlighting and bringing to light those on the margins. Examples of projects that were in the works includes an installation of red dresses to symbolize and highlight Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Stairwells of the SUB have had racist graffiti and it is a maintenance cost to constantly repaint these and other spaces after students have vandalized them. Created permanent art fixtures on these spaces celebrating the margins would not just bring some colour into the SUB but also fulfil our mandate of educating our membership and act as a political statement of claiming space for those who have often been left out. The DSU graphic designer & campaigns coordinator position could

coordinate the creation of these pieces working with the DSU executive and community council representatives. Other spaces that have been underutilized include the DSU's green wall, the Wall of Nostalgia, bulletin boards within the SUB and any/all blank white walls. Often times, we celebrate Black folks during Black history month, the Queer community during pride, the Indigenous community on Mi'kmaq history month. Yet, these folks don't stop existing outside of these designated times and art pieces that are permanent can be one way we combat this. Murals painting in the Mulgrave community is just one example of how art can bring communities together. Utilizing Dalhousie and the greater K'jipuktuk community to envision and create the art is a way to also fulfill the strategic priority building collaborative community. Using these spaces as a place to educate through art has huge potential.

Opening the Grawood for a once a year booking for societies similar to the McInnes room can help bring in more societies. Furthermore, allowing two or more societies to book the McInnes room for an unlimited amount of free bookings can facilitate the priority of creating a collaborative community. Solidarity bookings is another great way to create a collaborative community. Allowing organizations that have a mandate of centering the margins have a free booking once a year, demonstrates our commitment to the greater K'jipuktuk social justice scene.

Prayer space on campus has been an issue. During the renovations of the SUB, the Wellness room was meant to fit that need. However, it is clear that no Muslims were consulted in the decisions because the room orientation does not properly face the *qibla* (direction in which Muslims pray). We recommend that Room 226 in the SUB be turned into a Prayer space and Zen space. The space is currently used as storage and all the items in this room can find another home in the SUB. Placing the DSU's prayer and Zen space in a prominent area with large windows demonstrates our organizational commitment to Muslim students. Nap spaces on campus have been an ask of students for a while now and this space also being used for this purpose during exam and midterm season would make sense. The atrium at the LeMarchant area would be another ideal space for nap sessions. We recommend having a single entrance to the nap area as well as an Event Staff supervising the space at all times.

The Wellness room is another underutilized space in the SUB. With the prayer and Zen space moved to room 226, the wellness room can be revitalized. In 2015/2016, the university ran an off-campus student lounge out of the fourth floor of the SUB. Although a great idea, the location was not ideal, so they turned it into office space. The space had couches, snacks, tables, video games, board games and more. I think a chill space like that would work well within the wellness room. The little alcove at the far back can be used to store books, board games, yoga mats and more and the space can be booked out by societies for smaller events. The lockers and shelves outside the wellness room are also underutilized and can be made to store resources. Another option for this space is to turn it into a social justice Hub and house various societies aligned with an anti-oppressive framework to share it.

Part 4: Consultation & Member Feedback

Consultation Session: Members

Presidential Committee Consultation

What programming, services or supports would you like to see at the DSU?

- Puppy room
- Spaces on campus for member under 19+ for fun
- More fruit options → mango
- Destressing activities → bouncy castle/puppy room!!!!
- Allow average member to have a voice
- Accountability
- Community care events

What issues do you face as a Dalhousie member?

- Tuition – increasing rate every year
- Disproportionate impact of fees rising on marginalized community
- Textbook fees
- Their own words don't make sense → Dal strategic plan values and budget don't align
- Hard to find affordable housing near campus
- No elevators in Howe – not acceptable
- Excessive drinking and the smell of weed in res
- Res false fire alarms are annoying
- members need to pay extra for winter break/fixed rate for summer
- LSC building – there is asbestos in the walls of the LSC
- Issue with the prof not teaching well. Would like to see an improvement to the situation while still in the class. As of right now, classes feedback only gets incorporated afterwards
- TopHat is unnecessary and expensive
- Same class held with different prof – learning experience for member differs
- Profs not returning the course material at a timely manner
- Members are overworked

How could the DSU address these issues?

- Centralized review/complaint system. Place a complaint box in every department – reviewed every week
- Elimination of Tuition fees
- Getting rid of differential fees
- Support members build up a network. Host LinkedIn IRL event/initiatives to connect members with potential networks
- Career support/COOP support at the Faculty-level support
- Create member outreach initiatives → connect with RAs
- Instagram and Snapchat member engagement
- DSU app
- Support international members with their immigration
- Create a sense of community
- Support societies more
- Addressing broad issues that will take into account our other priorities

How can we address food insecurity on campus?

- Create a campaign to tackle issues including stigma around being insecure
- Promote volunteer opportunity with the Foodbank
- Volunteer appreciation events

How can we tackle mental health and wellness on campus?

- Help members understand how to navigate the mental health system at Dal. HRES Purple Folder is a good example
- Increase services
- Member are having bad experiences with the current system
- If you aren't at the point of hurting yourself, they send you away
- Not seen as valid enough to get help. They tell you to come back if it gets worse
- "I hate Dal mental health"
- Structural and cultural competency for BIPOC folks
- Onus on BIPOC members to filter support through a competent lens
- Sexton Mental Health → Sexton Chapter Jack.org society report

- Members are unaware of the change in services
- Sharing knowledge of resources for members → compile resource lists

Senate Student Caucus Consultation

What were your advocacy priorities this year?

- Political viewpoint brought into senate by student senators
- Focus on equity & diversity
- Dalhousie's New Deal → Senate policies introduced by caucus
- Feedback avenue for member senators → create avenues for members to engage

In your opinion, what does our education our priority look like?

- Diversified curriculum
- Financial support → Members are concerned about how they will pay for school
- Remote learning → Who access to quiet space? Access to the necessary technology?
- Support and clear access to research opportunities
- Information about supervisor responsibilities and the accountability measures available
 - Lack of accountability for tenure profs
- Creating better academic accommodations and addressing access barriers
 - Accommodation for member senators → Academic leniency
- Religious accommodations
 - Sexton/Carleton prayer room
 - Religious accommodation policy
 - Don't schedule classes and exams during religious days/times
- Invisible disability accommodation
 - Accessibility centre → proactive approach
 - Member-centric approach
 - Information to members
 - Informed and equity profs
- Grad members
 - Unique circumstances → family, mental health, professional obligations, etc.

- Member-centric policies and accommodations processes.
- Discipline specific supports → Plagiarism and academic success, etc.
- SRIs need to be redone
- Race-based data needs to be collected
- mechanism to compensate members negatively affected by a bad prof.
 - Partial refund?
 - Tuition waved on retake of class?
 - Note on transcript?

What are the current gaps within Dalhousie's mental health services?

- Lack of adequate mental health accommodations
- Shorter wait times to see a counsellor and/or psychiatrist
- Clearer process and access methods
- Empathy gap within professors → some profs don't understand mental health
- Safer relationships between profs and members → upstream approach

In your opinion, what does centering the margins look like?

- Equity & Social Justice
- International member support
 - Plagiarism → online module
 - Awareness of the consequences and processes around plagiarism
 - Supports made clear
 - Resources on BrightSpace
- Create sense of community → use communications methods that Uni uses
- Mentorship program for members
- Decolonizing classrooms
 - Train professors → faculty awareness
 - Acknowledge and validate different types of knowledge and knowing
 - Faculty specific approach → Diverse case studies employed in class
 - Value and incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing
 - Bring in guest speakers → share the mic when you cannot speak to the issue

- Diverse curricula across all departments and disciplines
- Diverse and non-Eurocentric readings in all classes
- Faculty Specific Work
- Equity audit across faculties
- Hire diverse profs
- Deans create faculty buy-in
- Faculty EDI Advisor
- Support faculties to achieve their goals of EDI
- Mandate a yearly report on what they've been doing for the year
- Identify and tackle faculty specific access barriers
- Diverse Academic representation in Faculty, staff and admin
- Institutional cultural competency
- Prioritize holistic member experience

What do your faculty specific experiences look like?

- Faculty of Health
 - Highlights the social determinates of health
 - Does not mandate students to take an Indigenous health course → it should
- Faculty of Management
 - Faculty teaching on international issues is stereotypical and inaccurate
 - Faculty and member level international member support are available
- Psychology Department
 - Profs are trying to incorporate EDI into their classrooms
 - Science advisors don't have accurate understanding of degree requirements
- Faculty of Engineering
 - Very supportive peer mentorship program available
 - Academic advising isn't supportive → advisors are giving inaccurate info
- Faculty of Computer Science
 - Student-centric faculty → faculty listens to and cares about student feedback
 - Culture of sexism

- Faculty of Science
 - Some profs incorporating diverse perspective
 - Some profs use decade old slides and don't care about contemporary info

2019/20 Executive Team Consultation

How can we engage and educate the DSU membership on the DSU and what we do?

- Anti-O Training
 - Create Incentives for societies to come
 - Help E&A/Member Services Department structure workshops
 - Utilize popular events like O-Week, PT staff, DalFest, Society Expo, etc.
 - Intensive recurring anti-o for full and part-time staff.
 - Create Dalhousie specific teaching material (ex. O-Week Anti-o slideshow/quiz)
- Member engagement
 - Recreation of the DSU app.
 - Fixing the mobile website → formatting issues
 - Create We are the DSU Series “Class talk” video
 - Tabling with street squad.
 - Attending society meetings and events
 - News report-esque livestreams or CKDU shows

How can we center the margins within the DSU?

- Prioritize Green Spaces & Sustainability
 - Tasking people with research and creating proposals for potential green spaces
 - Look into options for green space and expanding Urban Garden to Sexton
 - Reusable container/kitchen program
 - People can donate and they could be available in the SUB lobby and Sexton Alumni lounge?
 - Look into Chartwells discounts → rinse a mezza container or use a travel mug
- E&A Office Support
 - Help them with their restructuring proposal

How can we improve our current services and student supports?

- DSU Bar Services (Grawood/T-Room)
 - Culturally competent and diverse planning
 - More dry events
 - Events before 9pm for under 19 members
 - Prioritize affordability in food and beverages
 - Prioritize Consent culture
 - Deals within on Grawood food to incentivize over other options
- Council & Policies
 - Develop Indigenous students Issues Policy
 - Develop Sustainability Issues Policy
 - Develop 2SLGBTQ+ student issues Policy
 - Develop Black students' issues policy
- International Students Support
 - Communications strategy/campaign based around Student Affairs stats

How can we create collaborative community?

- Sexton Campus Services
 - Converging the DSU and Health Plan office
 - Accessible and regular office hours
 - Review Dal accessibility audit
 - Winter society fair
 - More microwaves
 - Integrate Sexton Advisory Committee into bylaws
 - Support the Sextant
 - Society storage areas
 - Keys to bulletin boards
 - More reps from Sexton on Council
 - More food available in the T-Room

Consultation Session: Sexton Members

How would you describe the DSU to a first-year member?

- Quick, easy and simple
- Band-aid solution to the member experience
- An institution
- Work on supporting members where the university is not involved

How can we work towards our education as our priority?

- Members are overworked
- Have Choose between studying and projects
- Members do large scale projects and take courses
- Eng. is designed is to take 6 courses a semester
- Profs taking the course of rails → only completed half of the course material required
- Tenure profs don't care
- Elimination of Tuition fees
- Engineering is really expensive with having to take 6 courses per semester
- Differential fees for international members
- Dean of Engineering decides what projects get funding
- Idea Hub → tech start-ups → pitch ideas → physical deliverable → commercialize it
- Eng. Curriculum → prioritize sustainability

How can we center the margins on campus?

- Equity organizing → WIE society is a space where woman can be themselves
- Limited female bathrooms
- Male bathrooms have never been a problem
- Consider who we celebrate by putting on our walls and being represented → white men
- Dalhousie is the cheapest from Canadian tuition for international members
- BIPOC members' ideas are not being heard/listened to in projects
- Black member representation & HUB → Imhotep centre
- Problems with professor → some profs are sexist
- Some projects are sponsored by industry → Ex. Car projects sponsored by Shell

- Dalhousie renewal energy society
- Move towards renewable energy projects → electric cars

How can the Relationship Between the DSU & Sexton Campus Improve?

- Make use of DSU office space
- Sexton MSA's and Coordinator relationship
- Promotion of services available on campus
- DUES/DSU relationship
- Advisory Committee
- Winter society fair

Consultation Session: Sexton Advisory Committee

What programming, services or supports would you like to see at the DSU?

- Orientation for members coming to Sexton from Studley after the first two years
- Orientation for International and Transfer students → Sexton has a lot
- Want staircase with projector and screen to be bookable for member societies
- Society guide presentation so members understand what services the DSU provides
- Society Fair on Sexton campus
- Sexton Coordinator role integrated into policy
 - Mandate clear responsibilities and accountability measures
- Increase of Sexton Coordinator budget

What issues do you face as a Dalhousie member?

- Classroom Space → Inadequate furniture and space for classroom sizes
- No International Student Centre on Sexton Campus
- Healthcare → Few on-campus facilities or supports
- Lack of accessible mental healthcare on Sexton
- Lack of practical study space → Due to donor influence over campus
- Societies
 - Lack of access to storage space
 - Lack of society office space

- Uncertainty about benefits from ratification → feel a lack of support from DSU
- Bulletin boards are not updated
- Get society primary financial support from external organizations
- Meeting rooms primarily available to outside corporations rather than members
- Accessibility
 - Lack of physical accessibility on-campus.
 - Lack of women's and gender-neutral bathrooms.
- Lack of University Support
 - Increased tuition but lowered Faculty funding.
 - Fewer TA's → led to members considering dropping courses or dropping out
 - Writing Centre isn't around in the summer
 - Faculty leaving and no replacements
 - Inexperienced faculty
 - Faculty brought in from external organizations with priority obligations
- T-Room → No open hours during the day as study/general member space
- Lack of food available on campus
- Lack of Admin Representation → No sexton-specific rep. higher than Dean level
- Inter-Campus Conflict
 - Tension between Engineering and Architecture/Planning
 - A/P have their own space, access to better meeting rooms, and key access
 - Significant separation between discipline

How could the DSU address these issues?

- Promotion of complaint process to students
- Advocacy through Classroom Planning Committee → classroom inadequacies
- Awareness-raising about supports available on Sexton (through Dal, societies, etc.)
- Advocacy to University for Health & Wellness services on Sexton
- Admin is more accommodating for older areas of campus to have changes → study area
- Short-term ask → TV Dinner trays to enable practical use of furniture
- Cushions for large stair areas that are intended to be seating.

- Lack of separation between quiet study space and communal hangout space.
- Give societies access to DSU storage space.
 - Long-term solution → integration of lockers into DSU storage space.
- Sexton Coordinator organizing office hours for Sexton societies in other DSU office
- Advocate to relevant faculty/admin for access to staircase with projector
- Get extra keys for bulletin boards for Sexton Coordinator or DUES to manage
- Clarify process for getting posters into DSU bulletin boards
- Review of accessibility audit from Dalhousie to determine advocacy points for DSU
- Support student initiatives
 - Marketing support for Dal-Denim via Dal Bookstore

How can the DSU tackle food insecurity on Sexton?

- More support to widen range offered by DSUSO Breakfast Club on Sexton.
- DSU Snack Shack → Foodbank on Sexton campus
- DSU Market on Sexton
- Advocate for longer hours for on-campus cafe
- Enable access to kitchenette space
- Microwaves near study areas

Consultation Session: Societies

How can we address food insecurity on campus?

- Every member on every campus has access to affordable and healthy food options
- Reflective of cultural and dietary requirements
- Define food insecurity
- Foodbank → Catch folks falling through the cracks
- Universal human right
- Celebrate the volunteers
- DSU Market → Affordable sustainable food option supporting local
- Loaded Ladle, Urban Garden and other societies collaboration
- DSUSO and E&A → conduct research and run campaigns

- Research topic: What prevents folks from using the DSU Market?
- Research topic: Trends of foodbank usage

How can we center the margins on campus?

- Addressing inequities
- Having the hard conversations → not shying away or whitewashing
- Look at which research is prioritized
- Importance of race-based data
- Idea of reality are not centered in people's actual experiences
- Research acts as a starting point to the conversation
- Without the data → issues can be dismissed and ignored
- Broaden the understanding of what accessibility looks like → Intersectional
- Beyond just disability → accessible accessibility
- What barriers are in place systemically that prevent people's inclusion
 - Intersectional lens
 - Systemic, physical, structural (institutional)
 - Accessibility of language (socially constructed)
- Time and compassion → listen and understand experiences of people
- Making change takes times. truly understanding people takes time
- Get out of capitalist lens into a compassionate lens

How can we create collaborative community on campus?

- NSPIRG: A Just University Community Connector working group
 - Faculty, Staff, Administration on side
 - Knowing what groups have and can offer
 - Collab on resources, information & capacity
- Societies collaborations
- Local. global community → Greater Kijipuktuk, Mi'qmaqi, Turtle Island and the world
- Sense of community among members
- DSU Internal Social Justice Team → space for the structure to live within the DSU
- DSUSO & E&A Office need to be better connected to the DSU

- Cannot rely on these offices as they change year per year with the priorities of members via the Director
- As a levy office they are able to do their own thing
- Function similar to societies
- Can come together on projects and initiatives
- Come together as equal shareholders
- but should NOT BE STRUCTURALLY CONNECTED

How can we tackle mental health and wellness on campus?

- What are the avenues currently available to members?
- Research: What is missing and who is falling through the cracks?
- Compare what is happening at Dalhousie vs. other schools across Canada and the world
- Structurally competent for 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC members
- More professionals with the training
- Health plan options to get services elsewhere
- Streams of Support
 - Emergency
 - Critical
 - Moderate Intervention Styles → Conflict resolution
 - Early intervention
- DSU should connect directly with service providers
- What does Dal's Health and Wellness Centre need on their end to make services better for members? → We as members advocate on that

Consultation Session: Research & Outreach and Operations Departments

Member Services Department Consultation

How can your department work towards creating collaborative community?

- Creating a sense of community → Societies
- Building up Member leaders
- Workshop Suite

- Anti-o mandatory for societies to ratify but DSU has no structure for it
- Survivor support training → HRES might be making one
- Treasurer training
- PEO training
- Accessible event training (Current VP AE previously made a useful resource doc.)

What does your department require to fulfil the strategic priorities?

- Training Opportunities
- Member Services department is very overreaching and would benefit from training
 - Team Management, Conflict resolution, Mental health response and other interpersonal skills training
- FT staff weekly meeting trainings → idea brought forward by previous DO & DRO
- Training to be able to train part-time staff within department
- Resource list for trainings staff can take
- Part-time staff trainings throughout the year
- Bring in an external facilitator
- Part-time staff need to understand the DSU governance structure
- What decision making bodies can decide what
- Treasurer training was not adequately and sufficient provided

How can your department tackle food insecurity? How can it be improved?

- Oversee foodbank and market
- Food security needs its own portfolio
- Part-time Foodbank coordinator → 15h/w minimum
- DSU Market requires better internal structure and distribution of workload
- The market should not run at a deficit → it should break even at least
- Better funding structure for market → business collaboration, sponsorship, sustainable and ethical merch
- Ideally, full-time staff to run/oversee market along with Food Bank
- divide the market labour on the ground between part-time staff
- Several part-time staff to cover the different market fields

- Ex. operations, orders, food box, accounting, communications, outreach
- DSU market vs. grocery stores → Connect with community (Pres's mom loved food box)
- Market is a mini business → how do we utilize members at Dal to gain the experience and be experts in varying fields
 - Co-op member
 - Course credit
 - Partner with faculty of management
 - Members need volunteer hours

Director Research & Outreach Director Consultation

- As described in the council orientation guide and Exec. policy
- Can't be too prescriptive → Core areas and values
- Prioritizing united member movement
- Major organizational assessment
- Annual anti-oppression audit
- Systemic racism (racism on campus, racism in the workplace, hiring practices)
- Disability justice (building accessibility, advocacy services, inclusive events, hiring practices, workplace culture)
- How is the DSU operating on stolen land, how are we supporting Indigenous members, staff and faculty?
- How is the DSU supporting reparations while existing within an institution build on slavery?

Research & Outreach Departments Consultation

How can we address food insecurity on campus?

- DSU Foodbank
 - Pay staff what they deserve (budgeted for)
 - Operations budget for the foodbank
 - Financially independent
 - Able to stock shelves (buy specific products members want)
 - Long-term sustainability of the foodbank

- Separate bank account
- Potential internal autonomy as the offices do
- Donor relationship → program
- Volunteers → Street Squad
- Courses that take on volunteer hours
- Charitable mandate societies
- Social Justice Team Campaigns Team
 - Food Security Campaign
 - Street squad outreach
 - Increase awareness and comfort about accessing food services
 - Destigmatize accesses different food supports
 - Research
 - Data collected from foodbank
 - E&A office collab.
 - Lobbying work and research
 - Food issues policy.
 - DSUSO report served to council → suggests adjustments to structures
- DSU Market
 - Sustainable Funding structure
 - Broader access to local produce
 - Adequate storage space
 - Staff structure (full-time staff)
- Loaded Ladle → Free food Tuesday to Friday

How can the DSU support and service Sexton campus?

- Sexton members take a lead and let the DSU know what they need
- Address feelings of disconnect
- Empower members with resources and knowledge of what services they have access to
 - Awareness of the services we provide
 - Awareness of what the DSU is and what they do

- Communication on the services → how to access them
- Male dominated discipline → how can survivor support centre serve sexton campus?
- Who does what at Dalhousie → DSU vs. Dalhousie vs. Gov. distinctions
- Sexton Advisory Committee
 - Establish relationship
 - Structure that exists
 - Clearly establish what the space is, who is there and what it does
 - Provide DSU services without folks know what the DSU is
- Role of the Sexton Coordinator
- Sexton Member Services Assistants
- Challenges → Location of the offices
- Revitalize use of Buzzboards on Sexton campus → currently rusted

How can your departments function better within the DSU structure?

- Directors should be in close communication and sharing info between departments
- Directors proactive in communications with Exec. & Staff
- Departments avoid the working in silos
- Having clear structures around how we use different platforms for communications
- Established structures of communications
- Weekly one-on-one meetings with Director
- Entire staff meetings at some point

How are your departments incorporating the five strategic priorities?

- Graphic Design & Campaigns Coordinator
- Creating mandate for the office → guiding docs. for the year being developed
- Supporting graphic design needs of DSU
- Supporting campaigns
- Supporting Societies with graphics depends on when/if there is space
- Communicating Fulltime staff, exec. and directors
- Creating documents to support institutional knowledge
- Centering the Margins → looking forward to working on murals & artwork

- Policy & Governance Coordinator
 - Create resources for members to be available on the website
 - Support member navigate different policies options available
 - Support members directly interact with the governance structure
 - Creation of longer-term documentation for priorities
 - Identify collaboration opportunities
 - Supporting offices & research initiatives of the DSU
- Communications Coordinator
 - Supporting departments in the work that they are doing
 - Social media campaigns → Service awareness & member priorities
 - Website → information available to members
 - Dal Gazette DSU and Sextant → Put out media releases and get Ad space
 - Dalhousie Comms team relationship building
 - We are the DSU Newsletter → Once a month
- Member Services Department
 - Mental health → Stress Relief Exam Season Series (message days & yoga)
 - Community building → facilitating intercommunication between societies
 - Community building → incentives for societies to collab with VPSL funding
 - Class talks
 - Society Expo on Sexton and study campus
 - Centering the margins → Planning accessible events workshop
- Survivor Support Centre
 - Detailed mandate & workplan developed
 - Focus on Mental health and Centering the margins priorities

Diving Deeper into Tackling Food Insecurity on Campus Foodbank Coordinator Consultation

Discourse around the role of foodbanks

- Food bank → Step away from the language of band-aid solution
- Band-aids issues tend to be ignored when not needed

- Provide standard measures for free access to food
- Tuition/textbook/cost of living always going up
 - At the end of the day, there is no money left for food
- Reimagine what affordable food looks like
- Foodbank needs to be part of a plan for longevity around accessible food
- Access to produce is a barrier
- Can we get to the place where we no longer need foodbanks?
- Unless the ENTIRE SYSTEM (economy driven for profit) is overhauled then no
- Been treated as a place where people go at the lower end of society
- As the economy gets worse, more people are using the foodbank
- Foodbank → Sustainable way of feeding members and the greater community
- Focus on longevity, substantial & sustainable service for members in the long run
- Stigma around foodbank exists and is a barrier to access
- No matter what the situation that occurs – we want foodbank users feed

About the DSU Foodbank & structure

- Foodbank was around in the DSU for 20 years and seen as a PROJECT
- Foodbank needs its own defined budget
- Donations to the foodbank need to go JUST to the Foodbank
- Needs a policy and procedure
- Needs to be seen as a FUNDAMENTAL service within the DSU
- Requires a standard and stabilization within the DSU
- Needs to be its own entity → Defined foodbank structure
- Food bank structure is completely dependent on the people running it
 - Currently Member Services Coordinator and Food Bank Coordinator
 - From the outside, it looks like the Foodbank is running fine
 - In reality → FB Coordinator is putting in 30+ hours than they are paid
 - Without a structure in place → loss of institutional knowledge if they leave
- 4 years ago → DSU budgeted for a food manager that was merged into DSUSO
 - Would coordinate the Loaded Ladle, Market and Foodbank

- Food security is 50% of the Member Services department's work
- Foodbank falls under:
 - Feed Nova Scotia policies
 - Food Bank Canada policies
 - Health & safety policies
 - Privacy policies

What can the DSU do to tackle food insecurity moving forward?

- Two Member Services Department Full-time Staff
 - Society Coordinator
 - Food Security Coordinator
- Food Security Coordinator
 - Oversee operations of Market
 - Oversee operations of Foodbank
 - Connect with local farms, sponsors and partnerships for Foodbank and Market
 - Relationship with SUB Food services → Contract with Chartwells
- Work towards a long-term plan that is structured and supported that allows members to have access to foods regardless for their monetary situation
- Research
 - Look at what's been done
 - Fill in the gaps → What has been focused on? What has been missed?
 - Demographics of who uses the foodbank
 - Potential NSPIRG or E&A collaboration
- Campaign to Address Food Insecurity Stigma
 - Trick or Eat campaign looked into by VPSL and Member Services Coordinator
 - Reality check around why members use the foodbank and
 - Members thoughts/feels/vibes on food insecurity
- DSU has created the space to talk about financial issues via tuition advocacy
 - Real Talk campaign → People realize they are not alone
 - Positive conversation around what the DSU is doing to tackle food insecurity

- while also taking the issues of food insecurity SERIOUSLY
- Utilizing space as a resource → conversation with Facilities Manager
 - Market storage space (look at how we are utilizing DSU physical space)
 - Foodbank storage could replace DSU storage room
- Foodbank, Market and Loaded Ladle
 - All three come at food security at a different direction
 - Each one benefits the member body
 - Each are their own independent entity
 - Individual policies should be developed for them separately

Operations Department Consultation

How are your departments incorporating the five strategic priorities?

- Facilities Department
 - Execution → How does the rubber hit the road
 - Bring in the experience
 - support what those initiatives look like
- Meetings & Events Department
 - Food Insecurity
 - Food services at events → not enough money to pay for full catering
 - Supportive of members that work within the department
- Campus Copy Department
 - Discounted and donated printing
 - Sometime staff are hungry and we feed them
 - Connected with staff to chat with them and provide support
 - Hiring policy (diversity)
 - Working hard from a hiring perspective
 - Campus copy creates a community

How are your departments functioning well?

- Understanding the importance of policy

- New hiring policy: where it came from and why it's important
- policies reflect what are values are → policies are key
- policy is a guideline and path for operations team
- Communication between all departments when things change
 - Keep operations team in the loop on governance changes
 - Communication → Regular team meetings
 - You make the policy and we'll follow through on them
 - Keeping informed at every step of the process
 - What was in the old policy vs. the new policy that will affect our job
 - building trust
 - let folks have input → Structures, processes and guidelines
- Part-Time Staff Training Day
 - give everyone the same common msg
 - Department heads can reverberate it throughout the year
 - Training day sets the tone → morning sessions give DSU mandate
- Supports
 - HR support → Director of Operations
 - Institutional knowledge → Facilities Manager
 - Stay connected and make sure we are improving ourselves and services

How can your departments function better within the DSU structure?

- Year-round training program
 - able to reiterate plethora of services provided by the DSU
 - Develop full understanding of what the DSU is and what we are about
 - What people to believe in the organization we have
 - Department heads know what everything looks like
 - How the pieces of the DSU fit together
 - Otherwise have a pretty efficient workspace
- Marketing and advertising
 - Reach a wider audience - collaborative community

- Offer services to a wider range of groups
- Comms and promotions plans for printing services
- Services Improvement
 - DSU Relationship between events department and DMCRT
 - Mental health debrief space option for booking
 - Develop DSU Food policy
 - Campus copy Wide format printing → need space
- Keeping team informed
 - Executive Initiatives communicated to staff
 - Communicate with PT staff who tell their friends who tell their friends
 - CC Stay in tune with team → disseminate information to the team (gossip hub)
 - Regular comms meetings
- Accounting
 - Policies and procedures are huge
 - improving procedures put into place
 - Teaching the incoming Exec. on how to follow the procedure
 - Procedures need to work for the department and others too
 - Training and guidance for non-staff utilizing DSU accounting services

Council Consultation

What are concerns of your constituents?

- Altering name and pronouns in the university system
 - Dalhousie's policy currently only allows people to change their first name
 - at other schools this has been altered through senate
 - system the university uses makes these kinds of changes difficult
 - working on shifting their internal system this process may become easier after
 - broader category of Member Advocacy.
- Dealing with homophobia in residence and getting support

- International Student Supports
- Information-sharing during recruitment of International students
- Determining what kind of institutions support members to travel to other countries to work.
- Ensuring members have information necessary to avoid difficulties with paying tuition or facing delays in visa processing.
- Accommodations from Faculty
 - Graduate members have unique needs in terms of family care, mental health, and professional obligations.
 - Need for member-centric policies and accommodations processes.
- Equity & Centering the Margins
 - a lot of flaws in certain programs EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) policy
 - Islamophobia from faculty - need for cultural competency and anti-oppression training
→ particularly present issue on Sexton.
 - Food security and food options in residence. Particularly few vegan or vegetarian options.
- Academic supports
 - members don't know how to file complaints about professors.
 - flawed the SRI system
 - the SRI has little impact on status whether tenured or not
 - that SRI's do not address anything during that time-period.
 - Some members drop out due to absent supervisors
 - switching between departments can be difficult.

Accessing adequate Health & Wellness supports on campus

- no Black counsellors or doctors on-campus, which has led some members to avoid counselling altogether.
- DSU insurance does not include counselling.

What can the DSU do to address these issues

- Teach-in, workshops, info sharing campaigns
 - Student academic rights
 - How to File complaint about professor

- Senate as a good avenue to address academic issues
- Ombudsperson should be an avenue for advocacy around this.
- Academic supports
 - How to get into honors and graduate programs. Process is unclear, requires meeting with multiple people, and how easy it is is dependent on the knowledge of who you approach.
- Need higher member engagement around the elections and governance.
 - Ensure members get something back for voting, and end voter indifference.
 - Awareness of services available for members - particularly mental health and physical activity
- Feedback and lived experience collection
 - creating a way for members to provide feedback on mental health services at Dalhousie.
 - sending written accounts of experiences to Mental Health Caucus and use this as an avenue to create a feedback structure.

What are the main areas of advocacy concerning your constituents?

- Tuition Fees - disproportionately targeting International Members.
- Funding + Programming for the International Centre.
 - Noted improvements on this from Dalhousie this year, especially with the Member Work Experience Program.
- Dining Halls - not a lot of diversity or variety.
- Residence programming and support.
- Housing insecurity and homelessness.
- Funding for member societies.
- Mental Health
- Cultural Competency
- Lines of communication between DSU and faculty societies - trying to channel through Council rep.
- Mental Health
- Tuition Costs
- Faculty
 - people leave and aren't replaced

- Professors being sexist, racist, generally discriminatory
- Inexperienced faculty
- Lack of faculty that aren't brought in from external organizations - their first priority is not teaching.
- Issues with criteria in faculty recruitment.
- Evening classes
- Lobbying Administration on TRC + MMIWG recommendations.
- Childcare
 - Changing Stations
 - Breastfeeding Spaces
- Transphobia (pronouns especially)
- Policy + procedural defense against discrimination.
- Community-building and networking.
- Anti-Black Racism - especially in Law and Social Work, both peer to peer and from faculty.
- Situational support, how to address racism in the classroom.
- Racism from staff, both at DSU and Dalhousie.
- Information on research opportunities.
- Prayer space on campus.
- Incorporating our strategic plan information into Dalhousie's

Delving Deeper into Strategic Priorities: Our Education - Our Priority

What are some ideal supports and guidelines that would be beneficial to students?

- Library Hours at AG Campus
 - Regular hours are 11am-5pm on Saturdays and 12pm-5pm on Sundays.
 - Hard to access study spaces outside of working hours
 - Top floor of student learning commons – study space set aside for health professions lounge.
- TA Support
 - Hiring faculty → Long-term sustainability
 - Offering competitive environments
- Administration familiarity and accessibility

- Knowing who to go to with issues and how to contact these people i.e. what can you go to each person for? Flowcharts will help.
- Scheduling
 - Conflict between course requirements (timing, alternate requirements) where some courses are only offered in one semester (mostly AG campus)
 - Distance between classrooms – keeping similar ones in same buildings/ areas

What does Accessibility and Equity look like on campus?

- Campus Life
 - Multilingual front desk staff
 - SUB front desk – alert button
 - Naloxone training for DSU staff
 - Accessible buildings and outdoor spaces
 - Auditing information made public
 - More elevators
 - Dal security impartiality
- Faculty and classroom instruction
 - More funding for accessible classrooms
 - Regular syllabus reviews to ensure curriculum stays relevant
 - SRIs vs. tenured professor’s authority – how to address issues like racism?

What actions can be taken to improve these issues?

- Get rid of hidden fees e.g. TopHat
- More university communication
- More trust in student societies
- More connection between DSU, senate and faculty level committees
- SRIs being taken seriously for tenure review and for improvement by tenured professors
- Greater variation on courses by different professors (avoid too much overlapping material in the same department)
- Classroom updates e.g. comfier chairs
- Balancing comfort with expenses from students. I.e. being fiscally responsible to avoid increasing tuition fees every year by essentially balancing the university budget on the backs of students

- Make first year classes available online.
- Better support for student issues with professors.
- Mandatory anti-oppressive training for faculty.
- Creating an external board to review educational content
- Less restriction on interdisciplinary courses

Delving Deeper into Student Health & Wellness

- Statement of Intent
 - The DSU is committed to the implementation of preventive measures for mental health.
 - DSU will advocate to promote the mental health of its constituents with a focus on those with most need.
 - The DSU to promote awareness of the diversity of mental health in a holistic framework.
- General Goals
 - Promote awareness
 - Research demographics
 - Changing the narrative of what the student experience is
 - Promoting collective idea of success
 - Promoting alternative ideas of success for students
 - Responding during crisis – short and long term
 - Community peer support
 - Culturally relevant services
 - Highlight classroom inaccessibility
 - Queer student representation
 - Collaborate on solidarity statement and to hold university accountable
- Council Goals
 - Council Goals
 - Increased communication
 - Increased empathy for self and each other
 - Usage of Robert’s rules
 - Less interruptions
 - More understanding of committees and council purpose

- Needs of council chair – look to “me” and respecting speakers list
- Supportive governance structures
- Less hostile environments
- More informal discussion spaces
- Using DISA representative to help identify needs of various communities – support between grieving communities
- Dalhousie Goals
 - Responding to struggles of communities affected by political / world events
 - Protocol for responding to tragedies – needs to address ripple effects.
 - Individualized services and culturally relevant services
 - Better compassionate leave
- Action Plan
 - Allocation of money to councillors for mental health (policy development with executives and VPFO)
 - Mandate anti-oppressive training for professors (discuss with Dalhousie faculty association)
 - Accessibility at council (terminology, point of order relays the race mentality, colonial) – continue to use the microphone
 - Mental health week should be a annual programming priority
 - Creating a mental health toolbox on the DalSafe App / Healthline
 - Organizing wellness programming (recreational activities)
 - Educating staff and streamlining communications

Delving Deeper into Tackling Food Insecurity on Campus

What are ways we can tackle food insecurity on campus?

- Increase capacity of DSU Food Bank. Expand Food Bank to Sexton campus.
- More subsidies for DSU food market e.g. Dal sponsorship?
- Promotions
- Feed NS partnership
- Alumni association

- Leftover food from Chartwells
- Loaded Ladle security
- Community engagement (on Facebook especially)
- “Community Fridge” with donated food (take some/ leave some concept)
- Find out what happens at residence dining halls leftover food
- Tupperware in meal halls should be allowed
- Meal card with Dal (also with Chartwells)
- Carleton campus – just a Starbucks (no other options)
- More affordable food options
- Killiam next to second cup
- Grawood delivery
- More coupons for food places on campus
- LSC food place
- “Food atrium” (big fridge)

Part 5: Background Research

Tackling Food Insecurity

Food security is broadly defined as having physical, social, and economic access to sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs for a healthy life (Lammers et al., 2009), however definitions can vary. In the context of Canada, food security includes physical access to affordable and appropriate food, retail venues, sufficient income, and that people can obtain food in a dignified manner (Dowler & Connor, 2012). The existence and use of food banks indicate an extreme and systemic food security problem, since food insecure individuals and households tend to view them as a last resort (Lambie-Mumford & Dowler, 2014). Food banks are only one symptom of a broader problem. Therefore, studying the issue of food insecurity solely through food banks is too narrow of an approach. This approach implied by the neoliberal “consumerist model”. This places responsibility on individuals for navigating the economic system and making prudent food-purchasing decisions (Dowler & O’Connor, 2012).

Healthy and accessible food from a nutritional and economic perspective is incontrovertibly the major component of food security. However, an exclusive focus on this ignores the role of food in personal contentment, interpersonal relationships and cultural engagement (Hanlon & Carlisle, 2014). Providers of food aid in Canada point to increasingly inadequate social assistance programs as the cause of increased reliance on their programming— around half of food bank users are on welfare and another almost 20% receive disability payments (HungerCount, 2014). Food banks run by charitable organizations and non-governmental organizations are the main social response to hunger in Canada. However, neither provincial nor federal governments have coherent policy responses to food insecurity other than the promotion of food banks (Tarasuk et al., 2014).

Analysis from Food Banks Canada indicates that 2.09% of Nova Scotians use food banks and only 0.8% of these are enrolled in post-secondary institutions (HungerCount 2014). Food, shelter and personal expenses account for an average of 50% of a university student’s expenditures; tuition and school-related expenses account for the other half (O’Neill, 2010). Under this policy model, where food insecurity is framed as an individual hardship ameliorated by charitable acts, the government does not have responsibility to ensure access to food as a human right (Dowler & O’Conner, 2012). Therefore, they are not obliged to intervene to, for example regulate wages in relation to food prices.

Feed Nova Scotia collected for HungerCount, show that in March 2012, around 230 individuals relying on student loans as their primary source of income used food banks (Feed Nova Scotia, 2013). These students likely only represent a small fraction of those students facing food insecurity, because the majority of those facing food insecurity do not resort to food banks. In addition to the negative effects that food insecurity has on individuals cited above, students are likely to experience reduced academic performance. For instance, skipping breakfast is associated with decreased cognitive performance (e.g., alertness, attention, memory, processing of complex visual display, problem solving) among students. Users by faculty:

- Science - 32%
- TYP 9%

- Com Sci 18%,
- IDS 4%
- MGMT 14%,
- Arts 23%
- 50% Int'l students

Fifty percent of users pay for the majority of their school using student and bank loans. Only a few students use scholarships, and they account for a small percentage of those students' income. Additionally, 75% of our survey participants learned about the DSUFB through word-of-mouth. Students without a friend or acquaintance willing to divulge their use of food aid are unlikely to know of this service. DSUFB users frequently reported learning of the service by word of mouth. The authors of this report recommend better and more visible advertising of the DSUFB. This will make the DSUFB accessible to students experiencing food insecurity that do not know of the service. The DSUFB shall continue research. Seen in Appendix D, the DSUFB currently collects data on visit frequency. However, a more detailed longitudinal study would not only add validity to the results of this study, but also reveal the effects of changing tuition fees, and allow a finer-grain breakdown of user populations. Therefore, the province should reinstate a tuition cap. The province should also work with the federal government to change student visas so International students can work while attending school in Nova Scotia.

Mental Health & Wellness

In a 2016 survey, 15% of postsecondary students in Ontario said they'd been treated for depression or diagnosed with it in the previous year. For anxiety, the figure was 18%. This was a large increase from 2013, when 10% of students reported depression and 12% reported anxiety. According to a focus group conducted by the Dalhousie Budget Advisory Committee, Stress, anxiety, and sleep difficulties remain the top 3 issues affecting Dalhousie Students performance. Further data shows the shift from 2013 to 2018 can be seen below:

- Stress - 2013 = 38.6%, 2016 = 42.2%, 2019 = 41.9%
- Anxiety - 2013 = 28.4%, 2016 = 32.5%, 2019 = 34.6%
- Sleep Issues - 2013 = 27.1%, 2016 = 28.4%, 2019 = 29.0%
- Suicidal thoughts - 2013 = 7.6%, 2016 = 11.6%, 2019 = 14%
- Engaged in self harm - 2013 = 5.7%, 2016 = 8.5%, 2019 = 9.9%
- Attempted suicide - 2013 = 1.2%, 2016 = 1.8%, 2019 = 2.2%

Strategic Planning Strategy & Frameworks

Emergent Strategy Framework- Adrienne Maree Brown

- “Emergence is the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions” (p.3)
- “Strategy is a military term simply meaning a plan of action towards a goal.” “Emergency strategies are ways for humans to practice complexity and grow the future through relatively simple action” (p. 20)
- Inch wide mile deep: “Work that prioritizes depth in community organizing and understands that meaningful scale depends on deep transformative work, rather than surface widespread work.” (p. 20)
- Margaret Wheatley’s Leadership and the New Science Key Learnings: “Everything is about relationships, critical connections; chaos is an essential process that we need to engage; the sharing of information is fundamental for organizational success; and vision is an invisible field that binds us together, emerging from relationships and chaos and information” (p. 27)
- Principles of Emergent Strategy:
 - “Small is good, small is all. (The large is a reflection of the small)
 - Change is constant (Be like water)
 - There is always enough time for the right work
 - There’s a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it
 - Never a failure, always a lesson
 - Trust the People. (If you trust the people, they become trustworthy)
 - Move at the speed of trust. Focus on critical connections more than critical mass - build the resilience by building the relationships.
 - Less prep, more presence.
 - What you pay attention to grows.” (p.41-42)

Strategies of Change Framework - Duncan Green

- “Despite the fact that much of human history has been about attempting to create different realities, we do not understand the process of social change very well” (p. xi-xii)
- “Do we want to make the current system function better, or do we seek something that tackles the deeper structures of power? The answer is ‘all of the above’” (p. 1-6)
- Who are the change agents → People bring their own worldviews to the question of change. (p. 1-6)
- Milton Friedman - Advisor to Ronald Reagan. Stated that only a crisis, actual or perceived, produces real change. Certainly not an aspiration figure but this is demonstrated by the response to AIDS crisis, which WAS a crisis but was not perceived as such by straight Americans.
- Strategy is a portfolio of experiments that compete and evolve over time. Keep alternatives alive and available and build trust amount key individuals.
- Principles:

- Be Flexible - be willing to shelve your current plan and keep your eyes open for new opportunities.
 - Seek fast and ongoing feedback - you need to be able to detect changes in real time.
 - Success is often accidental - need to be prepared to respond to accidental successes as early as possible.
 - Undertake multiple parallel experiments - Pursue lean start-ups based on best guesses and using a cycle of experimentation and adaptation.
 - Learn by doing and failing - Be ready to discuss, learn, and get feedback on your own impact.
 - Identify your rules of thumb - be prepared to have them questioned, tested, and improved.
 - Convene and broker relationships - Bring dissimilar local players together to find their own solutions.
 - Look for Positive Deviants - Communities need to look within themselves for outliers who succeed. Differs from standard model which is identifying gaps, devising initiatives to fill them in, and disseminating guidance.
- Theories of change - locate a project within a wider analysis of how change comes about. Don't conflate how change happens with how you intend to change the system. Don't spend more time talking about your own strategy than the context that determines intervention. (235-255)
 - Looking Backwards - Exploring stories of change, broaden the questions you ask and avoid thinking that change came down to the activists involved.
 - Looking forward - Acknowledging we can't anticipate critical junctures so it's essential to have good feedback and response systems in place. Encourage genuine curiosity about the complexity of our systems. Recognize we make decisions based on our default assumptions. Refer to the 'informal' world as an arena of change.
 - Work from precedent rather than importing 'best practice'.
 - Power analysis should identify key players, how they relate, and what they're influenced by. Stimulate ideas for strategies in engaging with main institutions that drive or block change.
 - Change = Consciousness & Capabilities + Resources + Social Norms + Laws and Policies
 - Implications for activist organizations - Do incentives people work under encourage a flexible approach? Relinquishing command and control let successful innovations spin off if necessary. Review how you treat failure, accountability for learning and results.
 - This work is a joy, a privilege, and a responsibility. The problem lies in institutional culture, and progressive change occurs when people take power into their own hands.

Organizational Accountability - Global Affairs Canada

- Organizational Accountability is “the obligation to demonstrate that responsibility is being taken both for the means used and the results achieved in light of agreed expectations.”
- “While no one organization or project is entirely responsible for the achievement of outcomes—especially at higher levels in the results chain—the implementer is responsible for designing a project with achievable expected outcomes”
- Attributes to facilitate that include:
 - expected outcome and output indicators are established,
 - monitoring, including data collection on output and outcome indicators is regularly undertaken,
 - management decisions are informed by the data collected and its assessment,
 - corrective action is undertaken so the expected outcomes can be achieved, and
 - reports on outcomes achieved are supported by evidence.”

Part 6: Published Strategic Plan Format & Next Steps

Strategic Plan Format Publishing

It is the wish of this committee that some form of this report be published to the DSU membership. It is important and a mechanism of accountability so that the membership is aware of the path that the DSU is headed and can ensure the DSU is following through. The report should be designed and made available on the DSU membership. Below is a suggested format for how this information can be presented in a public document:

- Letter from the Strategic Planning Committee Chair
- What Even is the DSU?
 - Mandate Statement
- Why Do we Care?
 - Mission Statement
- What's in it for Me?
 - List of DSU services
- How Does it Work?
 - DSU Governance Structure Map
 - DSU Staffing Structure Map
- Where is this Going & How will we get There?
 - Strategic priorities
- What's the Point?
 - Strategic Plan Scope
- Where can I Learn More?
 - Link to social media & website
 - Exec. contact information

Next Steps: DSU Annual Survey

Annual Survey was halted due to COVID-19. I would recommend instituting the survey to take place each year. However, the version that has been completed 2018 – 2019 definitely needs to be updated. The VP Internal has done the prep for the 2019 – 2020 survey and I would recommend continuing from there. It is important to engage with the membership each year through an annual survey. This will support the Executive in determining the pulse of the membership and ensure they are following through with the strategic priority while also meeting the needs of the membership.

Part 7: Referenced Documentation & Reports

(2015). *Food Security Among Dalhousie Students*. Retrieved from

<https://dalspace.library.dal.ca/bitstream/handle/10222/76767/Foodbank.pdf?sequence=1>

(2020). DSUSO Report on Food

(2020). DSU Mental Health Report

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<https://cfsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CFS-2013FoodReport.pdf>

<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/studentstandard>

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/189/48/E1501>

<https://www.dal.ca/dept/financial-services/budget/campus-budget-sessions.html>

https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Senate%20Docs/DALHOUSIE%20INTERNATIONAL%20STRATEGY.pdf

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<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment/halifact-2050-acting-climate-together>

<https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/haliFACT2050/maps/map-hazards-in-your-community>

<https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics.html>

http://oucha.ca/pdf/2016_NCHA-II_WEB_SPRING_2016_ONTARIO_CANADA_REFERENCE_GROUP_EXECUTIVE_SUMMARY.pdf

DSU Budget 2020-21

| Sector | Dept | Description | Revenue | Expense | Net (dept) | Net (sector) |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue Dept | 100 | Student Fees (DSU operational) | \$ 1,257,318.00 | | \$ 1,257,318.00 | \$ 1,397,059.89 |
| | 190 | Contract | \$ 123,631.89 | | \$ 123,631.89 | |
| | 200 | Investment | \$ 33,150.00 | \$ 17,040.00 | \$ 16,110.00 | |
| Administration | 110 | Council Administration | | \$ 7,545.00 | -\$ 7,545.00 | -\$ 240,726.50 |
| | 120 | President | | \$ 51,799.00 | -\$ 51,799.00 | |
| | 130 | Vice President Internal | | \$ 41,645.00 | -\$ 41,645.00 | |
| | 140 | Vice President (Finance & Operations) | | \$ 40,075.00 | -\$ 40,075.00 | |
| | 150 | Vice President (Academic & External) | | \$ 41,585.00 | -\$ 41,585.00 | |
| | 160 | Vice President Student life | | \$ 41,650.00 | -\$ 41,650.00 | |
| | 170 | Elections | | \$ 16,427.50 | -\$ 16,427.50 | |
| Services (Non Revenue) | 112 | Services | | \$ 49,900.00 | -\$ 49,900.00 | -\$ 193,224.17 |
| | 325 | Member Services | | \$ 62,888.00 | -\$ 62,888.00 | |
| | 327 | Food Bank | | \$ 6,822.50 | -\$ 6,822.50 | |
| | 180 | Advocacy Service | | \$ 56,406.00 | -\$ 56,406.00 | |
| | 410 | Tiger Patrol | | \$ 17,207.67 | -\$ 17,207.67 | |
| Services (Revenue) | 330 | Reservations | \$ 62,966.13 | \$ 54,942.06 | \$ 8,024.07 | -\$ 50,900.49 |
| | 430 | Campus Copy | \$ 40,737.50 | \$ 82,523.99 | -\$ 41,786.49 | |
| | 326 | Farmers Market | \$ 43,900.00 | \$ 61,038.08 | -\$ 17,138.08 | |
| | 390 | Handbook | \$ - | | \$ - | |
| Food & Bar Services | 220 | Food Services | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ 16,400.00 | \$ 58,600.00 | -\$ 35,732.35 |
| | 250 | Grawood Bar | \$ 40,021.25 | \$ 108,452.35 | -\$ 68,431.10 | |
| | 440 | T Room | \$ 18,689.75 | \$ 44,591.00 | -\$ 25,901.25 | |
| Programming | 161 | Programming | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 26,250.00 | -\$ 23,250.00 | -\$ 43,224.00 |
| | 350 | Grawood Programming | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 10,425.00 | -\$ 2,925.00 | |
| | 395 | Orientation | \$ - | \$ 12,600.00 | -\$ 12,600.00 | |
| | 450 | Sexton Programming | \$ 1,800.00 | \$ 6,249.00 | -\$ 4,449.00 | |
| Policy, Campaign, Communications | 155 | Policy | | \$ 49,081.00 | -\$ 49,081.00 | -\$ 172,822.00 |
| | 185 | Communications | | \$ 67,756.00 | -\$ 67,756.00 | |
| | 113 | Advocacy/Campaigns | | \$ 5,500.00 | -\$ 5,500.00 | |
| | 195 | Graphic Design & Campaign | | \$ 50,485.00 | -\$ 50,485.00 | |
| Operations | 230 | Director of Operations | | \$ 104,290.00 | -\$ 104,290.00 | -\$ 660,116.73 |
| | 231 | Director of Research | | \$ 83,222.00 | -\$ 83,222.00 | |
| | 240 | Accounts | | \$ 197,702.93 | -\$ 197,702.93 | |
| | 241 | 2nd floor Admin | | \$ 5,323.00 | -\$ 5,323.00 | |
| | 300 | Technical | \$ 34,430.00 | \$ 111,779.59 | -\$ 77,349.59 | |
| | 310 | Computer | | \$ 53,422.50 | -\$ 53,422.50 | |
| | 320 | Security | | \$ 111,537.50 | -\$ 111,537.50 | |
| | 115 | Sexton Office | | \$ 19,269.21 | -\$ 19,269.21 | |
| | 340 | Furniture,Alteration,Renovation | | \$ 8,000.00 | -\$ 8,000.00 | |
| | | | \$ 1,742,144.52 | \$ 1,741,830.88 | <u>\$ 313.65</u> | |

Student Fee Estimates

| 2018-2019 | Number of Students | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| | | Full-Time | | Part-Time | | Total Received | | |
| | % | FT | PT | % | Full-Time | Part-Time | Total Received | |
| General DSU Operations | 43.45% | 67.16 | 35.66 | 44.38% | 1175300 | 82018 | 1257318 | |
| DSU Renovations Fund | 16.17% | 25 | 20 | 24.89% | 437500 | 46000 | 483500 | |
| Facility Improvement | 2.75% | 4.25 | 1 | 1.24% | 74375 | 2300 | 76675 | |
| CKDU | 5.82% | 9 | 2 | 2.49% | 157500 | 4600 | 162100 | |
| NSPIRG | 3.88% | 6 | 1 | 1.24% | 105000 | 2300 | 107300 | |
| Gazette | 4.01% | 6.2 | 4.7 | 5.85% | 108500 | 10810 | 119310 | |
| Women's Centre | 3.88% | 6 | 3 | 3.73% | 105000 | 6900 | 111900 | |
| Student Accessibility | 1.13% | 1.75 | 1 | 1.24% | 30625 | 2300 | 32925 | |
| DalOut | 0.65% | 1 | 0.5 | 0.62% | 17500 | 1150 | 18650 | |
| Get Real | 0.45% | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.62% | 12250 | 1150 | 13400 | |
| Sustainability Office | 1.29% | 2 | 0 | 0.00% | 35000 | 0 | 35000 | |
| South African Trust | 0.65% | 1 | 0 | 0.00% | 17500 | 0 | 17500 | |
| W.U.S.C. | 1.29% | 2 | 0 | 0.00% | 35000 | 0 | 35000 | |
| Sextant | 0.32% | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.62% | 8750 | 1150 | 9900 | |
| Loaded Ladle | 5.82% | 9 | 5 | 6.22% | 157500 | 11500 | 169000 | |
| Equity & Accessibility | 1.29% | 2 | 1 | 1.24% | 35000 | 2300 | 37300 | |
| Bike Centre | 1.29% | 2 | 1 | 1.24% | 35000 | 2300 | 37300 | |
| Campus Medical Resp. | 1.29% | 2 | 0 | 0.00% | 35000 | 0 | 35000 | |
| Dal Urban Garden Soc. | 0.65% | 1 | 0 | 0.00% | 17500 | 0 | 17500 | |
| Dal Outdoor Society | 0.65% | 1 | 0.5 | 0.62% | 17500 | 1150 | 18650 | |
| Survivor support Centre | 3.23% | 5 | 3 | 3.73% | 87500 | 6900 | 94400 | |
| TOTAL | 100% | 154.56 | 80.36 | 100% | 2704800 | 184828 | 2889628 | |

199625

*** these numbers are estimates based on last year with a slight increase



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: July 16, 2020; 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using Microsoft Teams

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 2020-07-16-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-07-16-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on June 18, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-07-16-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed as the Sexton Campus student representative on the Food Collective for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External

MOTION 2020-07-16-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the Oversight Committee as a General Member for the 2020-21 Academic Year.

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Budget and Finance Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

9.2 Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Presented by the President

9.3 External Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Academic and External

9.4 Grants and Sponsorship Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

9.5 International Student Emergency Bursary Fund Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

9.6 Offices Steering Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Internal

9.7 Oversight Committee

Presented by the Oversight Committee Chair

9.8 Society Review Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Internal

9.9 Student Accessibility Fund Committee

Presented by the Vice President, Internal

9.10 Student Life Committee

Presented by the President

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-07-16-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendments to the Sponsorship Policy be adopted as circulated on May 21, 2020

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-07-16-10.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserve Fund Policy be adopted as circulated on May 21, 2020.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-07-16.10.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendments to the Communications Policy be adopted as circulated to Council on June 18, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Social Media Policy be struck, as by this motion its contents have been incorporated into the Communications Policy.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal. Document attached.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-07-16.11.1

WHEREAS the situation in Yemen has been declared by the UN as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world

AND WHEREAS the Canadian government has a military equipment contract with Saudi Arabia, one of the countries involved in the conflict and supporting the internationally recognized Yemeni government,

THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT; the DSU write a letter addressed to the Canadian government stating our solidarity with the Yemeni people and opposing their military contract with Saudi Arabia because it is perpetuating violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the letter focus on an anti-violence message and ensure that the DSU does not take a side in the ongoing civil war.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External.

12. Executive Reports

12.1 President

12.2 Vice President, Internal

12.3 Vice President, Finance and Operations

12.4 Vice President, Academic and External

12.5 Vice President, Student Life

13. Notice of Motion

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: June 13 - July 10

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Weekly Operations and Research & Outreach Meetings
- Staff Meeting, July 03rd
- Ongoing meetings for Orientation planning
- Executive Committee Meetings:
 - *June 15*, discussions on O-Week graphics, Tiger Patrol vans
 - *June 22*, discussions on staff return to office, banking info, motions made in last council meeting, O-Week, Anti-O training for staff/exec/committees, Black is Gold event, DSUSO/E&A
 - *June 25*, vote on VPSL suspension extension, discussions on Licensed Operations assets, legal update
 - *June 29*, discussion on Halifax Pride, Anti-O training, VPSL, Annual Survey, office hours, government volunteer program
 - *July 06*, discussions on foodbank, VPSL, O-Week, Senate, Residences, MMIWG2s installation
 - *July 09*, vote on VPSL suspension extension
- *June 18th*, DSU Council
- *June 03rd*, DSU Council Electronic Vote
- *June 15th*: Events and Campaigns Commissioners Hiring Committee met to discuss applications
- *June 18th*: Meeting with DUES President Alex MacDonald to discuss year-long planning and Orientation
- *June 19th*: Interviews with applicants for Events and Campaigns Commissioner positions, successful applicants hired the following week
- *June 29th*: Judicial Board petitioned to produce advisory opinion on any breaches of DSU policy/code/bylaw in relation to the allegations against the VPSL; ongoing communications with the Judicial Board
- *June 30th*: Health and Safety Committee meeting to discuss reopening and COVID protection, return to office plan for July 06th
- *July 07th-09th*: Events Commissioner onboarding and training
- *July 09th*: T-Room management meeting to discuss yearly programming

University Affairs and Committees

- *June 17th*: Return to Campus meeting with Leanne French, Karin McLary, Laura Neals, VPAAE to discuss SUB reopening plan
- *June 24th*: Executive meeting with University Senior Admin (Deep Saini, Ian Nason, Frank Harvey, Cynthia Murray)
 - Agenda: Introductions, BoG meeting, Student Ratings of Instruction, tabled items
- *July 08th*: Dal Libraries meeting with VPAAE and senior libraries staffers to discuss reopening of Killam, Sexton Library, James Dunn, and current open facilities; Dal Reads program connection
- Ongoing committee meetings for Dal's virtual orientation and online communities (multiple times a week)
- Ongoing communications with Vice Provost, Student Affairs about return to campus, orientation, ombudsperson, and COVID

External and Broader Community

- Arrangement of meetings with Shinerama, RBC, and additional contact with potential sponsors for Orientation
- Job description for O-week leaders developed & posted
- Search for Dal Block Party talent
- Ongoing communication with other SU presidents and executives about orientation, COVID, and transition

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- *June 16th*, meeting to discuss upcoming Annual General Meeting
- *June 23*, Annual Board of Governors Meeting
 - President's Report (written) attached
 - Link to President's Report (video) on DSU Website

Upcoming Dates

- Maritime Student Congress, *July 13th-17th*
- Student/Government Roundtable, *July 15th*
- *July 30th*, tentative date for extraordinary meeting of council to be called to discuss the advisory opinions provided by the Judicial Board in regards to the VPSL



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Dalhousie Student Union Report to Board of Governors

Madeleine Stinson, President

dsupres@dal.ca

As the newly elected Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President, it is an honour to sit amongst the members of the Dalhousie Board of Governors. As the world around us shifts, I find myself increasingly humbled to have this opportunity to represent my peers. It is my promise to the Board of Governors to act as a steward for the University's best interests with the perspective of its most valuable stakeholder in mind - the student body.

DSU Executive Priorities

The executive has identified several key topics that will guide the DSU's actions and governance over the next year:

- Organizational & environmental sustainability
- Student mental health & well-being
- Affordable & meaningful post-secondary education for *all* students
- Student engagement & community connection
- Campus consent culture & survivor support
- Support & representation for Queer, Trans, Two Spirit, Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour (QTBIPOC), and other marginalized student populations

These themes represent the needs and wants of our diverse student population as they relate to the DSU, its mandate, and the greater Dalhousie community.

DSU Internal Planning

The DSU is committed to continuous learning and growth as an institution. This year the executive and staff are taking the opportunity to look through and reform our policies to ensure that they operate on frameworks of harm reduction, survivor-centrism, equity, accessibility, sustainability, and inclusion.

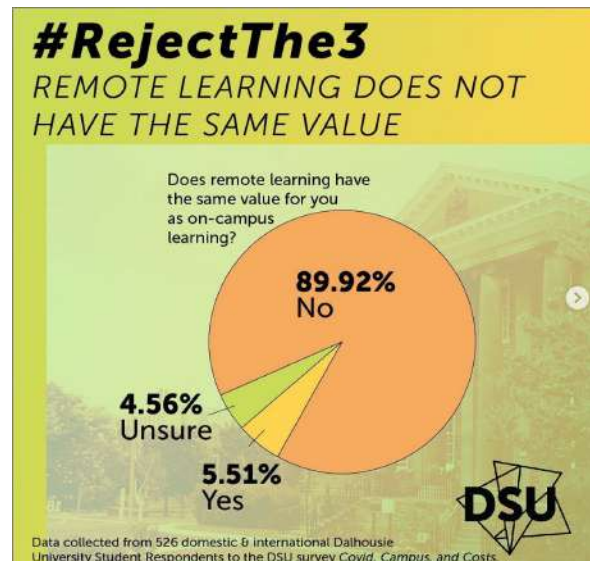
The executive has also agreed to allow for an organizational audit of the DSU in order to identify inefficiencies and allow for optimization of our operations.

The DSU also acknowledges that it cannot be removed from its own history, or the colonial, racist, and oppressive histories of Dalhousie, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

and Canada. The DSU is taking steps to become an actively anti-oppressive organization. These steps include anti-oppression training opportunities for staff and better support for employees and councillors of the DSU who identify with marginalized communities. Initiatives to better support QTBIPOC students and other marginalized members of the DSU community are ongoing and/or under development.

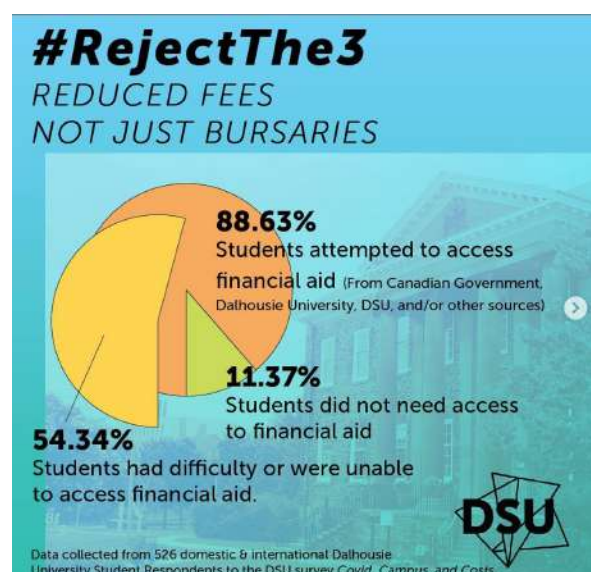
DSU Covid-19 Response ***Student Survey: Covid, Campus & Costs***

In response to the Dalhousie Board of Governor's recent decision to increase domestic and international tuition during a period of global crisis, the DSU has consulted with students to see what they think about the university's approach to learning and fees during the Covid-19 pandemic. From this, we created the campaign, [#RejectThe3](#).



The DSU maintains the position that if there ever was a year to *not* increase tuition, that the 2020/21 academic year would be it. While we understand that the university is acting in accordance with its vision to deliver world-class academics, we do not believe that institutional prestige should be valued over the wellbeing and security of students.

The DSU stands in support of students and calls for the Board of Governors to rescind their decision to increase tuition for the 2020/21 academic year, to decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees related to on-campus learning, and to issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 terms. We urge members of the Board of Governors to consider the long-term sustainability and well-being of Dalhousie university, students, and the academic community at large.



DSU Orientation Week

The preparation for this year's O-week is underway. Considering the impacts of Covid-19 and the University's decision for the fall semester to occur predominantly online, the DSU has remodeled orientation to include a blended itinerary of online and in-person events. This year's theme, "Dream Big," is a nod to those who choose to embrace the undefined possibilities of the future, and to challenge the world around them.

Due to the fiscal constraints many students and families are facing as a result of Covid-19 and the fact that our orientation cohort will consist of individuals located across the globe, this year's programming will be delivered at no cost to participants. The DSU plans to substitute the usual schedule of large gatherings for various socially-distanced outdoor events and interactive, online programming.

Depending on the university's decisions for the Winter 2021 semester, the DSU hopes to welcome students back to campus with more substantive "Frost Week" programming.

DSU Prospective Membership with CFS

The Dalhousie Student Union remains in a prospective membership with the Nova Scotian chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Over the past year, the DSU's membership has voiced both support and concern regarding this prospective membership and the DSU's developing relationship with CFS.

This year's executive team has decided to proceed with a referendum vote to allow the members at large to decide what relationship the DSU will pursue with CFS. Until the time that a neutral, information-based referendum can be held (tentatively, Spring 2021), the DSU executive has decided not to engage in any long-term or large-scale partnerships with the CFS.

Dalhousie Student Union Demands for Equity and Student Fees

June 23rd, 2020

To: Members of the Board of Governors and Senior Administrators at Dalhousie

This document has been created in addition to the Dalhousie Student Union President's Report presented at the June 23rd, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors to communicate the DSU's demands for the university to act in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and the impact of Covid-19 on students.

We request that the following demands are given a formal written response no later than June 30th, 2020. This response must include identification of actionable next steps and plans for senior administration to meet with the DSU and relevant student representatives.

Demands for Equity

- The collection of race-based data related to all aspects of the student experience at Dalhousie;
- Prioritization of mental health services for Black, Indigenous, and POC students including (but not limited to) the hiring of BIPOC counsellors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, and medical practitioners;
- Support in the creation of a collaborative committee including Senate and the DSU to oversee the integration of values of harm-reduction and anti-oppression into the university's academic curriculum;
- Divestment from fossil fuels and private prisons; and
- Mandatory anti-oppression training for all members of the Board of Governors, Senate, senior administrators, and faculty at Dalhousie.

Demands for Student Fees and Experience

- Rescind the decision to increase tuition for the 2020/21 academic year;
- Decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees related to on-campus learning;
- Issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 terms; and
- Further consideration of academic accommodations for all terms when the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are felt by students.

Signed,

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President
dsupres@dal.ca





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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: June 13th – July 10th

Council Date: July 16th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Finalized questions and released the Annual Survey; continuously noting responses and working on collecting data appropriately.
 - Working on write-up for an Annual Survey report. Summary report will contain only Annual Survey data.
 - Survey took a majority of a weeks time. Data collection will likely take a majority of time as well.
 - Opened on July 2nd; will close on July 31st
- Society Expo Meeting on June 19th and June 26th with the Member Services Coordinator and Rigel Biscione Cruz, Coordinator with Dalhousie.
 - Reviewed incentives and logistics for full-online.
- Finalized Commissioner hiring with Events Commissioner Hiring Committee: June 19th with President and VP AE.
- Completed VPI Ratifications. See Society Review Committee Updates for ratified list.
- The Student Accessibility Fund Committee is continuously approving rolling applications, meeting every 2nd Friday to match the cheque run schedule.
- Completing constitution checks for SRC approvals on a rolling basis.
- Drafting and brainstorming a *Crisis Flow Chart* for DSU and services usages.
- Planned a stable, long-term solution with E&A Office, NSPIRG, and DRO for Anti-Oppression Training.
 - E&A Office with NSPIRG are creating an online module system for accessible Anti-O training. It has been agreed that Brightspace will be the platform.
 - Release date some time in August.
- Attending & Supporting “Un-Learn with the DSU” meetings with Communications team, E&A, BSR, and DRO: July 2nd.
 - Working on Social Media releases and content for anti-racism information for allies and support for marginalized communities.
- Chairing the Office Steering Committee meeting: July 10th.

- Approved an extension for the E&A Bursary extension for up to September.
- Configuring Society Offices Spaces for the Fall Semester; reviewing locations and current availabilities.

University Affairs and Committees

- Classroom Planning Committee Cancelled: June 22nd.
- DSU and Dal Senior Administration Meeting: June 24th.
 - Made requests in line with MOTION 2020-06-18-11.6 moved by the Black Students' Representative at our last Council meeting; discussed tuition and requested decrease; called for race-based data release and collection.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- Ratified Societies from the July 8th Meeting:
 - Dalhousie Commerce Society
 - Dal Law Students' Society
 - Dalhousie Management Society
 - Dalhousie University Computer Science Society (CSS)
- VPI Ratification list:
 - Japanese Society
 - Dalhousie Chess Club
 - Surgical Exploration and Discovery (SEAD)
 - Dalhousie Anime Club
 - DalDance Society
 - Dalhousie Women's Rugby Football Club
 - Dalhousie University Rugby Football Club (DURFC)
 - Dalhousie Students Supporting Sick Children (DSSSSC)
 - YESS- Your Environmental Sustainability Society
 - Art For Everyone Society (AFE)
 - On Their Shoulders: Women in NS Politics
 - Squeeeze
 - Dalhousie Women in Engineering (WiE)
 - Dalhousie Oceanography Undergraduate Society (DOUGS)
 - Dalhousie Kinesiology Society

- Dalhousie Undergraduate English Society
- Dalhousie University Computer Science Graduate Society (CSGS)
- Dalhousie Renewable Energy Society (DRES)
- Dalhousie Association of Law, Justice and Society Students (DALLJS)
- John E. Read International Law Society
- Dalhousie Youth Legal Education Society (DYLES)
- The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students in English (DAGSE)
- Islamic Relief at Dal – Halifax Chapter
- Greater Love
- Dawson Geology Graduate Society (DGGS)
- School of Information Management Student Association (SIMSA)
- Public Administration Student Society (PASS)
- PhD Health Student Society (PhD HSS)
- Dalhousie Christian Students on Campus (DCSC)
- Applied Scientific Coding (ASC) Society
- Dalhousie Baseball Club
- STEM Fellowship Dalhousie
- Dalhousie University American Concrete Institute (ACI) Student Chapter
- Dalhousie Southeast Asian Nations Society (DSEANS)
- Dalhousie Oceanography Student Association (DOSA)
- Rowe Women in Business Association (WIBA)

Upcoming Dates

- Co-Curricular Record and Ratification combination Meeting: July 14th.
- Ombudsperson Meeting with Ivan Joseph, VPAAE, and VPFO: July 16th



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: June 13 – July 10

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- DSU Health and Safety Committee met on June 30 to discuss reopening plans for the SUB this fall. Decisions around re-opening the SUB are in development and will relate to the University's plans for re-opening residence and campus spaces.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings
- Preparation for collective bargaining with the full time staff union next week
- Made a map of the quad in preparation for O-Week! (see appendix A! Hand drawn, because I'm not very tech-savvy, BUT it's to scale and has been very helpful for planning out socially distanced events in the quad.)
- Support for Offices Steering Committee including budget revisions
- Communication with full-time staff and operational departments about budget revisions
- Food bank support – deliveries and pick-ups on Monday morning, working on MOU with Dalhousie for food bank funding with the goal of long-term sustainability for the food bank.
- Financial and investment policy review, including reviewing bank account access policies for responsible fiscal management
- Society support: completing audits, reviewing outstanding invoices to Shadow Security from residence council and societies, recording treasurer training videos for the website
- Working on updated financial projections for fall, involving ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. These numbers will continue to fluctuate over the summer, so additional budget revisions may be necessary in the fall.
- Reviewing inactive society levies and creating plans to support current levy initiatives.
- Signage and protocol for COVID-19, preparation for safe re-opening and events support in August.
- Coordinating return to office for E&A, DSUSO, CKDU and possibly the Loaded Ladle.
- O-Week event planning, including obtaining necessary municipal permits
- International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on July 2, we awarded \$1850.00 in International Student Emergency Bursaries. We also met on June 18, where we gave out \$7810.00 in bursaries.

- Audits passed this reporting period: Dalhousie Urban Garden Society, DalOUT, Loaded Ladle

University Affairs and Committees

- Transportation and Security Committee, June 30, 2020: Discussion of parking costs, Committee is recommending NO increase for this year, but Finance department at Dal will likely increase them. Potentially looking into monthly parking permits to adapt to COVID-19.
- President's Advisory Council on Sustainability: no meetings scheduled this period.
- Conversations with VPAAE and Student Affairs regarding the hiring of an ombudsperson – this has been ongoing since last year.

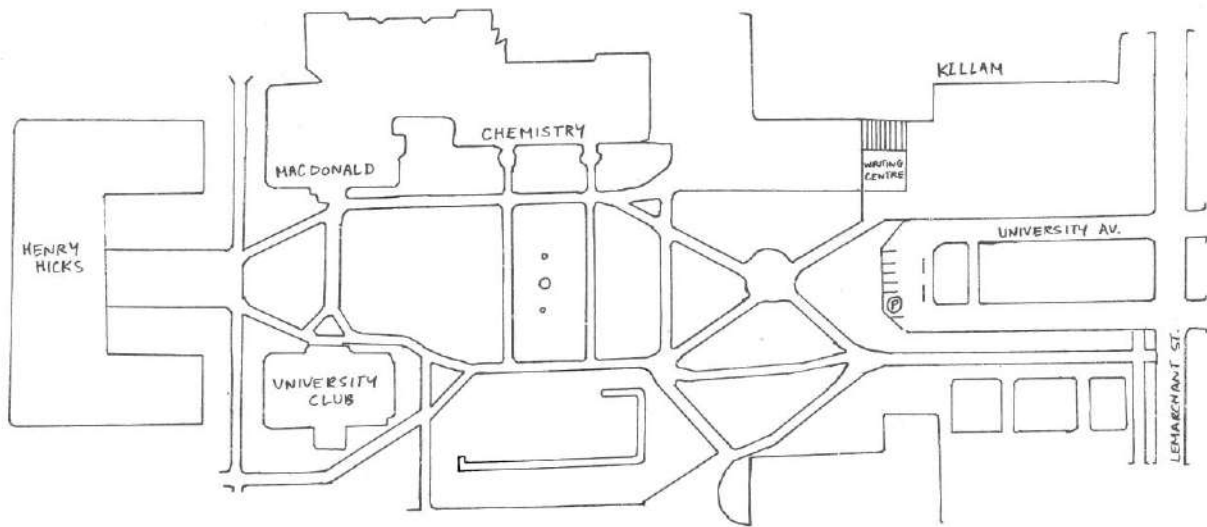
External and Broader Community

- Deliveries for the Loaded Ladle food box program every Tuesday afternoon
- Coordinating Dodge Caravan donation to Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia's program in Membertou First Nation, just waiting for them to obtain a temporary permit!
- Reached out to SUNSCAD re: removal of NSCAD President, and have offered support to them while they navigate procedures with their Board of Governors. We also posted a solidarity statement on July 3.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- Received no applications in June.
- Next meeting:
 - Deadline of **at July 22 noon**, Committee meeting on July 24

Appendix A: SUPER FUN map of the quad!





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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: June 18, 2020- July 10, 2020

Council Date: July 16, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee: June 30, 2020

a. The committee discussed long-term planning and individual member's concerns, then identified the following areas of advocacy:

i. Lowering tuition

ii. Creating an Indigenous language and culture course(s) at Dalhousie

2. I sat on the Hiring committee for our new Campaigns Commissioner: June 19, 2020, June 22, 2020

a. The committee hired Krystal Mutyabule

b. Their first task was to develop a budget for a potential rally as an escalation of our RejectThe3 campaign.

3. Developing educational content for O-week

4. Ongoing work with RejectThe3.

a. Following up with the list of demands

b. Providing input on where changes can be made to the budget to better serve students

c. In the process of determining the most impactful escalation

University Affairs and Committees

1. Meeting with the admissions department: June 30, 2020

a. Discussion on publishing all their demographic information gathered and including more specific questions

b. Unfortunately, they are not able to publish this data: "Any diversity data collected and stored by the Registrar's Office happens at the point of application, with language on the application form around why we're collecting it as per the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy](#) (FOIPOP) act, to assist in admission and scholarship decisions, where applicable. It's voluntary action on the form." (email with admissions team). The

FOIPOP act prevents them from publishing or using admissions data for anything other than admissions decisions.

c. They are open to collecting more specific and comprehensive demographic information from students in an informal form. I will remain involved in these conversations as that form develops

d. Their admissions site is very limited and run by a third party. They are in the process of redoing this site and updating it to meet current standards, including more comprehensive language and LGBTQ+ options. They expect this development to take about a year. However, they have limited ability to manipulate the existing site. We tentatively plan to make smaller changes to the LGBTQ+ options by adding more gender and sexuality identities into the existing question structure and including a disclaimer that the incoming site will be more comprehensive.

2. Open Education Resources (OER) committee: July 8, 2020
 - a. Encouraging professors to use open access (free) resources
 - b. Reaching out to Universities with strong OER systems to ask for input
3. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
4. Worked with Dalhousie administration to solve a grading issue in the School of Architecture
5. Code of Student Conduct Review Committee work is ongoing
6. Discussion with the University surrounding their Return to Campus plan
 - a. Encouraging them to give students with access needs that make it difficult for them learn from home priority when accessing learning spaces on campus
 - b. Encouraging the University to open as many study spaces as possible

External and Broader Community

1. Consultation with DISA to discuss developing a Statement of Solidarity with Yemen, Opposing Violence and, consequently, the sale of Military Equipment to Saudi Arabia

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Reached out to all groups that require representation
 - a. All 14 members must be appointed by their society/council and submitted as soon as possible. A formal deadline will follow shortly. The original deadline provided by Senate was not feasible.

Upcoming Dates

1. Government Student Roundtable: July 15, 2020
 - a. Opportunity to discuss student issues with the government

- i. Increasing tuition
 - ii. Accessibility barriers caused by remote learning
 - iii. Addressing systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism at Dalhousie
- 2. Maritime Student Congress: July 15, 2020
 - a. Discussing the work other VPAs have been completing and challenges they may be facing

Sponsorship Policy

Oversight Body: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

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Date Passed by Council:

Date of Next Review: June 2022

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: Bylaws 6, 7, and 10; Financial Policy Section 3; Dalhousie University Alcohol Policy

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Purpose: The aim of the Union's Sponsorship Policy is to ensure that the Union sponsors activities that are consistent with the strategic direction and core values of the Union; to define sponsorship limitations and criteria, and to lay out the process for the assessment, approval, and coordination of sponsorship activities. This policy lays out the general procedure and regulations for the allocation of funds from the Union's Sponsorship Fund, with the goal of supporting community initiatives while ensuring that the Union maximises the full potential benefit from all sponsorship arrangements.

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Scope: This policy applies to all in-kind or financial sponsorship activities provided by the Union which include the authorized use of the DSU brand, name, or logo.

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Definitions

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Committee: The Executive Committee of the Union.

Fiscal Year: The period beginning on April 1 of a given calendar year and ending March 31 of the following calendar year.

In-kind Support: Support consisting of goods and services in place of money.

Sponsorship: Action taken by the Union, including but not limited to the distribution of funds, carried out in order to support an initiative or project developed by an external group.

Union: The Dalhousie Student Union

1. Types of Sponsorship

- 1.1. Sponsorship may be provided in the form of in-kind or financial support, or a combination of the two.

1.2. In-kind support may take the form of:

1.2.1. Promotional support, such as promotion of an event through the Union's social media channels;

1.2.2. The use of Union facilities (space or equipment);

1.2.3. Support from the Union's Executive, Council or full-time staff

1.3. Financial support may be provided in amounts not to exceed \$500 per organization per fiscal year.

2. Sponsorship Procedure

2.1. Sponsorships are available to external groups and organizations organizing events, programs, or other initiatives within Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Sponsorships are not available to groups internal to the Union, such as ratified societies, or for events which take place outside HRM.

2.2. Requests for sponsorship shall be made via the Sponsorship Application Form available on the Union's website. To guarantee consideration, applications for sponsorship must be submitted at least one (1) month prior to the date of the initiative for which funding is being requested.

2.3. The following information must be included on all sponsorship applications:

2.3.1. A detailed budget for the initiative for which sponsorship is requested;

2.3.2. A list of all other sources of revenue, including pending sources of revenue and information about when confirmation of pending sources is expected.

2.3.3. An explanation of how Union members will benefit from the sponsorship.

2.3.4. If financial support is being requested to pay for something the Union can provide through in-kind support (e.g. room bookings, printing services, etc.), an explanation of why funding is needed to acquire these services outside of the Union.

2.3.5. Information about the external group, including the size of the group and its activities.

2.4. A new Sponsorship Application must be submitted each time sponsorship is requested.

Even where an organization is requesting sponsorship for a new iteration or version of an event or program that received Union sponsorship in the past, the applicant must submit a new application each time sponsorship is sought.

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2.5. The Vice President, Finance and Operations, shall review each incoming application for eligibility requirements, and shall communicate with applicants about the status of their application.

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2.6. Applications that the Vice President, Finance and Operations determines are ineligible will be denied in writing to the applicant, and the decision will be communicated to the Executive Committee.

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2.7. The Committee will review and vote on applications for sponsorship once every four (4) weeks, at a minimum. The Committee's decision will be promptly communicated to the applicant.

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2.8. When funding is approved, the Vice President, Finance and Operations or their designate shall coordinate sponsorship activities.

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2.9. The Vice President, Finance and Operations shall keep a record of all sponsorships granted in a given fiscal year, including a copy of each sponsorship application, and shall report all sponsorship activities to Council.

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3. Sponsorship Fund

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3.1. The total value of the Sponsorship Fund shall be determined each fiscal year as part of the Union budget. Sponsorships will be limited to available funds and the Union reserves the right to reject applications, award funding at lower levels than requested, or to offer in kind support in place of financial support, based on budgetary planning.

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3.2. In each fiscal year, monies from the Sponsorship Fund will be distributed as follows:

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3.2.1. Twenty per cent allocated from April 1 – August 31;

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3.2.2. Thirty-five per cent allocated from September 1 – December 31; and

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3.2.3. Forty-five per cent allocated from January 1 – March 31

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4. Sponsorship Criteria

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4.1 The Committee will evaluate sponsorship applications using the following principles:

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4.1.1 Consistency with the Union's strategic direction and core values, as outlined in the DSU Act, Bylaws, Policies, and other governing documents;

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4.1.2 Mutually beneficial outcomes for both the Union and the group applying for sponsorship;

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4.1.3 Creation of promotional activities for the Union, both internally (within the

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membership and Dalhousie) and externally (within HRM);

4.1.4 Direct benefit to the members of the Union and/or specific communities of members;

4.1.5 Opportunity for the Union to build relationships with community leaders and organizations;

4.1.6 Opportunities for student participation;

4.1.7 Emphasis on the areas of equity, accessible postsecondary education, sustainability, and/or human rights.

4.2 The Union will not consider sponsorship of:

4.2.1 Activities that contravene any legal statute, governing document of the Union, or the Dalhousie University Alcohol Policy;

4.2.2 Opportunities that may present a risk to the Union's reputation;

4.2.3 Organizations or events which do not reflect the Union's strategic direction and core values, or which violate the Equity Policy or other Issues Policy in any way.

4.3 Sponsorship cannot be used to fund the activities of any group, association, corporation, or charity other than those of the applicant.

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Reserve Fund Policy

Oversight Body: Budget and Finance Committee

Date Passed by Council:

Date of Next Review: June 2023

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: Financial Policy; Bylaw 5.3; Bylaw 7; Equity Policy

Purpose: This policy lays out the principles that guide the Union's reserve fund usage in order to align the organization's financial management with its overarching objectives. The Reserve Fund Policy will be implemented in conjunction with the other governance and financial policies of the Union, and is intended to support the goals and strategies contained in these related policies and in strategic and operational plans.

Scope: This policy shall apply to all Union Reserve Funds. It shall guide both the review and use of current funds and of any new reserve funds created through DSU referenda or other programs.

Policy Statement:

1. Principles

1.1 The Union, as a representative body and a membership-based organization, has a responsibility to act in the best interests of its members with regard to reserve fund use. All decisions around the use of reserve funds must be made in a responsible and democratic manner and in compliance with all existing policies, bylaws, and legislation.

2. Specific Purpose Reserve Funds

2.1 The Union shall maintain Specific Purpose Reserve Funds, composed of fees collected through relevant levies. Where established in policy or official agreements, individual Specific Purpose Reserve Funds may also include donations, contributions from the University, and monies otherwise allocated to the Reserve Funds.

2.2 Funds collected through levies are managed by the Vice President, Finance and Operations, and the relevant department head(s). Levy funds that go unused during the fiscal year in which they were collected shall become Reserve Funds.

2.3 All Reserve Funds shall be maintained and allocated in accordance with their original intents, or with their referendum questions, where applicable (Appendix A). The purpose and scope of each Reserve Fund is as follows:.

2.3.1 DSU Renovations Fund: This reserve was established to accumulate funds for the renovation of the Student Union Building. This reserve is funded through student fees collected through the DSU Renovations Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$25 per full-time student and \$20 per part-time student, per semester.

2.3.2 DSU Facility Improvement Fund: This reserve was established to support overall improvements to the Student Union Building, equipment, computers, and furniture. This reserve is funded through student fees collected through the DSU Facility Improvement Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$4.25 per full-time student and \$1.00 per part-time student, per semester.

2.3.3 DSU International Health Plan Reserve Fund: This reserve was established to create an Emergency Bursary program for which all Dalhousie full-time international students may apply. This reserve is funded through the DSU International Health Plan Fund Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$1.50 per month from each student enrolled in the International Student Health Plan.

2.3.4 DSU Survivor Support Reserve Fund: This reserve was established to fund a DSU-operated support center dedicated to service delivery, education, and advocacy addressing sexualized violence. This reserve is funded through the DSU Survivor Support Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$5.00 per full-time student and \$3.00 per part-time student, per semester.

2.3.5 DSU Equity and Accessibility Office Reserve Fund: This reserve was established to address issues of equity, accessibility, and inclusion on campus. This reserve is funded through student fees collected through the Equity and Accessibility Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$2.00 per full-time student and \$1.00 per part-time student, per semester

2.3.6 DSU Sustainability Office Reserve Fund: This reserve was established to create a sustainability office at the DSU. This reserve is funded through student fees collected through the DSU Sustainability Office Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$2.00 per full-time student and \$0 per part-time student, per semester.

2.3.7 DSU Student Accessibility Reserve Fund: This reserve was established to create an accessibility fund, which was used to create an Accessibility Bursary program, issue Accommodation Grants, and fund capital purchases which enhance the accessibility of the SUB. This reserve is funded through student fees

collected through the DSU Student Accessibility Fee, which is collected at a rate of \$1.75 per full-time student and \$1.00 per part-time student, per semester.

3. Use of Reserves

3.1 The following general steps will be taken in identifying appropriate uses for Reserve Funds:

3.1.1 The Vice President, Finance and Operations shall, in consultation with the Director of Operations and/or the Director of Research and Outreach, assess the need for access to reserve funds and confirm that the proposed use is consistent with the purpose of the reserves as described in this Policy;

3.1.2 Where appropriate, consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken in compliance with Union policy;

3.1.3 The Vice President, Finance and Operations shall research and analyze the reason for use, the availability of other sources of funding to mitigate the use of Reserve Funds, and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be needed and replenished;

3.1.3 Where there is uncertainty on the suitability of a project to the nature of the reserve fund's original question, the Vice Provost, Student Affairs, will be consulted regarding use of the funds. If further advisement is needed, the Union's legal counsel will be consulted. The results of any consultation will be included in the request to use reserve funds.

3.1.4 No motion regarding the use of Reserve Funds shall be brought to council for debate or decision prior to the preparation of a proposal as per this policy.

3.2 Based on the research and consultation undertaken under 3.1, the Vice President, Finance and Operations shall develop a proposal for the use of the reserve funds in question. The proposal shall include a proposed budget for the project to be undertaken using reserve funds, an explanation of how the project falls within the scope of the Reserve Fund in question, and information about any research and consultation undertaken to arrive at the proposal. Where feasible and appropriate, additional documentation such as pricing quotes or reports may be attached.

3.3 The Vice President, Finance and Operations shall submit the to the appropriate body depending on the value of the proposal. Said body shall have the power to amend, approve, and reject the proposal and to authorize transfer from the appropriate Reserve Fund. Regardless of the body making the decision, all decisions about reserve fund proposals shall be reported to the Budget and Finance Committee and to Council.

3.3.1 Proposals valued up to \$1,000 shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.

3.3.2 Proposals valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000 shall be submitted to the Budget and Finance Committee.

3.1.2.3 Proposals valued over \$10,000 shall be submitted to Council.

3. The Vice President, Finance and Operations, shall be responsible for monitoring the Reserve Funds and ensuring they are used only as described in the proposal.

3.5 The Vice President, Finance and Operations, shall keep a record of all proposals and actual uses of reserve funds. Where requested by the Budget and Finance Committee or Council, the Vice President, Finance and Operations will report on plans to replenish the Reserve Fund from which monies were drawn.

4. Accounting for Reserve Funds

4.1 The Reserve Funds will be recorded in the audited financial records as Council-Designated [TITLE OF FUND] Fund(s). Reserves will be maintained in the general cash and investment accounts of the Union, unless otherwise determined at the discretion of the VP Finance and Operations, Director of Operations and the Financial Controller.

6. Policy Review

6.1 This policy shall be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee once every two (2) years. The policy may be reviewed or amended more frequently based on the direction of the Executive Committee, Council, or the Budget and Finance Committee.

Appendix A

DSU Equity and Accessibility Office Levy Question (2014):

Do you support the implementation of a new per-semester fee of \$1.00 for full-time students and \$0.50 for part-time students? This question pertains only to Halifax campuses

Be it further resolved the funds be used in order to address issues of equity, accessibility, and inclusion on campus. This could include issues relating to physical and non-physical disabilities, language and discrimination based on sex, gender, race, ability and anything else by? [sic]

(Passed)

DSU Survivor Support Levy Question (2017):

Do you support instituting a fee of \$2.50 per semester for full-time students and \$1.50 per semester for part-time students to fund a robust DSU-operated support centre dedicated to service delivery, education and advocacy addressing sexual assault, violence, and harassment? This question applies only to the Halifax campus and applies to the fall, winter and summer semesters.

(Passed)

DSU Sustainability Office Levy Question (2007)

Do you support the implementation of a levy of \$2 per full time student per year to fund the creation of a sustainability office and a sustainability coordinator?

(Passed)

DSU Accessibility Fund Levy Question (2002):

Do you support a levy of \$1.75 per full-time student and \$1.00 per part-time student every year to be used to establish a student accessibility fund?

(Passed)



Communications Policy

Oversight body: Vice-President, Internal

Date Passed by Council: June, 2018; ~~amended July 2020~~

Date of Next Review: ~~July 2022~~ ~~June 8, 2021~~

Related policies, bylaws, legislation: Equity Policy, Bylaw 5-3 & 5-5

Definitions

~~Brand: A composition of everything tangible and intangible that serves to evoke an overall experience when an individual hears about or interacts with it. This can include a visual identity, auditory sounds, mental concepts, or an organizational promise.~~

~~“Business day:” — A day on which the University is open and in session, not including any Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday in the province of Nova Scotia. For the purposes of this policy “day” should be taken to mean “business day” where not otherwise specified.~~

~~Official DSU Channel: A medium of communication used to represent the voice of the DSU.~~

~~Union: The Dalhousie Student Union.~~

~~University: Dalhousie University.~~

~~“Visual identity:” — ~~Is the~~The visual aspect of a brand such as logo designs, fonts, photos, and any other visuals which act to convey the brand.~~

~~“Brand” — A composition of everything tangible and intangible that serves to evoke an overall experience when an individual hears about or interacts with it. This can include a visual identity, auditory sounds, mental concepts, or an organizational promise.~~

~~“Official DSU Channel” — A medium of communication used to represent the voice of the DSU.~~

~~“Membership” — The whole of Dalhousie registered students.~~

~~“University” — Dalhousie University.~~



Purpose

The transparency and promotion of work done by the Union are fundamental characteristics of a democratic and well-functioning organization. Diverse and well-reasoned ideas, approaches, and experiences are also essential parts of inclusion and equity. As such, the Union is committed to the respectful exchange of ideas. This policy serves to establish the authorities and parameters with which the Union will carry out its communications, ensuring a consistent, clear and professional presentation of information.

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Scope

The following procedures apply to any communications involving the Union, including:

- Use of the DSU logo
- Press releases and official statements
- Marketing strategies and promotional materials for DSU services and events
- Electronic communications
- University and external lobbying campaigns
- Internal communications initiatives
- Societies and constituencies wishing to use DSU images, messaging, and/or official channels

Statement

1. General Regulations

- 1.1 As Official Spokesperson for the Union, the President will be first informed of any requests for interviews and before issuing any public statements on behalf of the DSU.
- 1.2 No other Executive Officer, staff member, or volunteer with the DSU shall make public statements on behalf of the DSU without previous consultation and written approval from the President.
- 1.3 The Executive Committee shall have the right to publish and distribute press releases, membership advisories and all other communication materials to the membership as it deems necessary and in accordance with [bylaw 5.3-all current bylaws and policies.](#)
- 1.4 Previous to the release of any materials, statements, appearances for an interview, or DSU protests or demonstrations, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the Union should be consulted for guidance and feedback.



1.5 The Communications Team members are:

- 1.5.1 The Vice-President, Internal;
- 1.5.2 The Communications and Outreach Coordinator;
- 1.5.3 The Graphic Designer and Campaigns Coordinator.

1.6 The Communications Team shall be responsible for:

- 1.6.1 Promoting the mission, vision, and goals of the DSU;
- 1.6.2 Coordinating official responses of the DSU;
- 1.6.3 Advising appropriate roles and departments on possible, or actual, media responses and public responses;
- 1.6.4 Establishing and maintaining a coherent brand for the DSU, its departments, services, and offices.

1.7 Business of the Union, including any official decisions or requests, shall only be conducted through “@dal.ca” email accounts to ensure information can be securely conveyed, appropriately archived, and reliable.

~~1.8 Feedback provided to the DSU via Official DSU Channels, excluding individual e-mail accounts, is to be acknowledged within 72 hours after said feedback is provided.~~

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~~1.9~~1.8 Agreements and/or partnerships with third parties to join campaigns or regularly share visual assets are to be made in a written agreement on the nature and goals of the relationship, the implications of said relationship to DSU membership, and brought forward to Council for approval, where appropriate.

~~1.9.1~~1.8.1 One time use of third party materials, including electronic materials, must have written permission from the third party acknowledging its use and for what purpose.

2. Oversight

2.1 The Communications Team shall oversee the development and use of the following:

- 2.1.1 A DSU Visual Identity Guide, which will be the primary document outlining the appropriate use of images, fonts, key colour palettes and sub-palettes, and all logos associated with the DSU;
- 2.1.2 A DSU Brand and any subsidiary brands;
- 2.1.3 An annual engagement strategy
- 2.1.4 An annual consultation strategy



- 2.1.4 The Official DSU Channels
- 2.1.5 Advertising and Sponsorship
- 2.1.6 Emergency Response Communications Plans

2.2 All communications initiatives and projects that fall under this policy shall be created and planned in conjunction with the Communications and Outreach Coordinator.

2.3 Those individuals, groups, services, or business' wishing to have promotional materials distributed/displayed through Official DSU channels will submit the relevant materials to the Communications and Outreach Coordinator a minimum of five business days prior to the desired date of distribution to be considered for promotion.

3. Official DSU Channels

3.1 The DSU will use, but is not limited to, the following mediums for marketing and communication purposes:

- 3.1.1 Print Media
- 3.1.2 Student Union Building Screens
- 3.1.3 Official DSU Website
- 3.1.4 Social Media
- 3.1.5 E-mail
- 3.1.6 Campus poster boards
- 3.1.7 Radio
- 3.1.8 Television and video
- 3.1.9 Tabling
- 3.1.10 Mobile App

4. Website/Social Media

4.1 Social media platforms are key spaces for engaging with members and gathering feedback on the Union's work. In posting communications to Union-owned social media accounts, the Union is bound to all the regulations for official channels laid out in this policy.

4.2 Unlike e-mail or print mediums, social media allows for the immediate and public sharing of replies, comments and posts from DSU members and community members. Social media is not only a place where the Union communicates with members, but also one where members communicate with the Union and with each other.

4.14.3 Any new website or social media account meant to represent the DSU, or one of its departments/services/offices, must be approved by the Communications Team and contain appropriate branding.

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4.24.4 Each DSU website or social media account must have one single designated account manager, with no more than two designated account managers, who will be held responsible for adherence to DSU Bylaws and Policies as well as copyright regulations.

4.2.1 Account access, including administrative privileges, to Official DSU Channels must be granted to at least one of: the Communications and Outreach Coordinator or Vice-President, Internal.

4.2.2 Account managers must meet annually with the Communications Team.

4.5 Just as discrimination and harassment are not tolerated at in-person events of the Union, these behaviours will not be tolerated in comment sections and other discussion spaces located on DSU-owned social media pages and accounts. To protect against the harm caused by harassment and discrimination, the Union shall maintain an Online Code of Conduct (Appendix A).

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4.5.1 The Online Code of Conduct may be amended as part of the Communications Policy, following regular procedures for policy review.

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4.6 The communications team shall review all comments and replies to Union social media posts within three (3) business days, and will:

4.6.1 Forward comments or replies that provide substantive feedback on the work of a particular department, executive member, committee or staff person to the appropriate individual or body.

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4.6.2 Respond to comments or replies that request specific information, or that raise concerns which could be mitigated with clarification, by providing said information or connecting the member to other resources.

4.7 The Union is not obligated to respond to comments and replies that are inflammatory, irrelevant, offensive, or disruptive; to any comments and replies posted by non-Union members; or to comments and replies that violate the Online Code of Conduct.

4.8 The Union reserves the right to hide or delete comments that violate the Online Code of Conduct.

4.9 Members who feel that the Online Code of Conduct has been violated, and the violation has not been adequately addressed, should bring their concerns to the Vice President, Internal.



4.10 Members who feel that their comment or post was removed in error should bring their concerns to the Vice President, Internal.

4.11 Societies or student organizations governed by the DSU Constitution or Society Policy may use the DSU Online Code of Conduct for online spaces they manage.

5. Print and Media Screens

5.1 All approved print and media screen imagery that represents a DSU event, service, office, campaign, or initiative must adhere to the DSU Brand or, if relevant, its subsidiary brand.

5.2 All print materials meant to represent the DSU, including but not limited to member guidebooks, the Handbook, media advisories, and written statements, shall abide by the DSU Brand, and be approved by the Communications Team.

5.3 Long-standing materials, such as the Handbook, will be decided on by the Communications Team in consultation with the DSU Executive Committee.

6. Advertising

6.1 All advertising relationships the DSU enters will:

6.1.1 Outline a review process for measuring advertising outcomes;

6.1.2 Outline an appropriate content review and approval process;

6.1.3 Contain conditions regarding exiting an agreement if these conditions are not met.

7. E-mail

7.1 All e-mail accounts of the DSU will contain a designed signature in accordance with the relevant DSU Brand and will include:

7.1.1 The staff or volunteer's name;

7.1.2 The position title;

7.1.3 The department, service, or office;

7.1.4 Contact information

7.2 E-mail accounts are the property of the DSU and should not be viewed as personal accounts.

7.3 Membership wide e-mails should be restricted to no more than once per week, with the exception of events that require immediate or frequent attention.



7.3.1 It is the responsibility of the Communications and Outreach Coordinator to make the appropriate arrangements for Membership wide e-mails through the Student Affairs Office of the University.

8. Restrictions

8.1 Official DSU Channels will not be made available for personal use.

8.2 The creation, transmission, publication, or distribution of material or comments which are obscene, racist, discriminatory, defamatory, fraudulent, or otherwise illegal or that is likely to create any liability or cause harassment, is deemed to be unacceptable use of Official DSU Channels.

8.4 It is prohibited to attempt to conceal or falsify the authorship of any form of communication.

8.5 The DSU shall own materials commissioned for DSU use, including by not limited to: graphic design, photography, video and multimedia, and audio assets.

8.5.1 All materials should be accompanied by appropriate licenses, release forms, and/or written permission from the content creator for publication.

8.5.2 The DSU should be the sole branding present on published materials, excluding where agreements and/or partnerships are present, in writing, where appropriate.

8.6 Commentary that does not abide by DSU Bylaws and Policy is subject to removal, at the discretion of the Communications and Outreach Coordinator in collaboration with the Communications Team.

8.7 Commentary deemed inappropriate can be archived and removed, and a public post, where appropriate, is to be made to clarify why particular commentary has been removed.

9. Branding and Visual Identity

9.1 The DSU will maintain a consistent logo and visual identity in identifying itself to its Membership, University Administration, in government relations, and to the public.

9.2 Each department, service and office of the DSU will have its own visual identity under the broader DSU Brand.



9.2.1 When establishing a department, service or office visual identity, a comprehensive visual identity guide must be proposed prior to any individual elements being approved and implemented.

9.3 Each department, service, and office of the DSU must adhere to its own visual identity.

9.4 All materials, including electronic materials, distributed using Official DSU Channels must be approved by the Communications Team.

9.5 All visual identity elements may not be altered without written permission of the Communications Team.

9.6 DSU Branding and visual identity elements may be used by external organizations, student societies, University departments and community groups, in materials, including electronic materials, with written permission from the Communications and Outreach Coordinator and/or a mutual agreement on appropriate DSU Brand usage.

10. Style Guidelines

10.1 Information distributed through any channel should be presented consistently, clearly, and at minimum, meet accessibility standards for that platform.



Appendix A: DSU Online Code of Conduct

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) will not tolerate discriminatory remarks or harassment in any form.

Discrimination means the act of making a distinction, whether intentional or not, based on a characteristic, or perceived characteristic, that has the effect of imposing burdens, obligations or disadvantages on an individual or a class of individuals not imposed upon others or which withholds or limits access to opportunities, benefits and advantages available to other individuals or classes of individuals in society.

This in online spaces, prohibited discriminatory remarks and harassment includes, but ~~are~~ is not limited to:

- Remarks or images that are based on racist, sexist, ableist, homophobic, ~~or~~ transphobic, xenophobic, colonial, or otherwise oppressive sentiments;
- Hate speech, meaning ~~c~~omments that ~~attempt~~ seek to demean, humiliate or threaten any individual or group based on who they are, in other words based on age; race; colour; religion; creed; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; ethnic, national, or Indigenous origin; family status; marital status; source of income; political belief, affiliation, or activity; or association with another individual(s) having characteristics referred to in previous group; and any of the grounds listed above; and
- Defamatory or libelous statements against any individual or group;

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Comments or posts that do not comply with these rules will be removed.

Users who disregard the code of conduct ~~will~~ may be removed and/or blocked from online spaces owned or operated by the ~~dsu~~ DSU.

Users who are removed from an online space owned or operated by the ~~dsu~~ DSU or a ~~dsu~~ DSU-affiliated group, may also be removed or blocked from other online spaces owned or operated by the ~~dsu~~ DSU or ~~dsu~~ DSU-affiliated societies and student groups.

Instances of harassment, threats or other criminal behaviour may be reported to ~~the police,~~ the University, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, or any other regulatory body deemed appropriate in the circumstances.



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2

T 902.494.2140 **F** 902.494.5185 dsu.ca • @dalstudentunion

DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Extraordinary Meeting of Council

Meeting Date and Time: July 30, 2020 6:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

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.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-07-30-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on July 16, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

6. Communications Received

7. New Business

7.1 Presentation and discussion of Judicial Board report on VPSL conduct.

Presented by the President; document to be circulated on July 30.

8. Notice of Motion

8.1 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next Council meeting on August 13:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Elections and Referenda Policy be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Elections Policy and Referenda Policies be struck, as well as the Community Representation and Faculty Representation Policies.

Moved by the President upon recommendation of Bylaw and Policy Review Committee; document to be circulated on July 30.

8.2 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next Council meeting on August 13:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Terms of Reference be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Bylaw and Policy Review guidelines be struck.

Moved by the President upon recommendation of Bylaw and Policy Review Committee; document to be circulated on July 30.

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

Summary of Investigation

August 4, 2020

Timeline

- *June 02, 2020:* DSU President signs contract to hire Kelly McMillan of Nijhawan McMillan Petrunia Barristers
- *June 04, 2020:* Investigator begins their inquiry
- *June 25, 2020:* Deadline for the investigator to finish their inquiry
- *June 26, 2020:* Investigator submits their report at end-of-day
- *June 29, 2020:* DSU President petitions the Judicial Board to produce advisory opinions based on the investigator's report and their own findings
- *July 20, 2020:* Date of closed Judicial Board hearing
- *July 29, 2020:* Judicial Board submits their advisory opinions to petitioner (President) and respondent (VPSL)
- *July 30, 2020:* Extraordinary meeting of Council called
- *July 31, 2020:* VPSL's suspension lapses, they retake office

Conclusions

The third-party investigator, Kelly McMillan, concluded "it is more likely than not that:

1. The Complainant is not Olivia Paige MacDonald, Dalhousie student;
 - a. The investigator found that, "the DalCard provided by the Complainant [was] falsified."
2. The Respondent did not drug or sexually assault the Complainant at a party referred to as "JadFest" that took place on the weekend of March 6, 2020;
 - a. Findings 2 & 3 were based on witness interviews and review of hundreds of photographs, emails, and online communications.
3. The incidents described in the Change.Org petition, subsequent updates, and related online comments did not occur as alleged;
4. The statements published by Jad Ghiz on May 2, 2020, May 14, 2020, and May 19, 2020, breached the Respondent's duty of loyalty to the DSU, as required by DSU Bylaws (s. 4.4(a)), Code of Conduct (s. 1.2 and 3.6.2), and Statement of Office (s. 1-2).
 - a. The investigator also stated that, despite the breach, they, "[did not find] that [the VPSL] acted in dishonesty or bad faith."

[The investigator was not] able to identify the Complainant or confirm their status as an active member of the DSU, based on the evidence available.”

Scope

The investigation’s scope required the investigator to produce the above listed conclusions, however “for greater clarity, the following issues fell outside the scope of [the] investigation mandate and [were] not addressed in this report:

5. Potential allegations of sexualized violence contained in comments on online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Change.Org, and Reddit, other than the Complainant’s allegation in the Petition;
6. Potential allegations of violations or irregularities in respect of the 2020 DSU election or any candidate’s campaign, including whether any of the Respondent’s conduct violated the DSU’s campaign or election rules;
7. Potential misuse or misappropriation of Dalhousie University property, such as email accounts;
8. Potential violations of policies, codes, or regulations of Dalhousie University. [The investigator] was, however, encouraged to consider Dalhousie University policies, including the “Purple Folder” and relevant definitions, to inform [the] investigation and analysis.”

It is also important to note that the investigation was not mandated to produce recommendations, but was mandated to include:

1. “Conducting interviews with the Complainant (if available and willing to participate), the Respondent, and any other witnesses;
2. Gathering relevant documentary evidence;
3. Preparing a confidential written report of findings, including findings as to whether or not the Respondent has breached any bylaw, code, or policy of the DSU and reasons for the finding;
4. Submitting the confidential investigation report to legal counsel for the DSU; and
5. Employing anti-oppressive and harm-reduction frameworks, including an intersectional, survivor-centric, and trauma-informed approach to the investigation”

VPSL Investigation Summary

July 06, 2020

Timeline

- *June 02, 2020:* DSU President signs contract to hire Kelly McMillan of Nijhawan McMillan Petrunia Barristers
- *June 04, 2020:* Investigator begins their inquiry
- *June 11, 2020:* Investigator requests an additional month to conduct their inquiry, the DSU Executive Committee approves an additional two weeks
- *June 25, 2020:* Deadline for the investigator to finish their inquiry
- *June 26, 2020:* Investigator submits their report at end-of-day
- *June 29, 2020:* DSU President petitions the Judicial Board to produce advisory opinions based on the investigator's report and their own findings
- *July 13, 2020:* Judicial Board hearing date
- *July 27, 2020:* Deadline for Judicial Board to submit their advisory opinions to petitioner (President) and respondent (VPSL)
- *July 30, 2020:* Tentative date for an extraordinary meeting of Council to be called to discuss the Judicial Board's conclusions

Conclusions

The third-party investigator, Kelly McMillan, concluded "it is more likely than not that:

1. The Complainant is not Olivia Paige MacDonald, Dalhousie student #B00709112;
2. The Respondent did not drug or sexually assault the Complainant at a party referred to as "JadFest" that took place on the weekend of March 6, 2020;
3. The incidents described in the Change.Org petition, subsequent updates, and related online comments did not occur as alleged;
4. The statements published by Jad Ghiz on May 2, 2020, May 14, 2020, and May 19, 2020, breached the Respondent's duty of loyalty to the DSU, as required by DSU Bylaws (s. 4.4(a)), Code of Conduct (s. 1.2 and 3.6.2), and Statement of Office (s. 1-2).

[The investigator was not] able to identify the Complainant or confirm their status as an active member of the DSU, based on the evidence available."

Scope

The investigation's scope required the investigator to produce the above listed conclusions, however "for greater clarity, the following issues fell outside the scope of [the] investigation mandate and [were] not addressed in this report:

5. Potential allegations of sexualized violence contained in comments on online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Change.Org, and Reddit, other than the Complainant's allegation in the Petition;
6. Potential allegations of violations or irregularities in respect of the 2020 DSU election or any candidate's campaign, including whether any of the Respondent's conduct violated the DSU's campaign or election rules;
7. Potential misuse or misappropriation of Dalhousie University property, such as email accounts;
8. Potential violations of policies, codes, or regulations of Dalhousie University. [The investigator] was, however, encouraged to consider Dalhousie University policies, including the "Purple Folder" and relevant definitions, to inform [the] investigation and analysis."

It is also important to note that the investigation was not mandated to produce recommendations, but was mandated to include:

1. "Conducting interviews with the Complainant (if available and willing to participate), the Respondent, and any other witnesses;
2. Gathering relevant documentary evidence;
3. Preparing a confidential written report of my findings, including findings as to whether or not the Respondent has breached any bylaw, code, or policy of the DSU and reasons for the finding;
4. Submitting the confidential investigation report to legal counsel for the DSU; and
5. Employing anti-oppressive and harm-reduction frameworks, including an intersectional, survivor-centric, and trauma-informed approach to the investigation"

Judicial Board Decision & Advisory Opinion

Petition submitted: June 29, 2020

Decision submitted: July 29, 2020

Petitioner: DSU President

Respondent: Vice President, Student Life

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I. Introduction

1. This is the final advisory decision of the Judicial Board with respect to the petition brought forward by Madeleine Stinson (“Petitioner”), President of the Dalhousie Student Union, regarding the suspension of Jad Ghiz (“Respondent”), Vice President of Student Life (“VPSL”), as Dalhousie Student Union’s (DSU) response to an allegation of sexual assault made against the Respondent in a petition posted online on Change.org (“Change.org Petition”).

II. Background

2. On April 29, 2020, a petition was published on Change.org describing an alleged sexual assault against the Respondent by another Dalhousie student.

3. On May 1, 2020, the Respondent took office at the Dalhousie Student Union.

4. On or about May 1, 2020, there was a phone call between the Respondent and the Petitioner, in which the Petitioner asked the Respondent to step down from his position as VPSL. During that conversation, the Petitioner and Respondent discussed the possibility of a public statement in response to the allegation. The Petitioner asked the Respondent not to release a statement without first running it by the DSU. In particular, The Petitioner wanted to ensure that any statement made by the Respondent did not contradict any existing or planned public statement by the DSU.

5. On May 2, 2020, the Respondent wrote and posted a statement online (“Initial Statement”) in which he first addressed the allegations against him.

6. No one at the DSU saw the post until after it had already been published online. The Respondent had put the statement in a folder accessible to the DSU Executive, but did not bring the statement specifically to the DSU’s attention before publishing it.

7. Following the release of the Initial Statement, the Petitioner called the Respondent to discuss the statement, in which she was “reasonably upset”, as described by the Respondent.

8. The DSU published their own public statements on May 3, 2020 and May 5, 2020.

9. On May 7, 2020 the DSU had a Special General Meeting to address their response to the Change.Org Petition online. The DSU voted to suspend the Respondent from his VPSL position on a temporary, non-disciplinary basis with pay.

10. Over the next two weeks, the Petitioner and the Respondent spoke periodically about the actions the DSU was taking in response to the Change.org Petition. During these calls, the Respondent asked the Petitioner to participate in the Halifax Regional Police’s sexual

assault investigation. The Petitioner responded that the DSU would not hinder a police investigation, but would not share information with the police without the Complainant's consent or unless formally ordered to do so.

11. Other than these calls with the Petitioner, the Respondent made no further requests to the DSU to participate in the police investigation, nor to initiate its own investigation into the Change.org Petition.

12. On May 14, 2020, the Respondent published a second statement online ("Open Letter") in which he addressed the allegations against him. The Respondent said his Open Letter was a "call to action" to the DSU and the Dalhousie Administration to pressure them to support the police investigation he initiated. The Respondent did not run this statement by the DSU either, stating that he "knew the letter would not have flown in the DSU's eyes".

13. Later on May 14, 2020, the DSU renewed the Respondent's suspension with pay until May 21, 2020. The Petitioner wrote to the Respondent, advising him that the DSU considered the Open Letter to be in violation for the Code of Conduct and Statement of Office because it contained negative, incorrect or misleading statements regarding the DSU.

14. On or about May 19, 2020 the Respondent published a last statement on Reddit in response to the Change.org Petition (the "Reddit Post").

15. On May 18, 2020 the Respondent submitted a private letter to the DSU Council in response to a member's proposed motion to suspend the Respondent without pay.

16. The DSU Executive members, including the Respondent, were new to their roles as this matter unfolded. The Respondent had not yet received formal training on board governance, including his fiduciary duties as executive officer before taking office. He was however, required to be familiar with DSU bylaws, codes, policies, and to the Statement of Office, prior to taking office on May 1, 2020.

III. Issues

17. Did Jad Ghiz, Dalhousie Student Union's Vice President of Student Life, violate his obligations under any Dalhousie Student Union bylaw, code, or policy when he, on May 2, 2020, May 14, 2020, and or May 19, 2020, posted public online statements regarding a sexual assault allegation that had been made against him by another Dalhousie University student?

18. Based on the scope of the petition and the evidence presented, it is outside the scope of the Board to make any determinations surrounding the acts alleged in the Change.org Petition. Accordingly, the focus of the Board's decision are the online statements made by the Respondent following the complaint, namely the Initial Statement, the Open Letter, and the Reddit Post.

IV. Scope of Investigation Report

19. On June 4, 2020, the investigator was engaged by the DSU to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations against the Respondent. As part of the investigation, the investigator was tasked with making findings on whether:

- a) The Respondent drugged and sexually assaulted the Complainant at a party referred to as “JadFest” on or about March 6, 2020, as alleged; and
- b) Whether the statements published by the Respondent on May 2, 2020 and May 14, 2020, or any subsequent online statements or comments, violated the Respondent’s obligations under any DSU bylaw, code, or policy.

V. Conclusions of Investigation Report

20. In her final report, the investigator concluded it was more likely than not that:

2. The evidence did not support a finding that the Respondent drugged or sexually assaulted the Olivia Paige MacDonald (named online as the Complainant) at a party referred to as “JadFest” that took place on the weekend of March 6, 2020; and
5. The Respondent’s public statements published on May 2, 2020, May 14, 2020 and May 19, 2020 breached his duty of loyalty to the DSU, as required by DSU Bylaws (s.4.4(a)), Code of Conduct (s. 1.2 and 3.6.2), and Statement of Office (s.1-2).

21. The investigator’s reasoning as to her findings relating to the allegation of sexual assault were as follows:

- a) The Complainant’s credibility is undermined. She submitted a falsified DalCard to the DSU upon requests to supply ID to confirm her identify, as well as a B00 number belonging to another individual.
- b) There was no evidence that the Complainant was invited by the Respondent via direct-message on Instagram to attend JadFest, as alleged in the Change.org Petition.
- c) There was no evidence that JadFest was a “campaign frat party”, as alleged in the Change.org Petition.
- d) The evidence available did not support the claim that drinks were being offered at JadFest in exchange for voting for the Respondent, as alleged in the Change.org Petition. There was also overwhelming evidence contrary to the Complainant’s allegation that the Respondent welcomed guests and offered the Complainant a drink.

- e) The evidence suggests that there were only very brief windows of time (between 5 to 10 minutes) when the Respondent's activities and whereabouts were not specifically accounted for, either based on the direct observation of witnesses, or photo or video evidence. The evidence as a whole is inconsistent with the sexual assault described in the Change.org Petition. Further, it is unlikely that the Respondent could have engaged in the conduct alleged in the Change.org Petition without his absence or actions being observed.
- f) The evidence suggests that the Respondent did not commit the sexual assault on the Complainant in one of the four bedrooms of the house JadFest was held in, as alleged in the Change.Org Petition. Two bedrooms were open and occupied throughout the party. The third was closed to prevent a cat from escaping, witnesses were going in and out of the room periodically throughout the evening, and the room was located next to the washroom.
- g) The evidence supported the conclusion that it was likely the Respondent would have been interrupted and/or observed by other guests had he committed the alleged sexual assault as described. The majority of the guests gathered outside of the entrance of the fourth bedroom, and the evidence supports the conclusion that it was closed off to guests for the entire party.
- h) There was no evidence that the Respondent, nor anyone else, entered the bedroom, until later in the evening when a guest went there to sleep. Had the Respondent entered with a female guest, or the Complainant leaving the bedroom, without anyone noticing.
- i) The Complainant's attendance at JadFest was unconfirmed.
- j) There was no other evidence supporting the Complainant's account.
- k) The credibility of the Change.Org Petition is undermined. An alumna of Dalhousie University received an email notification from Change.Org on April 29, 2020 confirming she signed the Change.Org Petition although she had not signed it. The email addressed her with her legal name rather than her preferred name used by friends and family. It is possible to sign petitions on Change.Org without actually accessing the email account used to sign them.

22. The investigator's reasoning as to her findings relating to the potential breaches of DSU Bylaws, policies, etc., were as follows:

- l) The Duty of Loyalty requires councillors to place the interest of the DSU above any personal self-interest in all dealings of the DSU. The Initial Statement, Open Letter and Reddit Post were designed to further the Respondent's personal interest in

clearing his name and preserving his reputation. The Respondent knew at the time of posting the statements that his interests were different than those of the DSU – he felt he needed to make the statement because he knew the DSU would not be doing so on his behalf. The statements were also posted without prior approval of the DSU.

- m) The contents of the Open Letter were highly critical of the DSU’s response to the Petition, accusing the DSU of a “lack of action” and “wilfully contributing to the destruction of [his] reputation and [his] future for the sake of public image”. The statements could reasonably be expected to bring the DSU into disrepute.
- n) There is a Duty of Due Diligence in the Code of Conduct that requires councillors to make reasonable efforts to ensure that they have all relevant information with regard to the matter and that their statements are accurate. The respondent’s Open Letter was not so inaccurate or unreasonable to amount to a breach of this duty. It was neither intentionally false nor misleading. He did not make it in bad faith and was not dishonest. The DSU told the Respondent they would not provide information to the police without the Complainant’s consent.

VI. Preliminary Interpretations

A. Survivor-centric approach

23. The Dalhousie Sexualized Violence Policy (“Policy”) states that the University will provide Sexualized Violence response and support that is survivor-centric. The Policy goes on to define survivor-centric as an “approach that, wherever possible, seeks to empower the individual who has experienced Sexualized Violence by placing their needs at the centre of decision-making related to support and response” [emphasis added]. During the hearing, both parties indicated that they interpreted survivor-centric as the process of placing the needs and interests of the survivor, and other members that are survivors of sexualized violence, above those of the Respondent, specifically with respect to disclosure of information as the situation progressed.

24. However, the survivor-centric approach, in which the needs of the survivor inform related decisions and responses, must be read in light of the overall purpose of Policy. The purpose of the Policy, which includes providing timely and fair responses to disclosures and reports of sexualized violence, indicates that in certain situations a survivor-centric model must allow for disclosure that is fair to the survivor, the Respondent, the membership and other interested parties.

25. Accordingly, the survivor-centric model does not solely protect the interest of the survivor to the detriment of the Respondent, nor does it always place the interest of the survivor above those of other parties involved in the complaint. Rather, referring back to the

definition of survivor-centric outlined in the policy, the needs of the survivor are to be at the centre of the response or decision “wherever possible”.

26. It follows that the term “survivor-centric” can be interpreted as a model in which the interest of empowering the survivor of sexualized violence is adhered to whenever possible, but not to the extent that such a decision or response undermines the overall purpose of the Policy, namely the need for fairness, specifically regarding disclosure, to all parties involved.

B. Best interests of the DSU

27. A major element of interpretation in this petition is the “best interests of the organization.” The best interests of the organization, being the DSU, is highly contextual. During the hearing, the Petitioner and the Respondent suggested differing views of what actions constituted the best interest of the organization.

28. The best interest of the organization can be viewed as decisions that are aimed at achieving a benefit for the organization. This is not to be conflated with efficacy or achieving the maximum benefit. Rather, it is the action that is aimed at achieving the benefit that is sufficient to constitute the best interest of the organization.

29. As a body elected by the Dalhousie student body, the DSU requires the support and confidence of its membership in order to function properly. Accordingly, the best interests of the DSU will likely be met by pursuing a course of action which fosters the relationship between the DSU and its membership and their confidence in the DSU. For example, this may be achieved through open and transparent processes and decisions or by an immediate response to a complaint.

VII. Peripheral Considerations

30. This petition was brought by the DSU President for the Board to consider whether Jad Ghiz, Vice President, Student life, violated DSU policies. The Petitioner seeks an advisory opinion from the Board. It is outside the scope of the Board to review the conduct of the DSU in-depth regarding the events that are the subject of this petition, but we feel it is important to recognize some procedural missteps before analyzing the conduct of the Respondent.

A. Misuse of Judicial Board authority

31. On May 7th, motion 7.1 was passed by councillors that suspended Jad on a non-disciplinary basis for one week. The Board takes issue with the DSU referencing section 9.1 in their motion as follows “the Judicial Board Policy enables the Judicial Board to take the non-disciplinary action to temporarily suspend an individual respondent for a period of up to one week, should they find potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another individual pending the results of inquiry.”

32. It is correct that the Judicial Board had not been assembled at the time. It is also correct under s. 9 of the Judicial Board Policy that the Board can authorize a temporary suspension. The provision is produced as follows:

9. Non-Disciplinary Actions

9.1 The Judicial Board possesses the authority to temporarily suspend an individual Respondent should they find a potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another individual pending the results of their inquiry. A temporary suspension cannot exceed one week.

33. The Board takes issue with the interpretation and use of this provision by the DSU executive. First, the Board has the authority to suspend an individual who is the subject of their inquiry, the executive or councillors do not hold this power. It is incorrect to superimpose the roles, responsibilities, and discretion of an elected entity onto another. The provision states that the Board can temporarily suspend an individual Respondent when they find (meaning the Board) a potential for continued serious harm to the organization or another pending the results of their inquiry.

34. In this case, there was no respondent or an inquiry pending before the Board because a petition had not been started. It is true that a petition could not be started as the Board was not assembled, but that does not mean the Judicial Board Policy as legislated can be applied by members of council with the same meaning and purpose. A petition is an investigation or inquiry, which is crucial to the purpose and function of this provision. This is because the Board is petitioned with all relevant information and supporting documents and allows for a hearing where the respondent can speak. The disciplinary action comes as a result of considering all the applicable information around the petition, which would have been impossible when the motion to suspend was made.

35. Furthermore, the motion stated that “at the end of one (1) week, on May 14, 2020, this suspension may be renewed for an additional period of up to one (1) week by a special resolution passed by the Executive Committee.” The provision in the Judicial Board allows suspension of one week, which fits into the timeline and purpose it was legislated for, which is the petition timeline. This is why it does not mention renewal.

B. Issues with open communication

36. It is understandable that the sensitivity of this issue placed the DSU in a complicated position as they attempted to balance a survivor centric approach with open communication. It is the view of the Board, after considering all materials submitted and getting more information from both the Petitioner and Respondent at the hearing, that communications between the DSU and the Respondent could have been more frequent and transparent throughout the process.

37. We find that more frequent and in-depth communication with the Respondent could have influenced his decisions to produce the statements that are being considered as violations of DSU by-laws and codes, and potentially prevented them entirely. It is apparent to the Board that the Respondent was attempting to stay updated on the status of the DSU investigation but after being suspended did not know how to obtain this information.

38. Since the DSU asked the Respondent to step-down based on Charge.org Petition, and then suspended him on a non-disciplinary motion when he did not step down, it is likely that the Respondent believed that asking for more information would hurt his goal of remaining in his position far more than releasing a personal statement from his perspective. The Board finds the suspension and lack of communication ultimately put the Respondent in a lose-lose situation.

VIII. Analysis of Breaches

A. The Initial Statement

39. We find that the Respondent's Initial Statement, on its face, violated Bylaw 4.4(a) and the Statement of Office s 1-2. The Respondent's Initial Statement was released on May 2, 2020, without the approval of the Petitioner. The Petitioner told the Respondent they wanted to approve the Initial Statement so that it would not contradict any of the DSU's existing or planned public statements. The Respondent disregarded this request and proceeded to release his statement.

40. The Board finds this particular action was in the Respondent's personal interest and not in the best interest of the DSU. As for the substance of the Initial Statement, the Board finds it was largely neutral, with the Respondent addressing the allegation, stating what steps had been taken by him to aid in the investigation, and declared his innocence by stating it was a falsified claim. Additionally, we find that the content of the Initial Statement and their purpose were written with a view of upholding the DSU to transparency in their investigation.

41. Given there was no process to be followed when a councillor is the subject of serious criminal allegations, the Board finds it problematic for s.3.6 and 3.6.2 of the Code of Conduct to be interpreted in a way that forces a councillor in this situation to remain silent on their innocence, even where it may be their detriment. Rather, in reading s 3.6.2 in conjunction with s 3.6, which prohibits conduct that may reasonably be seen as bringing the DSU into disrepute, we find the Code of Conduct must be interpreted to allow for the Respondent to comment on matters involving the DSU and themselves, and maintain their innocence in a way that respects the best interests of DSU and all other parties involved in the conflict.

42. While the Respondent was required to give his undivided allegiance to the organization when making decisions with potential to impact the DSU per 1.2 of the Code of Conduct, the Board does not conclude that this means that the best interests of the organization and the Respondent cannot coincide. Despite s.2 of the Respondent's Statement of Office, there is no

wording indicating that the two interests cannot coincide or that an identified secondary interest will result in a finding that the statements were against the best interest of the organization.

43. Therefore, the wording of s.2 of the Statement of Office, which states that the Respondent is to “Conduct [him]self with integrity and respect for the collective decisions of the Council and subordinate my personal interests to the best interests of the Union” suggests that the interests of the Respondent are to be subordinated where the best interest of the organization and the Respondent conflict. It would be illogical and contrary to s 4.4(a) of the by-laws, which require acting in the best interest of the organization, for the Respondent to subordinate his own personal interests completely when they can be seen as coinciding with the best interest of the organization. Such an interpretation would force the Respondent to act in a way that was not in the best interest of the organization simply because he also had a personal benefit. Therefore, the Board does not find the fact that the Respondent made his online statements with some view of a personal gain as violating the Code of Conduct s 1.2 or the Statement of Office s.1-2, or s 4.4(a) of the Bylaws.

44. The question then becomes whether the Initial Statement made by the Respondent was in the best interest of the organization. As noted, the Petitioner and the Respondent expressed differing views on what constituted the best interest of the organization in the circumstances. It is important to note that throughout this situation the DSU, including the Respondent, were operating with little to no guidance by way of precedent or policy, with no policies existing to deal with criminal allegations against a DSU Executive.

45. During the hearing, the Respondent stated that an open and transparent investigation into the allegations against him was in the best interest of the DSU, which was reflected in his Initial Statement. The Board accepts this rationale and agrees it was reflected in his statement. Given there was little communication to the Respondent by the DSU (status of the investigation and unsuccessful attempts to identify the complainant) the Board finds it is likely that the Respondent truly believed his statements were required to prompt the transparency he felt was necessary for the membership to maintain confidence in the DSU. The Respondent conceded that these actions served a personal benefit of helping to clear his name.

46. Based on the evidence presented to us, the Board also accepts that the DSU felt that the Respondent’s statement was not in the best interest of the DSU because they were in the process of an investigation and were attempting to identify the complainant. Thus, releasing a statement without the DSU’s approval posed a risk of contradicting statements.

47. The Board finds that both the Respondent, in taking action to promote transparency, and the Petitioner, in maintaining a survivor-centric approach while taking immediate action, felt they were acting in the best interests of the DSU. Both courses of action can be seen as promoting the broader interest of the DSU, being to foster the relationship with the membership and their confidence in the DSU.

48. As noted above, the fact that the Respondent acted in a manner that provided him with a personal benefit does not, in and of itself, mean that he was not also acting in the best interest of the DSU. However, based on the evidence presented, we find that the Respondent's action to release the statement without the approval or input of the DSU as requested by the Petitioner to be in violation of the best interests of the organization.

49. We find the Respondent's statement, which he prepared the same day as it was released, ran the risk of contradicting any previous or planned public statements released by the DSU. The statement was not targeting or referencing the credibility of the DSU, nor did it directly undermine the DSU, but the risk created by releasing the statement without input or approval of the DSU cannot be seen as an action taken in the best interest of the organization and is therefore in violation of bylaw 4.4(a), and the Statement of Office s.1-2.

50. Lastly, we do not find that the Respondent's initial statement served to bring the DSU into disrepute by inflaming the conflict involving the DSU. In looking at whether the statement served to inflame the conflict, it is important that the statement be considered in light of the words used rather than a series of events or public outrage that could have, or did, ensue. To hold a DSU Executive to be in breach of the Code of Conduct on a hindsight basis would cause confusion with respect to the duties of the executive member. Thus, to inflame the conflict involving the DSU, the words and/or intent of the statement must be indicative of the potential for inflaming, provoking, or intensifying the conflict. The Respondent's language does not meet this threshold.

B. The Open Letter

51. The Board finds that the Respondent's Open Letter, which he released on May 14, 2020, to be in violation of bylaw 4.4(a), Code of Conduct 3.6.2, and Statement of Office 1-2. The Open Letter, although not addressed to the DSU directly, contained language that brought the DSU into disrepute, specifically by inflaming the subject conflict involving the DSU. By claiming that the DSU's "lack of action" was "willfully contributing to the destruction of [his] reputation and my future for the sake of public image" the Respondent depicted the organization in a negative light.

52. The words chosen by the Respondent depict an organization that is idle to the detriment of one of their executive members. In doing so, the Respondent elicited distrust and distaste for the student union. It is apparent that the language chosen by the Respondent was meant to garner a strong reaction from the public and the DSU in order to achieve the Respondent's stated intent of progressing the situation.

53. The communications consideration outlined above warrants attention regarding the Respondent's Open Letter. The Board finds that had the Respondent been privy to the actual status of the DSU investigation and the steps they had taken up until writing the Open Letter then this language could have been avoided completely. The Board finds that from the Respondent's perspective at the time (suspended without a knowledge of a formal

investigation or an identified complainant that was a member of the DSU) he could have very well believed that there was a “lack of action” and the DSU was “willfully contributing to the destruction of his reputation.”

54. Nevertheless, the Board finds the language used in the Open Letter not only brought the DSU into disrepute by inflaming the conflict involving the DSU in violation of Code of Conduct 3.6.2, but could be seen as negatively impacting members’ confidence in the DSU. Therefore, the Respondent’s Open Letter also violated s 4.4(a) of the Bylaws, and s.1 of the Statement of Office. Accordingly, the Respondent’s Open letter also violated s.2 of the Statement of Office.

C. The Reddit Post

55. We do not find that the Respondent’s Reddit Post violated Bylaw 4.4(a), Code of Conduct 3.6.2, or the Statement of Office ss.1-2.

56. In the subject Reddit Post the Respondent referred to the public statements of the DSU and to debates at the May 7, 2020, Special General Meeting of the DSU and stated that the “whole update is easily refuted if this individual would simply give p[r]oof of being a Dalhousie student (B00#). I am entirely confident that this person does not exist therefore will not provide the identification.”

57. This statement was not addressed to the DSU nor did it use language that could be seen as bringing the DSU into disrepute. Rather, the Reddit Post was calling on the complainant directly to provide proof that she was a Dalhousie Student by providing her B00# to the DSU. It did not suggest the DSU was not in pursuit of the complainant’s identification themselves. Therefore, we do not find that this statement was in violation of s 3.6.2 of the Code of Conduct.

58. We also do not find that the Reddit Post was in violation of the best interest of the DSU per s 4.4(a), Statement of Office 1-2. The Reddit Post provided an update on the situation from the Respondent, specifically with respect to the events that unfolded during the extraordinary council meeting and by responding to the May 19th update post that was made on the Reddit platform. Throughout the post the Respondent expressed his uncertainty in which actions he should have taken during the council meeting that ultimately resulted in his failure to leave the meeting immediately. It is still unclear to the Board whether or not his conduct did reach a threshold that required him to have to leave the meeting in the manner that ensued.

59. In responding to the complainant’s May 19th Reddit Post, the Respondent was respectful and informative. Although the investigative report suggests that the Reddit Post was not in the best interest of the DSU as it was released without DSU approval, running the risk of misleading or inaccurate information, we do not reach the same conclusion.

60. The information used by the Respondent was information that was available to the public, should they wish to seek such information from bodies such as the HRES or the HRP. The Respondent also referenced his initial statement and other posts and internet sources which he linked in the post. Based on the information referenced and the language used we do not find

there was a real risk of misleading or inaccurate information. Rather, we find that the post provided a comprehensive update on the situation from the Respondent's perspective that highlighted the responses from all angles. The Respondent also stated several times that the DSU is not an investigative body. In doing so, the Respondent ensured that readers were able to define the scope of the DSU with respect to the complaint while having an overview of some of the DSU's efforts to address the complaint and the investigation. The Board finds this effort is consistent with the best interests of the DSU.

61. Accordingly, the Board interprets the Reddit Post as a statement that attempts to strengthen confidence in the DSU throughout the complaint process, rather than undermine it. As such, we view the Reddit Post as being in line with Bylaw 4.4(a), and the Statement of Office s 1-2. As noted, despite the fact the Respondent received a personal benefit from this post (i.e. clearing and protecting his reputation) does not mean he was not acting in the best interest of the DSU therefore Statement of Office s 2 is not breached.

IX. Recommendations & Remedies

A. Action Plan Committee

62. The Board concludes that the best course action would be for the DSU to immediately assemble a committee to work with the policy coordinator, in collaboration with applicable organizations at Dalhousie, to design a process for when an executive member is the subject of a complaint by a DSU member. The Board concludes that establishing such a committee to outline these processes succinctly in a piece of legislation can avoid this situation in the future and prevent DSU processes from becoming a trial in the court of public opinion.

63. After considering evidence within the petition, interpreting existing relevant by-laws and identifying their problematic ambiguities the Board recommends the committee focuses on creating a process that:

1. Promotes open and transparent communication;
2. Ensures the accused, DSU membership, and other affected parties are updated on the status of the investigation (both internal and external investigations) as soon as any updates become available;
3. Defines the scope of a survivor-centric approach and what actions can be taken and justified as being a survivor-centric approach;
4. Defines the best interests of the DSU and creates a best interests priority list to aid in resolving conflicts when breaches are identified; and
5. Ensures that no executive or councillor is suspended from their position until the complainant is identified as a DSU member and then an investigation is commenced.

B. Further disciplinary action

64. The Board understands the DSU executives involved in this matter, including the Respondent, were all new to their roles and this had an influence on the decisions they made

within this process. This was a difficult situation for all involved and oversights were made by all. The Board concludes that the timing and the manner of the Respondent's suspension and the DSU's lack of communication with the Respondent was unjust. However, the Board understands that the DSU may have felt that the Respondent's suspension was the only option given the survivor-centric approach and the best interests of the DSU. Unfortunately, this is something that cannot be changed. Based on the uniqueness of the situation, the information available and our analysis of the Respondent's breach of relevant policies, alongside the empathy and understanding expressed by both parties throughout the hearing, the Board concludes that no further disciplinary action should be pursued against the Respondent.

65. This decision is not binding on council, which means council can reject our advisory opinion and proceed in a different fashion. We understand that some councillors and members of the DSU may feel that the relationship with the Respondent and the DSU is not salvageable. We disagree and conclude that, based on the Respondent's behaviour during the hearing, it is apparent the Respondent is willing and capable of abiding by the rules, including identifying and acting in the best interests of the DSU, and acting in accordance with his other duties. Given all the evidence considered, the lack of communication provided to the Respondent during the process, the Respondent's reflections at the hearing and most importantly the fact the complainant has still not been identified, the extent to which he upheld his duties throughout this process is justifiable for an executive member that found himself in this complicated situation.

66. In the event council does attempt to find a means of disciplinary action for the extent that the Board identified the Respondent breached by-laws, we would advise council to consider the extent to which they could be seen as breaching similar by-laws throughout this process as a petition may also be brought before the Board surrounding their action or in-action. The Board concludes, after going through all the communications and events that occurred, further analysis of exactly what should have occurred or how either party could have handled the situation differently is redundant. This time and effort should be directed at clarifying this process for the future. The Board has the authority under 8.1.8 to impose disciplinary action we see fit "which prioritizes restorative justice principles." In this case we are advising no further disciplinary action to switch the focus on promoting the reparation and restoration of the relations between the DSU and Respondent to foster understanding, communication, and growth for the organization.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: August 13, 2020; 6:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams virtual meeting

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 2020-08-13-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-08-13-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the DSU Council meeting on July 30, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Kate Yau be appointed Chief Returning Officer for the 2020-21 Academic Year.

Moved by the President; Recommended for adoption by the CRO Hiring Committee

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the Offices Steering Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Internal; Nomination to be brought forward by Oversight Committee. Document Attached.

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed to the External Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; Nomination to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the following appointments to the Senate Caucus:

Black Students' Representative: _____

Women Students' Representative: _____

Students With Disabilities Representative: _____

Continuing Education Representative: _____

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External; Nominations to be brought forward by Executive Committee

MOTION 2020-08-13-7.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____, _____, _____, _____
and _____ be appointed to the Elections Committee for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Moved by the President; Nominations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee

8. Presentations

8.1 Senate Caucus Appointments Update

Presented by the Vice President, Academic and External

Document Attached

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-08-13-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Elections and Referenda Policy be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Elections Policy and Referenda Policies be struck, as well as the Community Representation and Faculty Representation Policies.

Moved by the President. Recommended for adoption by Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

MOTION 2020-08-13-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Terms of Reference be adopted as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the existing Bylaw and Policy Review guidelines be struck.

Moved by the President. Recommended for adoption by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-08-13-11.1

WHEREAS the DSU Bylaws do not outline a process for appointing DSU representatives to Dalhousie University Senate Sub-Committees and the process has not been standardized in recent years; and

WHEREAS the Senate Caucus is an official DSU body with representation from student communities and faculty-level societies; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senate Caucus is tasked with appointing student members to Dalhousie University Senate Sub-Committees for the 2020-21 Academic Year in line with the terms of reference for each Sub-Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate Caucus will prioritize members of the Senate Caucus for available DSU-appointed seats on Senate Sub-Committees, first prioritizing voting members of the Caucus and then non-voting members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Vice President, Academic and External shall report all sub-committee appointments made by the Caucus to Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee and the Senate Caucus be tasked with reviewing current governing documents and practices and developing a bylaw and/or policy amendment(s) to better define the process for appointments to Senate Sub-Committees in the future. Any such bylaw or policy amendments would be subject to approval at General Meeting or Council Meeting, respectively.

Moved by the Vice-President, Academic and External

12. Executive Reports *Documents attached*

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

13.1 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next regular meeting of Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document to be circulated August 13.

13.2 The following motion will appear on the agenda at the next regular meeting of Council:

WHEREAS almost the entirety of the Council Policy is in contradiction with the DSU Bylaws; and

WHEREAS the Union Rules and Procedures policy outlines Council procedures and the responsibilities of Council staff; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council Policy is repealed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to develop a new policy incorporating the provisions of the Union Rules and Procedures Policy in addition to any provisions from the defunct Council Policy that should be maintained or are not covered in other policies.

Moved by the President.

14. Announcements

14.1 Council Meeting Schedule for the 2020 Fall term

Presented by the President

Document attached

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: July 11, 2020 – August 07, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Ongoing meetings with the Operations team, Research and Outreach team, Graphics team, Council working group, and Health & Safety Committee
- VPSL retook office on July 31st, ongoing meetings to orient, update and plan O-Week
- Ongoing meetings to plan O-Week and prepare talent, O-Week leaders, logistics, and programming content
- *July 13, 20, 27, August 06: Executive Committee Meetings*
 - Ongoing discussion on Ombudsperson – close to reaching an agreement
 - Decided to support SUNSCAD and Friends of NSCAD in their advocacy work
 - Closing the Community Closet due to COVID-19
 - Wellness Room and Prayer Space will be moved to separate locations. Decisions around where each space will be located are underway.
 - Agreed to donate the depreciated Tiger Patrol Van to Sipekne'katik First Nation.
 - Approved the hiring of limited part time staff in Members and Events Services, and Facility Operations departments.
 - Working on plans for Sexton Campus spaces, changes to the DSU Health Plan, and return to work plans for SUB.
 - Approved capital expenses for the Student Union Building; new fridges in the Grawood & gate around Campus Copy.
 - Working on ensuring that international students will have access to health insurance in the fall in light of COVID-19.
 - Reviewing Residence Council bank accounts and placing them under the authority of the VPFO.
 - Ongoing discussions about University relations (admin, DFA, etc.).
- *July 16, July 30: DSU Council*
 - July 30th extraordinary meeting served as the official notice of the lapse of the VPSL's suspension, and therefore his reinstatement to office.
- *July 20: closed Judicial Board hearing*

- *July 21, 27:* Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Meetings
 - *July 21:* Discussed Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Terms of Reference Packages, approved it with no edits. Discussed the election of the LGBTQ+ Rep on Council and agreed to do some consultation.
 - Consultation occurred with Dal Out president and changes are reflected in the policy noticed on July 30th.
 - *July 27:* Discussed the Elections and Referenda Policy and approved with possible edits, later resolved by the Policy and Governance Coordinator.
 - Ongoing follow up meetings with the Policy and Governance Coordinator to prepare for policy notices on the 30th of July.
- *August 07:* Investment meeting to place me on as a signing officer, discussion on ethical investments and the types of accounts we hold.

University Affairs and Committees

- Ongoing meetings with the Dal Orientation planning working group, programming sub-committee, and Virtual Sense of Belonging Committee.
- Ongoing meetings with Student Affairs office to plan O-Week and discuss fall campus experience.
- *July 14:* Board of Governors Special Meeting
 - Review of the 19-20 Operating Budget Report
 - Review of the 19-20 Audited Financial Statements
 - Appointment of the External Auditors for 20-21
- *July 14:* Employment Equity Council Meeting
- *July 15:* Meeting with Residences team to discuss isolation and move-in rules and student numbers.
- *July 16:* Meeting with the Director of Dal Health and Wellness, David Pilon
 - Discussion on programming for the year, Mental Health Forum, O-Week, and international student care and insurance.
- *July 22:* Interview with Dal Magazine
- *July 28:* AM & PM Town-halls with senior admin and incoming students/families

External and Broader Community

- *July 13, 16, 17:* Maritime Student Congress
 - Met with President Caucus, VPSL Caucus, and had a general feedback day.
 - Discussed common issues, plans for the year, adaptations for Covid, O-Week, managing internal executive relations, handling administration, accommodating students, and making events fun during a pandemic.
- *July 15:* Provincial Government Student Roundtable
 - Present: Duff Montgomery, Deputy Minister Labour and Advanced Education (LAE); Labi Kousoulis, Minister LAE

- Discussions on the MOU/tuition, NSCAD BoG, supports for professors and quality of learning, financial supports for students international and domestic, wage subsidies, co-ops. Update on the Healthy Minds Committee and sexual violence prevention working group.
 - Relatively un-eventful, Minister wasn't there for long.
- *July 16*: Meeting with RBC for potential sponsorship agreement
- *July 16*: Meeting with Shinerama Coordinator and Shine Representative to approve plans to move DSU's Shine Campaign to the winter semester due to COVID and its impact on influx of donations, and changes to O-Week.
- *July 22*: Meeting with Katie from Halifax Cycling Coalition to discuss O-Week promotions and ongoing sustainability collaborations.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

- No meetings of the BoG Student Caucus

Upcoming Dates

- *August 13*: Presentation to the Return to Campus Committee on events, bar services, societies, and O-Week
- *August 22*: Residence open for isolation
- *August 22*: Orientation programming begins online
- *September 2-5*: General residence move-in
- *September 5-11*: O-Week & in-person events



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: July 11th – August 7th

Council Date: August 13th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- *Crisis Flow Chart* finalized and sent for feedback to the UnLearn with the DSU team.
 - Flow chart is meant to guide organizations (primarily Student Union focused but can include societies & others) in how to respond to situations that affect their marginalized communities while putting emphasis on consultation. It is not meant to serve as an all-encompassing checklist but rather a guide to emphasized the need for community and internal consultation & the need for a meaningful & timely response. It is currently in its roughest draft – before feedback and input.
- VPI ratifications being completed periodically, roughly 3-4 times a month. Latest date of approvals: August 7th, 2020.
- Constitution template: midway through creation. Finalizing projected for the next following two weeks. Being made to support societies with the creation and review of their constitutions to not delay ratification processes in the future.
 - Have been using Constitution Checklist for VPI use and good constitutions as references for additional information.
- Society Offices Spaces are being discussed by SRC to make room for BUSA. Reconfigurations have societies supporting marginalized communities in priority.
 - Decisions are very preliminary. Request for information has been sent out to those societies with 2019 office spaces.
- Graduate Student Working Group reviews and revamping. Working on creating a proposal for discussion with appropriate bodies. If approved, will be proposed to Council.
 - In very early stages. Not in a place to be ready for discussion.
- Grants *Funding How-to's* document mostly finalized and released during Treasurer trainings. Made with the intention to guide societies of how and why to apply for Grants from the DSU. Will hopefully prevent societies from incurring debt and being able to appropriately fund their events/projects. Finished on August 5th.

- Also offers Non-DSU Grant how-to's
- Waiting on *How to get Sponsorship* excerpt from our Sponsorship Coordinator to add.
- Campaigns Commissioner assisted Annual Survey data collection work for the past two weeks.
 - Sorted feedback in the open-ended questions into topics for better overall viewing.
- Student Accessibility Bursary Committee: Met on July 17th and July 31st to continue to approve bursary applications.
- Equity and Accessibility Bursary Committee: Met on July 16th, 23rd, 30th and August 6th to approve in-coming bursaries.
- Offices Meeting with DRO and Executives on July 28th.
 - Routine check-in with DSU Offices.
- Logistical Society Expo Planning Meeting on July 31st,
 - Continuing to iron out wrinkles that arise with an online event.

University Affairs and Committees

- AUCRETT Taskforce First Meeting: July 29th, 2020.
 - This committee is the Academic Unit Creation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer, and Termination Taskforce which is in its preliminary stages of collecting policies from external sources to base the committee's policies of off.

External and Broader Community

- Attempting to help guide NSPIRG and E&A office into collaboration for Anti-O training creation.
 - Sorting out payments, timeline, and finding solutions for short term for society training.

Society Review Committee Updates

- Society Review Committee met on August 6th last and approved the following applications:
 - Students' Association of Health Sciences (SAHS)
 - MBA Society of Dalhousie University
 - Association of Health Administration Students (AHAS)
 - Tentatively approved: Dalhousie Medical Students Society

- Approved the decision for CCR training to be incorporated into next years society trainings, for all societies. Motion is yet to be voted on but all are currently in favour.

Upcoming Dates

- Annual Survey Data Meeting – August 12th
- DSU Executive and Dal Student Affairs Admin Meeting on August 12th
- Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting with Susan Spence on August 21st.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: July 11 – August 7, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Continued discussion with the Operation/Health and Safety team to discuss reopening plans for the SUB this fall. Decisions around re-opening the SUB are in development and will relate to the University's plans for re-opening residence and campus spaces.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Continued work with collective bargaining with the full-time staff union.
- Offices Steering Committee: support for part-time offices staff, budgetary and donations support, met to update on quarterly goals and projects.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have had one session so far, and it went very well! Got some good feedback from the attendees. There are eight upcoming sessions – many in August as there is high demand right now and starting in September they will be biweekly or monthly as needed.
- Events support for our reservations department, working some evening hours as well as weekends to accommodate an external booking.
- Investment Review: in progress, the new President has been added to the account and I am in the process of reviewing our July investment statements. Planning to meet with the Budget and Finance Committee at the end of August to discuss.
- Food bank support: have finalized an MOU with Dalhousie for food bank funding, with the goal of long-term sustainability for the food bank.
- Society support: completing audits, ensuring that winter disbursements have been received, writing some bank letters to transfer signing authorities to new executives. Coordinating hand-over of physical documents between outgoing and incoming society treasurers.
- Working on updated financial projections for fall, involving ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. These numbers will continue to fluctuate over the summer, so additional budget revisions may be necessary in the fall.

- Support for coordinating returns of products from Grawood and T-Room, as we will likely be closed this fall.
- Continued review of inactive society levies and creating plans to support current levy initiatives.
- Have coordinated office access for E&A, DSUSO, and CKDU. Currently working on logistics for Loaded Ladle operations in the fall.
- O-Week event planning and budget support.
- Review of International Student Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference.
- International Student Bursary Committee: at the last meeting on July 16, we awarded \$1050.00 in International Student Emergency Bursaries.
- Audits passed this reporting period: Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society, Dalhousie Computer Science Society

University Affairs and Committees

- Transportation and Security Committee did not meet this period.
- President's Advisory Council on Sustainability: no meetings scheduled this period.
- Conversations with VPAE and Student Affairs regarding the hiring of an ombudsperson – this has been ongoing since last year.
- Big win: worked with Student VIP to ensure that international students studying outside of Canada will be able to access mental health services in their home countries. Advocated with Dalhousie Student Affairs, and Health and Wellness, and the Remote Health Plan will be offered at no cost to students studying in their home countries!
- Met with executive members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association on August 6th to collaborate on some of our mutual goals and discuss upcoming issues that will affect students and faculty, including tuition fees, the need for increased fiscal transparency at Dal, online learning issues, and fair working and learning conditions for faculty and students.

External and Broader Community

- Deliveries for the Loaded Ladle food box program every Tuesday afternoon.
- Waiting on a date to deliver the Tiger Patrol Dodge Caravan to Sipekne'katik First Nation, who will be able to use the van at the First Nations school and for other band activities.
- Looking into possibility of financial literacy workshops organized by BMO Pennydrops (Dalhousie chapter).
- Met with NDP MLA Kendra Coombes on July 21 to discuss postsecondary education and COVID-19 issues, and to lobby for the concerns of DSU members.

- Continued advocacy at the government level for CEWS updates and increased students benefits.
- Met with Taking It Global on July 24 to gather more information about their grant programs. Currently working to disburse this email to societies and encourage them to apply for funding for projects they are already working on.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- Due to committee member scheduling, the July meeting of the Grants Review Committee meeting was postponed to August 12, 2020. We have received several applications and look forward to assessing them.
- Next review period:
 - Deadline of **September 16 at noon**, Committee meeting on September 18.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: July 10, 2020- August 7, 2020

Council Date: August 13, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee

- a. Introductions for new members
- b. Discussing ways to begin pushing for more Indigenous courses and content in the classrooms
- c. Discussing tuition increases and brainstorming how to address the problem with the provincial government

2. Developing content for O-week

- a. Your Education Your Rights Video
- b. Welcome to Halifax Video

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing work with the admissions department discussing immediate changes that can be made to make to the language on the application page more inclusive and larger changes that can be made to a new application page that is in development and will be completed in about a year.

2. Open Educational Recourses (OER) committee

- a. Met with UPEISU to discuss their OER initiative -July 22, 2020
- b. Developing a plan to make a similar proposal to the government requesting a grant start a similar program at the DSU

3. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs

4. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee

5. The Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination, or Transfer (AUCRETT) Taskforce met for the first time. - July 29, 2020

- a. I will be a co-chair of this taskforce

6. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing an "Equity SRI"

- a. Would provide an opportunity for students to flag oppressive or racist content in their classes and be in a format similar to the existing SRI

b. The goal is to have Dalhousie launch this initiative and have BIPOC students as part of the committee that would review the responses and provide recommendations for improvement

External and Broader Community

1. Developed a statement in solidarity with Yemen. Publishing date is to be determined.
2. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Preliminary development for a community *NS Needs Students* event

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Reached out to all groups that require representation
 - a. Have received responses from 14 of 18 groups
 - b. I am currently waiting on the remaining appointments and missing written confirmation for recently made appointments.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: July 3- August 7

Council Date: August 13

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week

- a. July 31st: Reviewed and edited O-Week graphics and merch
- b. Aug. 4th: Filmed Halifax tour video as part of O-Week
- c. Aug 4th: Filmed interview for O-Week exec introductions
- d. July 31st- Aug. 7th: Met with exec and staff in order to be brought up to speed.
 - i. Answered/ Read 400 emails.
 - ii. Attended numerous meetings with Exec and Staff

2. ESRI Initiative

- a. Aug. 6th: Joined VPAAE on Equity SRI initiative as member of the BIPOC community

3. Shine Planning

- a. Aug. 6th: Made contact with Commissioners regarding organizing alternative Shine Fundraiser for CF.

External and Broader Community

1. Dal Gazette Interview

- a. Aug 7th: President and I attended interview with Lane Harrison regarding returning to office, as well as future plans

Upcoming Dates

1. O-Week Dates

- a. O-Week programming begins Aug. 22nd with online activities and content.
- b. In-Person activities begin after out-of-province students complete 2 week quarantine on September 5th



August 11, 2020

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Senate Caucus Update for Council

Vice President, Academic and External – Senate Caucus Chair

Appointment Structure

The Vice President, Academic and External, and the President (the Senate Caucus Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively) met with the Policy & Governance Coordinator and Director of Research and Outreach on July 20 to review the process(es) for filling seats on the Senate Caucus.

The 2016 bylaws (our current bylaws) state: “6.3.a. The Senate Caucus shall include all student representatives on the Senate.” However, in 2018 a temporary amendment to the bylaws was adopted by Council that changed the bylaw so that the membership should include: (in addition to the VP AE and President) “b. Fourteen students to represent each of the Faculties. One each from: Agriculture, Architecture and Planning, Arts and Social Sciences, Computer Science, Continuing Education, Dentistry, Engineering, Health Professions, Law, Management, Medicine, and Science and two students from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. c. One student to represent each of the following constituencies: international, LGBTQ2S+, women, Black/African Canadian, indigenous, disabilities.” The addition of these members is not in contradiction with the existing bylaw, but is also not specifically designated in our governing documents.

While this amendment lapsed in 2019 and is not in effect due to quorum not being reached at the Annual General Meeting, this structure for Senate Caucus seems to be something that students want to continue and re-enter into the bylaws. Collectively, the group determined that the President would work with Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to propose a bylaw amendment to expand the membership of the Senate Caucus in line with the change proposed in 2018; that for this year the Caucus would meet in line with the current practice; and that over the course of the year all would work to clarify and standardize appointment processes.

In line with the process for faculty & community appointments to Council, the VP AE reached out to officially recognized faculty-level and community-level societies and asked them to nominate a representative through internal processes. Where an established society that is typically tasked with appoint a Council/Senate rep does not exist, the position will be appointed by Council.

Finally, it was agreed that because Senate Caucus is an open group, advertising would focus not just on getting members to put their names forward for the available voting seats on Senate,

but also to seek out members who would be interested in attending Senate Caucus meetings as non-voting members to contribute to discussion.

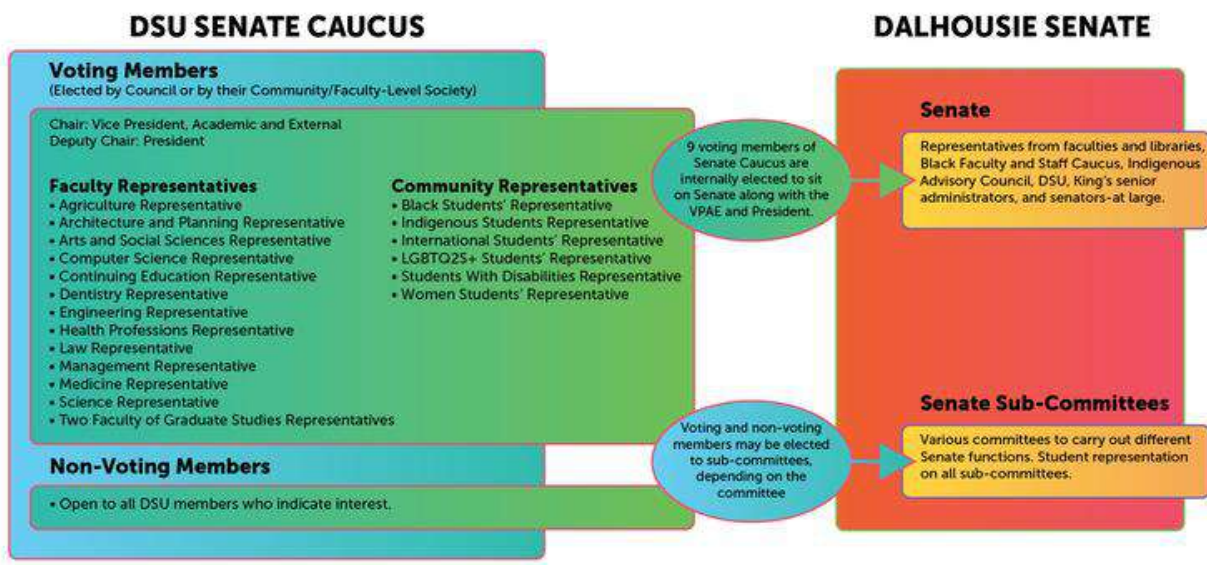
Taken together, there are three “groups” of students within the Senate Caucus:

- The Senate Caucus as a whole, which includes any student who wishes to attend and where all DSU members have speaking rights. This group meets to discuss Senate meeting outcomes, plan strategy, and discuss ideas.
- The voting members of the Senate Caucus, which includes all of the faculty and community representatives listed above, in addition to the VPAAE and President. While both voting and non-voting members have speaking rights, the voting members of the Caucus also collectively have the ability to appoint members to Senate Sub-Committees and to the voting seats on Senate.
- Student senators, who are the students who actually sit on the Dalhousie Senate and represent the Senate Caucus, and the DSU, as a whole. These 9 members (11 total student representatives on Senate, including the VPAAE and President) are internally elected from among the voting members of the Senate Caucus and report back to the Caucus on ongoings.

Graphic and Promotion

The following graphic was created to help visually explain the structure of the Senate Caucus in relation to Senate and the relationship between the three groups listed above. The graphic was uploaded to the DSU website on July 30, coinciding with the promotion of the Senate Caucus and the search for both voting and non-voting members.

The communications team used social media and the website to get students interested in joining the Senate Caucus. To simplify the process, students were able to fill out an online form to indicate their interest in either voting or non-voting membership. The link to the form, more information, and the graphic are all housed on <https://www.dsu.ca/caucuses-committees>.



Current Membership and Appointing Groups

This information is up to date as of August 12, 2020.

| Name | Appointed by | Position on Senate Caucus |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Erica Seelemann | Elected | Chair |
| Madeleine Stinson | Elected | Deputy Chair |
| Ziel Jones | Dalhousie Agricultural Students Association | Agriculture Representative |
| Branden Schick | Dalhousie Architecture Students Association | Architecture & Planning Representative |
| | Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society | Arts and Social Sciences Representative |
| Sahl Zahoor | Dalhousie Computer Science Society | Computer Science Representative |
| | Council | Continuing Education Representative |
| Zach Scinocca | Dalhousie Dentistry Student Society | Dentistry Representative |
| Aparna Mohan | Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society | Engineering Representative |
| Alex LeBlanc | The Student Association for Health and Human Performance | Health Professions Representative |
| Shane Isler | Dalhousie Law Students Society | Law Representative |
| | Dalhousie Commerce Society | Management Representative |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Cameron Penny | Dalhousie Medical Students' Society | Medicine Representative |
| Francisca Annan | Dalhousie Science Society | Science Representative |
| | Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students | Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative 1 |
| | Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students | Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative 2 |
| | Dalhousie International Students Association | International Students' Representative |
| | DalOUT | LGBTQ2S+ Students' Representative |
| | Council | Women Students' Representative |
| | Council | Black Students' Representative |
| Naomi Bird | Dalhousie Indigenous Student Collective | Indigenous Students' Representative |
| | Council | Students With Disabilities Representative |

Ranked Times - For Council

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|---|--------|----------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | | Thurs... | 7-9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | | Tuesd... | 3-5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | | Thurs... | 5-7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | | Thurs... | 6-8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | | Friday | 5-7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | | Wedn... | 4-6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 7 | | Wedn... | 12-2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | | Thurs... | 4-6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 9 | | Tuesd... | 4-6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | | Tuesd... | 5-7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 11 | | Wedn... | 2-4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 12 | | Wedn... | 6-8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 13 | | Wedn... | 7-9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 14 | | Thurs... | 3-5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 15 | | Tuesd... | 7-9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 16 | | Wedn... | 3-5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 17 | | Tuesd... | 6-8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 18 | | Wedn... | 1-3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 19 | | Wedn... | 5-7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 20 | | Friday | 6-8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 21 | | Monday | 6-8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 22 | | Monday | 12-2 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 23 | | Tuesd... | 2-4 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 24 | | Wedn... | 9-11 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 25 | | Wedn... | 10-12 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 26 | | Wedn... | 11-1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 27 | | Friday | 9-11 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 28 | | Friday | 12-2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 29 | | Friday | 1-3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 30 | | Friday | 2-4 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 31 | | Friday | 4-6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 32 | | Friday | 7-9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 33 | | Monday | 4-6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 34 | | Monday | 5-7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 35 | | Friday | 3-5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 36 | | Tuesd... | 12-2 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 37 | | Tuesd... | 1-3 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 38 | | Monday | 11-1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 39 | | Friday | 10-12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 40 | | Monday | 3-5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 41 | | Thurs... | 9-11 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 42 | | Monday | 7-9 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 43 | | Thurs... | 12-2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 44 | | Thurs... | 1-3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 45 | | Monday | 9-11 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 46 | | Monday | 10-12 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 47 | | Monday | 2-4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 48 | | Tuesd... | 10-12 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|----------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 49 | | Tuesd... | 11-1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 50 | | Friday | 11-1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 51 | | Thurs... | 10-12 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 52 | | Thurs... | 11-1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 53 | | Thurs... | 2-4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 54 | | Tuesd... | 9-11 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

| # | Option | Day | Time | Non-Executive Councillors Unavailable | Execs Unavailable | Total Councillors Unavailable (Exec + Non-Exec) | Non-Executive Councillors If Need Be | Execs If Need Be | Total Councillors If Need Be (Exec + Non-Exec) |
|----|--------|--------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 55 | | Monday | 1-3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | SUM 194 | SUM 70 | SUM 264 | SUM 118 | SUM 56 | SUM 174 |



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August 11, 2020

Policy & Governance Department

Chief Returning Officer Hiring Committee Report

Committee Composition

The DSU Hiring Policy mandates that part time position hiring committees be composed of a minimum of two individuals, with one being the position's direct supervisor who serves as Chair. The Oversight Committee policy states that the Oversight Committee will advise Council as to the appointment of the Chief Returning Officer, and that the same three members of the Committee will sit as a panel with interviewing candidates for any one position. To honour both policies, a hiring committee was composed of the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator (the direct supervisor of the CRO, who served as committee chair) and two members of Oversight Committee. The members of the committee were Zoe Brimacombe (Policy & Governance Coordinator), Baraa Fath, and Emma Miller (Oversight Committee members). The chair ensured that members were trained in hiring. The committee contained members of multiple designated groups.

Timeline

The job posting for the Chief Returning Officer position was uploaded to the DSU website on July 15, and applications remained open for two weeks, closing on July 30th. The hiring committee completed initial rankings on August 3rd and contacted top candidates to schedule interviews on August 4th. Interviews were conducted on August 10th, and the committee came to a final decision and offered the position to the chosen candidate, who promptly accepted, on August 11th. On August 13th, the recommendation will be brought to Council for ratification following which the onboarding and training process will begin.

Hiring Decision

This was a difficult decision due to the strength of other applications, but ultimately the committee is happy to recommend Kate Yau for the position of Chief Returning Officer with the DSU for the 2020-21 year. Kate demonstrated exceptional experience and enthusiasm through her application and interview. Kate is a Bachelor of Commerce Co-op student, has experience planning complicated logistics and delegating tasks in a team setting, and is an engaged and

active member of the DSU who has held leadership roles in multiple student societies. Her relevant experience includes working at the Director of Human Resources for this year's Jeux du Commerce Central, where she helped with transitioning the event to an online platform, as well as working at the Campaign Advisor (Atlantic Region) for Shinerama. Kate is also an accomplished scholar and has extensive volunteer experience. The committee is confident in this recommendation.



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Elections and Referenda Policy

Policy Information

Oversight Body: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Date Passed by Council:

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: DSU Bylaws

Definitions

Campaign: a coordinated effort to elect any candidate and/or to pass or defeat any referenda question during DSU elections or referenda.

Campaigning: advertising by any medium designed to influence voters.

Campaign Worker: an individual who has been asked by a candidate or referendum spokesperson and has agreed to assist that campaign with campaigning in any capacity.

Community Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a community.

Faculty-Level Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a faculty.

Member: an individual who meets the membership criteria of the DSU as outlined in the DSU Bylaws.

Non-DSU Member: an individual who is not a member of the DSU but has been asked by a candidate or spokesperson to be a DSU elections or referenda campaign worker.

Spokesperson: the member of the DSU chosen by a referendum campaign team to act as the official lead spokesperson for the campaign and as the team's sole liaison with the Elections Committee and CRO.

Candidate: any member who declares themselves to be running for any of the position up for election, has successfully completed all necessary documentation and submitted it by the deadline, and who is otherwise eligible to run as a candidate according to the DSU Bylaws and this policy.

Society: A student organization that receives resources or funding from the DSU, is subject to oversight by the DSU, and/or fulfills all necessary requirements to be designated as a DSU society as set out in the DSU Bylaws.

Special Resolution: a 2/3 majority vote.

Ordinary Resolution: a simple majority vote.

Resource: any material or asset that provides a non-monetary benefit to a candidate or campaign.

Business Hours: the hours during the day when business is commonly conducted in Halifax, NS; 9am-5pm Atlantic Standard/Daylight Time, Monday through Friday.

Elections Period: the period starting when nominations for an election or registration for a referendum opens and ending when the results of the elections or referendum become official.

Nomination Period: the period during which members can nominate themselves for positions up for election and/or when referendum campaigns can register.

Campaigning Period: the period during which candidates and referenda campaigns are permitted to advertise their campaigns.

Voting Period: the period during which all members can vote in an election and/or referendum.

Unofficial Results: elections and/or referenda results announced after the end of the Voting Period that may be appealed.

Official Results: elections and/or referenda results that are considered binding following the end of the Results Appeals Period and the resolution of any appeals.

Chief Returning Officer: CRO; the primary elections official.

Elections Committee: The body which governs all DSU elections and referenda.

Purpose

To outline the rules and processes with which to conduct DSU elections, by-elections, and referenda to ensure fair, equitable, democratic, and transparent practices.

Scope

The provisions of this Policy will apply to Dalhousie Student Union elections, by-elections, and referenda. The CRO, Elections Committee, and all candidates, campaign spokespersons, campaign workers, and DSU staff, must abide by the provisions of this policy.

The entirety of this policy will apply to those candidates running for Executive Officer and Board of Governors Representative positions in a DSU election. The entirety of this policy will also apply to those Faculty and Community Representative positions that are determined through a DSU election.

Faculty Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a faculty-level society will only be bound to sections one (1) and three (3) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair and democratic processes.

Community Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a community society will only be bound to sections one (1) and four (4) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair processes.

Policy Statement

1. Eligibility for Referenda and Elections

1.1. Any DSU member may run for office or serve as a referendum spokesperson. It is the responsibility of the CRO to authenticate candidate and spokesperson eligibility with the Registrar's Office or Student Accounts.

1.1.1. In the case where a Faculty or Community Representative is elected or appointed through an internal society process, the appropriate executive member of that society, as determined by that society's internal processes, is responsible for determining candidate eligibility.

1.2. Candidates running for office or serving as spokespersons must not sit on the Elections Committee or hold the position of CRO.

2. Elections Nominations

2.1. Successful nominations for each position must be made by accurately submitting the completed nomination forms developed by the Elections Committee, before the end of the Nomination Period.

2.1.1. The CRO must publish the nomination forms to the membership no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period.

2.1.1.1. Nomination forms must include at least the following information:

2.1.1.1.1. Nominee Name

2.1.1.1.2. Desired position

2.1.1.1.3. Major(s)/Program(s) & Year of Study

2.1.1.1.4. Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee

2.1.1.1.5. Nominee signature and date

2.1.2. All nominees must attend the “All Candidates Meeting”. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

2.1.2.1. The All Candidates Meeting must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.

2.1.2.2. During the All Candidates Meeting the CRO and Elections Committee must present:

2.1.2.2.1. All policy, rules, and regulations of a DSU Election.

2.1.2.2.2. Any new, additional guidelines for the Elections Period not described in this policy.

2.1.2.2.3. The location of all poster display areas must be provided.

2.1.2.2.4. The official handles of all DSU election media accounts.

2.1.3. All nominees must attend the Anti-Oppression Training Session during the Nominations Period. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the session may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

2.1.3.1. The Anti-Oppression Training Session must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.

2.1.4. All successful nominations must be verified by the CRO and published for the membership to view no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nomination Period, at which point nominees become candidates.

2.1.5. Appeals regarding the verification of a nomination must be made in writing to the Elections Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nominations Period. The Elections Committee must render a decision on any appeals before the start of the Campaigning Period.

2.2. The nomination process for the Vice-President Finance and Operations must have the following, additional requirements:

2.2.1. The CRO must publish a technical questionnaire no later than two (2) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period. The questions must relate to the requirements of the VPFO position and must be approved by the Elections Committee.

- 2.2.1.1. Candidates for Vice-President Finance and Operations must submit a completed questionnaire to the CRO no later than the end of the Nominations Period.
 - 2.2.1.2. The CRO must publish all completed questionnaires online before the start of the Campaigning Period.
 - 2.3. Until the Voting Period starts, a candidate may withdraw their nomination form and have their name removed from the election. Upon submitting written declaration of their withdrawal to the CRO, the candidate must meet with the CRO at the first possible opportunity to sign a declaration of withdrawal in their presence. The CRO must remove a candidate's name from the list of candidates once that candidate has confirmed their intent to withdraw and with the approval of the Elections Committee.
 - 2.3.1. A person who, to prevent the election of a candidate, knowingly publishes a false statement of withdrawal of a candidate that is not themselves, is guilty of an offence as defined by Appendix III of this policy.
 - 2.4. If a candidate dies during any part of the Elections Period as described by this policy, a by-election must be held for that position.
 - 2.4.1. If the candidate dies on the day that the Unofficial Results are published and the results favour the deceased candidate, the results are void and a by-election must be held for that position.
3. Faculty Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections
 - 3.1. Representatives from the following faculty constituencies must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:
 1. Faculty of Agriculture
 2. Faculty of Architecture and Planning
 3. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
 4. Faculty of Computer Science
 5. Faculty of Dentistry
 6. Faculty of Engineering
 7. Faculty of Graduate Studies
 8. Faculty of Health Professions
 9. Faculty of Law

10. Faculty of Management

11. Faculty of Medicine

12. Faculty of Science

3.1.1. Eligibility to run for a Faculty Representative seat is based on a member's association to that faculty, defined according to the Office of the Registrar's records of the member's declared major(s).

3.1.1.1. Should a member be enrolled in a joint program at the University where they complete two or more degrees either consecutively or concurrently, they are considered to belong to all faculties in which any of their degree programs fall.

3.1.1.2. Should a member be enrolled in a graduate program at the University, they are considered to belong to both the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Faculty under which their degree program falls.

3.2. Faculty-level societies have the option to elect their Faculty Representative through an elections or appointment process laid out within their own Constitution or other governing document. The CRO must contact the President or suitable executive member of each faculty-level society at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period to discuss this option.

3.2.1. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal election or appointment process, the society President or suitable executive member must provide the CRO with a copy of their governing documents outlining that process, as well as the text of a motion passed by special resolution at a meeting of the society's governing body indicating their decision to determine their representative through an internal process. These documents must be submitted to the CRO for verification no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Nomination Period to ensure they describe a fair, democratic process.

3.2.2. Faculty-level societies that elect their Faculty representatives internally must submit the name of their determined representative to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator directly following their election or appointment, and no later than May 31. The society must include the official minutes from the meeting of their governing body where their representative was determined.

3.3. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, that society must notify the CRO and their constituents immediately and no later than one (1) week before the start of the Nomination Period. Faculty Representative candidates must follow the nomination requirements described in Section 2 of this policy.

3.3.1. Faculty-level societies that do not indicate to the CRO at least one (1) week before the Nomination Period starts that they choose to elect their representative through a DSU election will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

3.3.2. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, this choice will only apply to the present DSU Election Period. Faculty-level societies must re-indicate this choice for each Election Period where it is desired.

3.3.2.1. Faculty-level societies wishing to adopt the DSU Election process on a permanent basis should add a clause to this effect into their Constitution or other governing document. This decision must be communicated to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

3.3.3. Only members who belong to a given faculty, as determined by the faculty under which their degree program(s) fall, must be permitted to vote for that Faculty Representative in a DSU election.

4. Community Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections

4.1. Representatives from the following communities must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:

1. Black Students
2. Indigenous Students
3. LGBTQI2SA+ Students
4. Students with Disabilities
5. Woman Students
6. International Students
7. Students in Residence

4.2. The following Community Representatives must be elected during a DSU Election by members who belong to that community, based on the following criteria:

4.2.1. Black Students Representative

4.2.1.1. The Black Students Representative must self-identify as a Black student and be elected only by self-identifying Black Students.

4.2.2. LGBTQI2SA+ Students Representative

- 4.2.2.1. The LGBTQ|2SA+ Students Representative must self-identify as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Questioning, Gender-Fluid, Gender Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and/or Queer student and be elected only by self-identifying LGBTQ|2SA+ students.
- 4.2.3. Students with Disabilities Representative
 - 4.2.3.1. The Students with Disabilities Representative must self-identify as a student with a disability and be elected only by self-identifying students with disabilities.
- 4.2.4. Woman Students Representative
 - 4.2.4.1. The Woman Students Representative must self-identify as a woman and be elected only by self-identifying woman students.
- 4.2.5. Students in Residence Representative
 - 4.2.5.1. The Students in Residence Representative must live in a Dalhousie residence during their term and be elected only by students in residences.
- 4.3. The Indigenous Students Representative must self-identify as an Indigenous student and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie Indigenous Student's Collective no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- 4.4. The International Students Representative must be classified as an International Student by Dalhousie University and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie International Students Association no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- 4.5. Where membership in a community is through self-identification, the DSU must honour a candidate or nominee's self-identification and must not request proof of their identity. Any declaration of self-identification with a community made by a candidate or nominee must be destroyed within thirty (30) days of the end of the Voting Period or their election/nomination to Council, whichever is later.
- 4.6. Should any of the societies listed in Section 4.3 or 4.4 of this policy cease to exist, the Community Representative positions for those constituencies must be determined through a DSU election until an alternative society is ratified and instated by ordinary resolution of the DSU Council.
- 4.7. Should a society wish to take on the responsibility of nominating a Community Representative listed under 4.1 of this policy through internal elections or nominations processes of their society rather than through a DSU Election, that society must be recognized as the official representative of that community through a referendum process carried out in accordance with the DSU Bylaws and this policy.

4.7.1. The general form of such a referendum question is: “Do you support the designation of [Society Name] as the official representative society of [Community] students within the DSU’s membership, and further do you support granting this society the authority to nominate the [Community] Representative on DSU Council and on any other bodies with a seat for a(n) [Community] Representative?”

4.7.1.1. Only students who are self-identified members of the community in question are be eligible to vote in said referendum.

4.7.1.2. Societies that wish to take on this responsibility must demonstrate meaningful efforts and/or willingness to connect with all members who self-identify as a part of that community, as determined by the DSU Council.

5. Referenda Registration

5.1. A referendum to increase DSU Fees over and above the rate of increase of the Canadian Consumer Price Index must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

5.2. Members wishing to register a society levy referendum question in the general election must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

5.2.1. The Referendum question must be found to meet the objectives of the DSU under Bylaw 3.

5.3. Any Referenda question initiated by DSU Council is bound only by the DSU Bylaws and Sections 5 and 6 of this policy.

6. General Procedure for Referenda

6.1. Referenda will be held alongside the DSU’s elections and are subject to the Elections Period schedule developed by the Elections Committee and approved by DSU Council each year.

6.2. Before posed to the membership, referendum questions must be approved by special resolution of the DSU Council. Approval must be granted prior to the start of the Nomination Period as determined in the Elections Period schedule.

6.3. A society or member wishing to propose a referendum question should reach out to the Chair of the DSU Council for guidance in phrasing their question and in bringing the motion forward to Council.

6.4. Council may only approve a referendum question that meets the following minimum criteria:

6.4.1. The question contains the dollar value of the proposed change.

- 6.4.2. The question is phrased to elicit yes/no answers and is phrased such that a vote of “yes” signifies agreement with the proposal and a vote of “no” signified disagreement with the proposal.
- 6.4.3. The proposal supports the objectives of the DSU as defined in the Constitution.
- 6.4.4. For referenda questions on the creation of new society levies, the motion is accompanied by a petition in support of the proposal containing full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) percent of all members to whom the society levy would affect.
- 6.4.5. For referenda questions on changes to existing society levies or society fees, the motion is accompanied by both:
- 6.4.5.1. Official minutes from a meeting of the society’s governing body indicating the proposal’s approval by special resolution; and
 - 6.4.5.2. 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.
- 6.5. Council has the authority to offer amendments to a proposed referendum question that does not meet these minimum requirements. All proposed amendments are subject to approval by the member or society that proposed the referendum question.
- 6.5.1. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed by an individual may be granted by a written statement circulated to Council, or by verbal statement of the approval within a minuted session of Council.
- 6.5.2. Approval of an amendment to a referendum proposed in line with Section 6.4.4 of this policy may be granted:
- 6.5.2.1.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of a referendum question but not its intention, dollar value, or effect, by a written statement circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the original petitioners; or
 - 6.5.2.1.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by a petition circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of all members to whom the society levy would apply. The petition must include full names, student numbers, and signatures for each signee.
- 6.5.3. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed in line with Section 6.4.5 of this policy may be granted:

- 6.5.3.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of the referendum question but not its intention, dollar value, or effect, by a special resolution of the society's council, board, or similar governance body; or
 - 6.5.3.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by both a special resolution of the society's council, board, or similar governance body and a petition in support of the amendment containing the names, student numbers, and signatures of at least five percent (5%) of members that the change in fees would affect.
- 6.6. Referendum Campaign Teams must register during the Nomination Period using the Campaign Information Form, which must be developed and published by the Elections Committee prior to the beginning of the Nomination Period. The form must indicate the spokesperson for the referendum campaign team and whether the team will be campaigning for the "YES" or "NO" option in the referendum.
 - 6.7. No more than one Referendum Campaign Team may register for each option presented in the referendum. For further clarity, there may only be one "YES" team and one "NO" team. Should the CRO receive Registration Forms from more than one group seeking to campaign in favour of a particular side, they must immediately contact all relevant spokespeople to advise them of the issue. It must be the responsibility of the prospective Campaign Teams to select one spokesperson.
 - 6.8. The CRO must set and administer a Referendum Campaign Information Meeting to be held between the end of the Nomination and Campaign Registration Period and the beginning of the Campaign Period.
 - 6.8.1. Based on the circumstances of a given year, the CRO may choose to combine this meeting with the All Candidates Meeting for DSU Elections, or to hold a standalone meeting regarding referenda.
 - 6.8.2. This meeting is mandatory for all campaign spokespersons and must also be open to campaign workers.
 - 6.8.3. Any spokesperson who is unable to attend the Information Meeting must make alternate arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the event. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the Referendum Campaign Team as a whole.
 - 6.9. The Campaign Period and Voting Period must follow the Council-approved elections timeline.
 - 6.10. Referendum results must be published alongside General Election results.

- 6.11. Fee or levy changes brought on by successful referenda will, subject to any restrictions imposed by the University, be implemented for the next fall term following the referendum vote.

7. By-Election

- 7.1. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors Representative, Faculty Representative, and/or Community Representative position remain vacant following the DSU's annual elections or becomes vacant before October 1st, there must be a by-election held, but not necessarily finished, by October 31st. If necessary, DSU Council may appoint a councillor to act as an interim Executive Officer until the time where a by-election can be held.
- 7.2. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position remain vacant following a by-election, the DSU Council must make an appointment.
- 7.2.1. After a by-election has been held, vacant Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, and Community Representatives may be filled by any member of the DSU.
- 7.2.2. The Oversight Committee must evaluate all candidates who have expressed interest in appointment to the vacant positions and provide recommendations to the DSU Council regarding the filling of those positions and Council must then make the appointment.
- 7.3. Faculty-level and Community societies must be given the opportunity to hold one (1) voting seat on the Oversight Committee during any appointment under Section 7.2 of this policy that may affect their constituency.

8. Elections Officials

8.1. The Elections Committee

- 8.1.1. DSU elections or referenda must be conducted and supervised by an Elections Committee as provided for in Section 9 of the DSU Bylaws.
- 8.1.2. The Elections Committee must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.
- 8.1.3. The Elections Committee must always be available during business hours and official events to serve as the supervising body of elections and referenda and to provide advice and guidance to the CRO or Deputy Returning Officer.
- 8.1.4. The Elections Committee must appoint a Deputy Returning Officer from among the Elections Committee members who will assume the responsibilities of the CRO in their absence.
- 8.1.5. The Elections Committee must assist in the completion of all elections and referenda procedures in collaboration with the CRO.

8.1.6. The Elections Committee must refer to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and inquiries upon their appointment each year.

8.1.7. For a decision of the Elections Committee to be valid, three (3) of the Committee members must be present at a meeting and the decision must be made through special resolution.

8.1.7.1. The CRO must be present at all meetings of the Elections Committee but is not permitted to vote.

8.1.8. A written report of any Elections Committee minutes will be made available to the public upon written request within a forty-eight (48) hour period. Any discussion that may lead to a candidate or spokesperson/campaign being disqualified from the election must be held in-camera.

8.2. The Chief Returning Officer

8.2.1. Must report directly to and be supervised by the Elections Committee.

8.2.2. Must be autonomous from the executive officers of the DSU.

8.2.3. Must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.

8.2.4. Is to be paid hourly.

8.2.5. Must not be an executive officer, councillor, committee member, or employee of the DSU for the duration of their term.

8.2.6. Must not vote in the DSU elections or referenda.

8.2.7. Must not rule on any undefined violations, unspecified fine amounts, or interpretations of DSU policy and/or Bylaws without the demonstrated guidance of the Elections Committee.

8.2.8. In addition, the CRO must:

8.2.8.1. Authorize all official notices and elections and/or referenda publicity.

8.2.8.2. Set up the Elections Period schedule, subject to the provisions in this policy.

8.2.8.3. Compose the ballot subject to this policy and supervise the voting process.

8.2.8.4. Receive and analyze the Unofficial Results of the election and/or referenda from the official voting software, in collaboration with the Elections Committee.

8.2.8.5. Publish unofficial election and/or referenda results from the official voting software no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Voting Period has ended.

8.2.8.6. Issue official election, referenda, or recount results after any appeals have been ruled, should any occur.

- 8.2.8.7. Submit an electronic copy of a post-election report to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator. The CRO must not be given their final paycheque until this report has been submitted.
- 8.2.8.8. Hold an All Candidates Meeting and Anti-O Training Session for nominees on the last school day prior to the end of the Nomination Period.
- 8.2.8.9. Reserve any rooms in the Student Union Building for the election and/or referenda with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager.
- 8.2.8.10. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the first day of the Campaigning Period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.
- 8.2.8.11. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the last day of the Campaigning period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.
- 8.2.8.12. Ensure the secure collections and destruction of all personal identification materials.
- 8.2.8.13. Monitor the conduct of all candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers in collaboration with the Elections Committee, throughout the entirety of the Elections Period.
- 8.2.8.14. Prepare the online voting form to ensure that only members of a given faculty or community can vote in the election of that Faculty or Community Representative position.
- 8.2.8.15. Ensure they are fulfilling the extent of the CRO's responsibilities in accordance with all sections of this policy and the DSU Bylaws.

9. Elections and Referenda Rules and Regulations

9.1. General

- 9.1.1. A DSU Election must be held once a year to appoint the Executive Officers of the Union, Board of Governors Representatives, Faculty Representatives, and Community Representatives.

- 9.1.1.1. The DSU Elections Period must conclude no later than March 31 of each year.
- 9.1.2. All DSU Elections and referenda must be administered using principles of democracy and fairness.
- 9.1.3. All DSU Elections and referenda must consist of a general Elections Period during which the Nomination Period, Campaigning Period, and Voting Period occur.
- 9.1.4. All members must be notified by the CRO of an Elections Period at least two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period starts. All positions up for election must be specifically listed.
- 9.1.5. Representatives elected to the Board of Governors or Senate are subject to approval and appointment by those bodies.
- 9.1.6. The Elections Committee must present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval at least three (3) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period.
 - 9.1.6.1. The CRO must publish the approved Elections Period schedule to the membership and directly to all candidates no later than two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period.
 - 9.1.6.2. The approved Elections Period schedule must include the time of day, Atlantic Standard Time, at which the Campaigning and Voting Periods start and end. It must also include the date(s) and time(s) of the All Candidates Meeting, Anti-O Training Session, a debate for each position, and all planned meetings of the Elections Committee.
- 9.1.7. All violations of rules or regulations outlined in this policy may be met with a penalty in line with Appendix III of this policy.
- 9.1.8. All members of the DSU are subject to the Dalhousie University Code of Conduct. Offences against persons and/or property as defined in the Student Code of Conduct are strictly prohibited. Candidates and their representatives are expected to adhere to the Code and should be aware that the CRO and Elections Committee reserve the right to sanction violators of the Code as is deemed appropriate. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election.
- 9.1.9. No campaign may engage in libel, nor distribute material which could be construed as slanderous towards an opponent.
- 9.1.10. Any new interpretation or clarification of elections rules by the Elections Committee that occurs during the Campaigning Period must be noticed to all candidates and spokespersons within twenty-four (24) hours of being ruled on. The ruling will come into effect once all campaigns have been notified.

9.2. Nomination Period

9.2.1. Any nomination which includes false information, including but not limited to forged nomination signatures must be rejected at the discretion of the CRO.

9.2.1.1. Any nomination found to include false information after its approval is subject to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

9.2.2. All nominations must occur in line with the procedure provisioned in Section 2 of this policy.

9.3. Campaigning Period

9.3.1. Elections candidates must submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form to the CRO no later than 12 noon on the day before the Campaigning Period starts. Spokespeople must submit a Campaign Information Form.

9.3.1.1. The Candidate Questionnaire must include at least the full name, major(s)/program(s), and year of study of the candidate. Any other questions are to be determined by the Elections Committee each year.

9.3.1.2. The Campaign Information Form must include the full names, student numbers, and emails of all campaign workers. It must also include the name(s) and link(s) for any candidate websites and/or social media platforms to be used during the Campaigning Period.

9.3.1.3. Should a campaign worker cease to be a campaign worker after a Campaign Information Form is submitted, the candidate must notify the Elections Committee immediately via email.

9.3.1.4. Faculty, teaching assistants, and all other University staff must not serve as campaign workers.

9.3.2. No campaigning of any medium may take place outside of the Campaigning Period.

9.3.3. Campaigns must not accept offers from societies or external organizations. Offers include but are not limited to donated goods, funds, and/or services.

9.3.4. Candidates and spokespersons are responsible for the actions of their campaign workers and are solely liable for campaign violations.

9.3.5. There must be no campaigning of any kind at any of the University libraries, on-campus bars or residences except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.

- 9.3.6. Campaigning must be restricted to Dalhousie University campuses. Public sidewalks adjoining campus buildings are considered for the purposes of this policy to be a part of the University.
- 9.3.7. Campaigns must not use coarse language or references to alcohol or drugs in any campaigning materials.
- 9.3.8. Candidates or spokespersons who work for the DSU in any capacity are not required to take a leave of absence for their work. However, these candidates must contact the CRO and inform them of their work. Candidates, spokespersons and campaign workers must not campaign while they are working.
- 9.3.9. DSU societies may endorse a campaign if the opportunity for endorsement is presented to all candidates for that position.
- 9.3.10. Candidates and spokespersons must not endorse one another, run in a slate, or campaign together except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.
- 9.3.11. All candidates and spokespersons are permitted a total campaign value of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), excluding the cost of printing official posters. The specific guidelines relevant to campaign expenditures can be found in Appendix IV of this policy, to which all campaigns are subject.
- 9.3.12. Candidates, spokespersons, Elections Committee members, and the CRO must also abide by the specific regulations outlined in Appendix II of this policy.
- 9.3.13. Incumbent candidates running for executive positions must:
- 9.3.13.1. Not be permitted to campaign during any office hours, official meetings, or interactions with members while acting in their official capacity as an executive officer.
 - 9.3.13.2. Be permitted to carry out all essential duties reasonably incident to their portfolio.
 - 9.3.13.3. Submit a schedule of all office hours, official meetings, and/or events during which they are to act as a representative of the DSU and therefore are not permitted to campaign, to the CRO before the Campaigning Period starts.
 - 9.3.13.4. Not be permitted to use their incumbent status or the resources available to them as an executive officer in a manner which manipulates or extorts members or provides them an unethical advantage over other candidates.
- 9.3.14.

9.4. Voting Period

- 9.4.1. The Voting Period must be two (2) school days in length.

9.4.2. Voting must be done using an anonymous, online ballot.

9.4.3. Each ballot must include the option to spoil that ballot.

9.4.4. Votes will be collected using a preferential voting system.

9.4.4.1. Each candidate must be credited with the number of first votes for their name.

9.4.4.2. Where no candidate received more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of first choices, then the candidate with the least number of choices will be struck off the ballot and the second choices marked on all ballots for that candidate will be credited to the candidates for whom they were cast.

9.4.4.3. Where a candidate whose name has been struck off the ballot is the next choice on the ballot, then the ballot will be counted in favour of the candidate subsequent in choice to the candidate whose name has been struck.

9.4.4.4. Where two (2) or more candidates are tied with the least number of votes, both or all must be struck from the ballot. Should this procedure result in only one candidate remaining, that candidate will be elected.

9.4.4.5. This process will continue until one (1) candidate has a majority of the votes.

9.4.5. Should a tie occur for any position, a run-off election must be held between the tied candidates. The timeline for the run-off must be as follows:

9.4.5.1. Nominations must not be reopened.

9.4.5.2. The Campaigning period must begin no later than (2) school days after the announcement of the Election Period for the run-off election and extend no more than five (5) days.

9.4.5.3. The Voting Period must be two (2) school days and follow all guidelines of a regular Voting Period as provisioned in this policy.

9.4.6. Should a candidate for any position run unopposed there will be a yes/no option after the candidate's name on the ballot. Any candidate that runs unopposed must participate in any official Elections Committee events.

9.4.7. The online voting system must be in operation continuously from at least 8am to 8pm Atlantic Standard Time on each day of voting.

9.4.8. The methods of voting for all DSU elections and referenda must be as follows:

9.4.8.1. The full names of all candidates must be placed in random order on each ballot.

- 9.4.8.2. Candidate names must be grouped by position and referendum questions must be listed on a separate page.
- 9.4.9. Any one member's vote must belong to that member alone. There must be no voting by proxy.
- 9.4.9.1. Online voting must not be done in a group setting or in the presence of persons who may influence the direction of a member's vote.
- 9.4.10. Should a member with a disability require assistance to use the online voting software, they may seek it from the CRO.
- 9.4.11. Electronic balloting provides opportunity for abuse, intentioned or not, by voters, candidates, campaign workers, and spokespersons. Abuse of electronic balloting includes, but is not limited to the following types of action:
- 9.4.11.1. Efforts by voters to vote more than once.
- 9.4.11.2. Efforts by candidates, spokespersons, or campaign workers to influence voters by holding social events at which members are encouraged to vote on the premises.
- 9.4.11.3. Offering favours or gifts in exchange for votes.
- 9.4.11.4. Pressuring members to vote in the presence of a candidate, spokesperson, campaign workers, or any other member.
- 9.4.11.5. Bringing the means of electronic voting to a member.
- 9.4.12. In determining whether abuse of electronic voting has occurred, the CRO, as supervised by the Elections Committee, must consider potential abuses on a case-by-case basis. Abuse must be interpreted in the spirit of this section and in the spirit of upholding the principle of an anonymous, secret-ballot vote. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments for abuses ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election

10. Elections and Referenda Offenses

- 10.1. All candidates and spokespersons are solely responsible for their actions and those of their campaign workers and are liable for non-refundable fines according to Appendix IV of this policy.
- 10.2. The CRO will have the authority to enforce the provisions of this policy except in the case of an appeal.
- 10.3. The Elections Committee may lay charges of violations of its own volition.
- 10.3.1. Should the Elections Committee find there has been an egregious violation it may:

- 10.3.1.1. Declare that the election in its entirety, the election of a specific position, or the election of a specific candidate be voided.
- 10.4. Charges of violation against any campaign may be submitted in writing to the CRO who must contact the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign within twenty-four (24) hours to notify them of their right to appeal. The CRO must rule on the charge within two (2) days of receiving it.
- 10.4.1. The CRO must notify the candidate or spokesperson on the status of a charge immediately after ruling on that charge.
- 10.5. Appeals against charges of violation levied by the CRO must be made in writing to the Elections Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the CRO's ruling on that charge.
- 10.6. The Elections Committee must meet to discuss any appeals against charges of violation and decide no later than two (2) days after receiving an appeal on the appropriate action(s) to be taken. The Elections Committee must notify the CRO and the candidate or spokesperson who submitted the appeal immediately after ruling on the appeal.
- 10.7. Appeals against a ruling levied by the Elections Committee must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Board within two (2) days of the candidate or spokesperson being informed of the ruling. The Judicial Board will then investigate and return their findings.
- 10.8. Decisions to disqualify a campaign must not be made known to any party during the Voting Period. If a ruling to disqualify is made during the Campaigning Period, the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign must be notified immediately.
- 10.8.1. Should a spokesperson be disqualified, the referenda campaign must also be disqualified.
- 10.8.2. Should a winning candidate be disqualified after the Voting Period has ended, the position for which that candidate was running must be brought to by-election.
- 10.9. The CRO must publish an updated list of all offenses, except those that result in disqualification, outside of the designated DSU Elections Office
- 10.10. A candidate or spokesperson is deemed to be informed of an Elections Committee ruling six (6) business hours after the ruling is emailed.
11. Appeals of Elections and Referenda Results
- 11.1. Any member may challenge the validity of election, referendum, or recount results in a written submission to the Elections Committee no later than two (2) school days of the end of the Voting Period.

- 11.1.1. Written submissions appealing election, referendum, or recount results must contain the appellant's full name, student number, contact information, and signature, as well as a detailed explanation of the reason(s) for challenging the results.
- 11.2. The Elections Committee must investigate the appeal and rule on the appropriate action(s) within one (1) week of the submission.
 - 11.2.1. Should a member challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee investigation into the validity of an election, referendum or recount result, the member may submit a petition to the Judicial Board to review the Elections Committee's findings within one (1) week of the Elections Committee's initial ruling.
- 11.3. No record of the vote for an election or referendum may be destroyed until thirty (30) days after the end of the Voting Period.
- 11.4. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the end of the Voting Period.
- 11.5. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO. Once the elections and/or referenda results are made official any challenges of the results must be made in accordance with the DSU Bylaws.

12. Appendix I: Elections Timeline

Before the Elections Period Starts:

- I. The Elections Committee and CRO must contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and to ask any questions.

Elections Period Starts

3 Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the CRO to contact the President/suitable executive of each faculty-level society to discuss Faculty Representative election/appointment options
- II. Deadline for the Elections Committee to present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval & for the Council to approve the schedule.

2 Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the CRO to publish the nomination forms
- II. Deadline for the CRO to publish the VPFO technical questionnaire
- III. Deadline for the CRO to publish the Elections Period schedule to the membership and directly to all candidates.
- IV. Deadline for the CRO to officially notice the Elections Period and specifically list all positions up for election.

1 Week Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the CRO and indicate they wish to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal process and submit the required supporting documents.
- II. Deadline for a faculty-level society that chooses to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election to notify the CRO, and their members to promote that choice.
 - I. Faculty-level societies that do not make this indication by the deadline will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

Nomination Period Starts

Last School Day of the Nomination Period:

- I. Deadline for the All Candidates Meeting to occur
 - I. Any nominee who is not able to attend the ACM must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.
- II. Deadline for Anti-Oppression Training Session to occur

- I. Any nominee who is not able to attend the session must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.

Before the End of the Nomination Period:

- I. Deadline for VPFO nominees to submit the VPFO technical questionnaire
- II. Deadline for all nominees to submit completed nomination forms
- III. Deadline for CRO to verify the eligibility of all nominees with the Registrar's Office or Student Accounts

Nomination Period Ends

24 Hours After the End of the Nomination Period:

- I. Deadline for the CRO to publish the successful nominations for the membership
- II. Deadline for appeals regarding the verification of a nomination to be made
- III. Deadline for campaigns to submit posters and handbills to CRO.

Before the Campaign Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the Elections Committee to render a decision on any appeals regarding the verification of a nomination
- II. Deadline for CRO to publish all completed VPFO technical questionnaires.
- III. No campaigning of any medium may take place.
- IV. Deadline for incumbent candidates running for executive office to submit their schedules to the CRO.

12 Noon, the Day Before the Campaigning Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for all candidates to submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form.
- II. Deadline for referenda campaign spokespersons to submit the Campaign Information Form.

Campaigning Period Starts

First Day of Campaigning Period:

- I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.
- II. Deadline for campaigns to submit 1-minute videos for the DSU elections webpage.

Last Day of Campaigning Period:

- I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.

Campaigning Period Ends

Before the Voting Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for a candidate to withdraw their nomination.

Voting Period Starts

- I. 2 days must transpire.

Voting Period Ends

No Later than 24 Hours After the Voting Period End:

- I. Deadline for CRO to publish unofficial election/referenda results to the membership.

No Later than 2 School Days After the Voting Period Ends:

- I. Deadline for a member to submit a written appeal to challenge the validity of election, referendum or recount results.
 - I. The Elections Committee must investigate and decide on any actions related to an appeal within 1 week of its submission.
 - II. A member may challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee through submission of a petition to the Judicial Board within 2 days of the Election Committee's ruling.

2 Days after the End of the Voting Period:

- I. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become the Official Results.
 - I. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referendum will automatically become the Official Results 2 days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO.

30 Days after the End of the Voting Period:

- I. All declarations made by a candidate or nominee for a Community Representative position must be destroyed.
- II. Record of the vote for an election or referendum must now be destroyed.

Elections Period Ends

13. Appendix II: Campaign Regulations

I. Poster Regulations

- I. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to secure poster display space in as many University buildings as possible.
- II. Poster display spaces secured by the CRO and Elections Committee must house one (1) poster per campaign. These posters must be distributed equally and when possible, grouped by position.
 - i. Posters not approved and posted by the CRO and Elections Committee must not be displayed by any campaign in any location.
- III. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to obtain, approve, print, and display campaign posters, of a maximum size determined by the Elections Committee and communicated during the All Candidates Meeting.
- IV. Posters that have been vandalized or damaged will be replaced by the Elections Committee as soon as possible. Notice of damaged posters may be given to the CRO who must replace them within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the notice.
- V. The Elections Committee will make regular rounds to inspect posters.
- VI. All posters must be taken down by the Elections Committee no earlier than the end of the Voting Period.
- VII. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval and printing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.

II. Other Forms of Campaigning

- I. Advertisements placed in The Dalhousie Gazette or The Sextant are subject to limitations by those publications.
- II. Campaign displays and tabling within the DSU must be booked with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager and with the Facilities Manager of any non-DSU buildings. All display and tabling approvals must be submitted to the CRO for verification.
- III. The use of any physical campaign materials including posters within classrooms is not permitted.
- IV. Verbal campaigning in classrooms is permitted when express written permission is given to a campaign by the presiding faculty member. All class talks must be verified by the CRO before they occur by presenting a faculty member's note of permission to the CRO.
- V. Campaigns must distribute handbills directly to members.

- i. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.
 - ii. Handbills must be no larger than 4.25 inches and 5.5 inches in size.
 - iii. Campaigns are responsible for printing and distributing their own handbills.
 - VI. The use of Union or University facilities not available to all campaigns is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. DSU branding and logos.
 - ii. DSU television screens.
 - iii. University branding, logos, footage, and 'tiger mascot' costume.
 - iv. The facilities of the offices of the DSU or any society under its jurisdiction and any resources or promotional materials owned by the DSU and its societies. This includes, but is not limited to: society funds, websites, email accounts, and/or distribution lists.
 - VII. The use of stickers is not permitted.
 - VIII. Only water-soluble chalk may be used for chalking
 - i. Chalking within ten (10) feet of doors is prohibited.
 - ii. Chalking on vertical surfaces or buildings is prohibited.
 - iii. Chalking on any recreational or athletic field is prohibited.
- III. Media Regulations*
- I. All forms of media may be used during the Campaigning Period except where explicitly prohibited by the Elections Committee and noticed during the All Candidates Meeting.
 - II. Any additional media platforms not listed below must be used in accordance with the spirit of this section of the policy.
 - III. All personal accounts of candidates, spokespersons, and/or campaign workers that are used for the purposes of campaigning during the Campaigning Period must be public.
 - i. Media pages and groups may remain live after the end of the Campaigning Period, but campaigns must not make further posts or accept more followers. Campaigns must not send any further messages.
 - ii. Candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers are permitted to use their personal media pages to promote voting during the Voting Period but must not refer to their campaigns.

- IV. All emails and media campaign materials must include:
 - i. A link to the DSU elections webpage.
 - ii. The hashtags #dsuvotes and #dsuelxn
- V. Video Regulations
 - i. Each campaign is encouraged to create a one (1) minute video that will be used on the DSU elections webpage.
 - ii. Campaigns are permitted to make further videos but only one video may be used on the DSU elections webpage.
 - iii. All videos must be submitted to the CRO for approval.
 - iv. To be used on the webpage, the video must be submitted no later than the first day of the Campaigning Period.
- VI. Email Regulations
 - i. Campaigns must only send emails to those members who have given them their email address for campaigning purposes.
 - ii. Members must have the option of unsubscribing from the email list by sending an email to the campaign.
- VII. Facebook Regulations
 - i. Campaigns may create a new Facebook page or group to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal Facebook pages.
 - ii. Campaigns may use Facebook groups or pages created for use in past DSU elections.
- VIII. Twitter Regulations
 - i. Each campaign may create a new Twitter account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
- IX. Snapchat Regulations
 - i. Each campaign may create a new Snapchat account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
 - ii. All snapchats must be sent to the DSU elections snapchat account including stories.
- X. Instagram Regulations

- i. Each campaign may create a new Instagram account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
- ii. All posts and stories must tag the official DSU elections account.

14. Appendix III: Offenses and Fines Table

| Offense | Fine |
|--|--|
| Poster located outside of the Elections Committee poster display area | \$5.00 |
| Prohibited displays | \$20.00 |
| Pre/post Campaigning Period campaigning | \$20.00/incident |
| Email violations *1 incident refers to 100 emails | \$20.00/incident |
| Use of prohibited DSU or Dalhousie resources | \$50.00/incident |
| Additional violations according to Sections 2.3 and 9, and/or Appendix II of this policy | Up to \$50.00/incident at the discretion of the CRO |
| Non-attendance of the All Candidates Meeting or Anti-Oppression Training Session | Rejection of nomination at discretion of Elections Committee |
| Failure of a VPFO candidate to submit a completed technical questionnaire. | Rejection of nomination |
| Tampering with the Elections Committee poster display area | Automatic disqualification |
| Spending over the maximum \$200.00 campaign expenditure | Automatic disqualification |
| Accruing more than \$100.00 in fines | Automatic disqualification |
| Attempted interference with the voting process | Automatic disqualification |
| Slandorous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law. | Automatic disqualification |

15. Appendix IV: Campaign Expenditures

- I. No campaign may exceed a total expenditure of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), including any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee.
- II. The Vice President Finance and Operations may provide each campaign an advance equal to the amount specific in their application for the purposes of facilitating their campaign. Applications for advances must be submitted in writing to the VPFO no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Campaigning Period.
 - I. Should a campaign have unused funds they must return those funds to the VPFO within one (1) week of the end of the Elections Period.
- III. No campaign may receive discounts that are not available to all members.
- IV. Any in-kind good or service given to a campaign will be assigned a 'market-value' price as determined by the Elections Committee and included in the total expenditure for that campaign.
 - I. Goods and/or professional skills belonging to a candidate, spokesperson, or campaign worker are exempt from this regulation.
- V. An itemized account of all campaign expenditures must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the Elections Period. These accounts must include a written receipt or bill for each separate item, signed by a candidate or spokesperson.
- VI. All campaigns that received more than twenty percent (20%) of the vote in an election with two (2) or less candidates or more than ten percent (10%) of the vote in an election with three (3) or more candidates may be reimbursed for campaign expenditure up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The itemized account provisioned above in Section 15.5 must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within the twenty-four (24) hour deadline for a candidate or spokesperson to receive their reimbursement.
- VII. Any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee to a campaign may be deducted from that campaign's two hundred-dollar (\$200.00) expenditure total.
 - I. Should the addition of levied fines to a campaign's expenditure total result in that campaign exceeding the expenditure total, the Elections Committee will determine if those fines must be owed to the DSU according to the seriousness of the offenses. Any fines must be collected by the Vice-President Finance and Operations within one (1) week following the end of the Elections Period.

16. Appendix V: Important Dates

I. May 31

- I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator to submit the name of the Faculty Representative they have internally elected or appointed to that position, along with all supporting documents.
- II. Deadline for the Dalhousie International Students Association to appoint an International Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- III. Deadline for the Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective to appoint an Indigenous Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

II. September 30

- I. Deadline for the Elections Committee and CRO to be appointed by the DSU Council.

III. October 31

- I. Deadline to hold, but not necessarily to have concluded, a By-election in the case that an Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position is vacant following the annual DSU election or becomes vacant before October 1st.

IV. March 31

- I. Deadline for the annual DSU Elections Period to conclude.



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Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Terms of Reference

Policy Information

Oversight Body: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Date Passed by Council:

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: Bylaws 2,6, & 10

Definitions

Policy - A rule passed by Council.

Member - An individual who meets the membership criteria, as outlined in the DSU Bylaws.

Executive Officer - A Member who is elected as an Executive Officer of the DSU, as outlined in the DSU Bylaws

Policy and Governance Coordinator - The full-time staff member responsible for supporting internal administrative, governance, and policy needs of the DSU.

Purpose

These terms of reference were created in recognition of:

- i. The significant impact a new or amended policy can have on operations.
- ii. The need to evaluate the appropriateness of a new or amended policy in respect to existing bylaws, policies, and applicable municipal, provincial, and federal legislation.

These terms of reference address the procedures surrounding a policy proposal or amendment for adoption. In addition, it is also meant to ensure policies are presented in a clear and uniform manner.

Scope

Members of Council, Commissioners, part-time staff, full-time staff, volunteers, and general Members of the DSU shall abide by this policy.

Policy Statement

1. Policy Submissions

- 1.1. Before a new policy proposal or amendment to an existing policy is brought to Council for approval, it should be submitted to the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee using the proposal template, which can be retrieved by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- 1.2. A proposal should be directed to the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Chair and/or Policy and Governance Coordinator to ensure proper review and record keeping.
- 1.3. Materials seen as supporting or providing further context to the proposal can be submitted in conjunction with the draft proposal but will be presented to Council only at the discretion of the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.
 - 1.3.1. Supporting materials cannot be submitted to the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee without an accompanying proposal.
- 1.4. The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee will bring proposed policies and amendments to the relevant Executive Officer(s) and full-time staff for consultative feedback and advice prior to reaching any decisions.
- 1.5. The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Chair will communicate the status of the proposal to the individual who made the submission after each Committee meeting where it appears on the agenda.

2. Request for Review

- 2.1. A Member does not need to propose a policy amendment ~~in order~~ to make a request for a policy review
- 2.2. Requests must include a detailed statement of the reasons as to why a policy review should be conducted.
- 2.3. The Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Chair will communicate the status of the review to the requestor after each meeting where it appears on the agenda.

3. Approved Policies and Amendments

- 3.1. Any Council approved policies and amendments must be circulated to the relevant part-time and full-time staff the following day.
- 3.2. Every policy must be reviewed at least every three (3) years.
- 3.3. The Policy and Governance Coordinator shall ensure the new or amended policy is updated in the policy manual and web site after Council minutes from the meeting in which the policy changes were ratified, are approved.
- 3.4. Outdated versions of DSU policies and bylaws will be appropriately archived by the Policy and Governance Coordinator.

4. Policy Structure

- 4.1. Each policy will contain the following information:
 - 4.1.1. Policy Name
 - 4.1.2. Policy Information
 - 4.1.2.1. Oversight Body
 - 4.1.2.2. Date Passed by Council
 - 4.1.2.3. Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, and Legislation
 - 4.1.3. Definitions
 - 4.1.4. Purpose
 - 4.1.5. Scope
 - 4.1.6. Policy Statement
- 4.2. Each policy will use the following format:
 - 4.2.1. Font, Museo Sans
 - 4.2.2. Title centered, bolded, size 24
 - 4.2.3. Section Titles left justified, bolded, size 14
 - 4.2.4. Section Subheadings left justified, underlined, size 12
 - 4.2.5. Multilevel lists using numerated sections (1, 1.1, 1.1.1)
 - 4.2.6. Content, size 12
 - 4.2.7. Line Spacing not below 1.15



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: September 10, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

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 2020-09-10-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-09-10-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on August 13, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-09-10-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the committee appointments recommended by Oversight Committee.

Recommendations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee on September 10, 2020.

8. Presentations

8.1 Centre for Learning and Teaching Presentation

Presenter: Brad Wuetherick, CLT Executive Director

8.2 Fall SUB Operation Updates

Presenter: President

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-09-10-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-09-10-10.2

WHEREAS almost the entirety of the Council Policy is in contradiction with the DSU Bylaws;
and

WHEREAS the Union Rules and Procedures policy outlines Council procedures and the responsibilities of Council staff; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council Policy is repealed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to develop a new policy incorporating the provisions of the Union Rules and Procedures Policy in addition to any provisions from the defunct Council Policy that should be maintained or are not covered in other policies.

Moved by the President.

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-09-10-11.1

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

Document to be circulated prior to meeting.

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: August 08, 2020 – September 04, 2020

Council Date: September 10, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Ongoing meetings with directors, research & outreach team, operations team, health & safety committee, event approvals working group, O-Week working group, & touch-bases with exec
- BRPC meetings for September delayed until October. I've been doing ongoing work to edit the policies schedules for September but unable to find the time to coordinate with BPRC, so all policies scheduled for September will go for review by the committee in October. Additional work will be on me to keep us on schedule.
- Ongoing meetings with the University admin and Return To Campus Committee (RTC) to finalize a process for societies to have their events approved so that they don't have to get approval from both the RTC and DSU. Task unfinished at date of writing.
- Hours changed slightly for a few days in August when I worked evening to accommodate a client booking in the SUB.

Executive Committee Meetings

August 10: Impact Awards agreement is now going to be assessed annually; Dal is providing some face masks to the DSU; Pennydrops society is going to host financial literacy workshops; Sexton campus space agreement document was worked on. Discussions on Work From Home staff requests, staff portfolios, Shinerama events, RBC ATM agreement renewal moved forward, and options for DSU services in the fall.

August 19: BoG update was given that Dal will be facilitating a new grant given by the government to tourism businesses; determined seating capacities for different areas in the SUB; determined Campus Copy would close for the semester due to lack of in-person classes, small campus population, and low demand for service; coordinated staff hours for O-Week; decided that Elections Committee would work remotely, only CRO will get office space; last view and edit of Ombudsperson letter to University.

August 26: added a mural to the capital projects list; decided ECM dates for the fall semester, determined updates for PT staff manual; went over the new Dal App, updates on student isolation; O-Week updates.

August 28: discussion on the ongoing task for RTC and the DSU re: society event approvals; decided that DSU planners would officially not be getting made this year (budget was cut at a previous meeting – brought VPSL up to speed) due to \$15,000.00 cost; discussed the graphics submission process; scheduled executives for O-Week; determined process for requests to use remaining tiger patrol van.

August 31: Was moving on this day – not at meeting, VPFO chaired. Decisions/updates were made regarding the multifaith space, the society anti-o training, Built Environment Accessibility Working Group for province; issue with Sexton Hiring Committee; Ascension lease; and ratification of new society.

September 04: Decided that admin member would be welcome to present at next Council regarding SRIs; discussed updates to SUB and campus and how to communicate to students; scheduled staff appraisals for those finishing their 6 month period; next steps on TedX events; VPFO presented pitch from Bike Coalition and Rising Youth; approved several bills related to Tiger Patrol.

Other Meetings/Tasks

August 10: Health and Safety Committee meeting discussed SUB updates, O-Week updates, & provincial health guideline updates

August 11: O-Week touch base meeting to go over event breakdowns and come up with to-do lists; went over graphics drafts; planned programming for students entering isolation.

August 12: Council Prep meeting discussed the details of the August Council date. Sat down with the VPSL to organize O-Week leader training.

August 13: Dreaming in Colour Touch Base with staff, as well as a fencing and A/V meeting with Pat, the VPSL, and Director R&O to do a site-walk of the Quad and plan the logistics of an in-person O-Week.

August 14: Meeting with Alex, DUES President, to give updates on in-person orientation, event planning, and help guide them through health & safety requirements.

August 18: Student Senate Caucus met to handle nominations and go over general housekeeping/administrative guidelines for the year.

August 24-28: Executive Instagram takeovers happened, mine was the 24th. An additional O-Week touch base meeting happened with all relevant staff to go over final details.

August 25: Collaboration on Indigenous Major and Honours Program Development Meeting – I was unable to attend - the VP AE and DSUSO represented the DSU; Meeting with the office working group on the NS Needs Students Rally.

August 26: Final Covid-19 update for staff before the SUB reopened; meeting with Directors and VPFO, VPI to discuss staff manual, staff appraisals, and ongoing society ratification issues that needed resolved.

August 27: O-Week touch base Meeting.

August 28: Meeting with executives to coordinate fall hours, office schedules, and meeting portfolio responsibilities. UPDATE: to accommodate for the fact that we're in a pandemic and that classes/life look a lot different this year, executives will not work their entire mandated 7 hours in the DSU offices, but may work some of those hours remotely. We will have a check-in on this process in October to determine if it is productive or not.

September 01: Meeting with the VPFO and our banker at Scotiabank to sign on as a signing officer and organize Residence Councils and pay an outstanding invoice on their behalf.

September 03: Meeting with DSU Reservations Manager to discuss society bookings in SUB for fall; work with VPI and Director Operations to send over draft notes to the RTC on a joint task we're working on to help societies book events; Hosted the DSU's Sex Talk Q&A as well as a game that evening.

September 04: Meeting with VPSL and VPFO regarding artist riders for O-Week; Council Prep Meeting.

University Affairs and Committees

August 10: Programming Sub-Committee Meeting

August 12: Online Orientation Planning Meeting

August 13: Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub Committee Meeting

August 18: Meeting with the Return to Campus Committee to speak on behalf of in-person O-Week events. Events were approved in following days.

August 19: Online Orientation Planning Meeting

August 20: Meeting with Dal Security to plan for O-Week events; Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub Committee Meeting

August 27: Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub Committee Meeting

September 02: Senate Orientation. All student senators were invited to play an icebreaker game and learn about how senate functions.

September 03: Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub Committee Meeting; Residence Eviction Appeals Committee Meeting.

External and Broader Community

August 19: Meeting with Deputy Minister Montgomery, Dr. Strang, and other SU executives for update on return to campus protocols. ~12 hours' notice was given to attendees on the new testing and isolation requirements to be mandated the next day.

August 28: Meeting with SMUSA President, Bryn, where we discussed COVID, isolation, students coming back to campus, SU operations for the semester, O-Week, upcoming municipal elections, and the NS Needs Students Rally.

August 31: Halifax Post-Secondary Education Stakeholders Meeting with other SU's, relevant persons, and local health and safety officials to discuss the upcoming return to campus. I was moving this day so the VPAAE represented the DSU at this meeting.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No meetings of the BoG Caucus were held.

Upcoming Dates

- **September 5-11:** O-Week & in-person events
- **September 23:** NS Needs Students Rally
- **September 18:** Fees due; final enrollment numbers come in



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: August 8th – September 4th.

Council Date: September 10th.

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Constitution Template Drafting
 - Working on creating a constitution template for societies to use. Draft has been forwarded to Policy & Governance Coordinator for input.
- Annual Survey Work
 - Drafting Survey notes for the final report and organizing prize pick-ups.
- Unlearn with the DSU Taskforce Meeting – August 12th.
 - Revisiting the website drafts and editing Crisis Flow Chart document.
- VPI Ratifications – occupied a large majority of time and is increasing in frequency during the beginning of the Fall Semester. See Society Review Committee updates for list of VPI ratified societies.
- Constitution Checks – occupies large amounts of time every now and then.
 - This is in preparation for Society Review Committee Meetings. Checklist is followed.
- Society Expo Blurbs for the DSU Newsletter
 - In preparation and promotion for the release.
- Executive Year Goal finalizations
 - To be posted after Executive Committee review.

University Affairs and Committees

- AUCRETT Scan Team Plan Meeting – August 10th
 - Planning policy search for the creation of AUCRETT's policy. Search continued until late August.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC met last on September 1st, 2020. The following societies were approved:

Dalhousie Dental Student Society (DDSS)

Student Association of Health and Human Performance (SAHHPer)

Dalhousie Science Society (DSS)

Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences (DASSS)

Get REAL Dalhousie – The Get REAL Movement

- VPI Ratifications have occurred during the last four weeks:

Dal Breaking Society (DBS)

Dalhousie/King's Figure Skating Club

Dalhousie Squash Club

Dalhousie VIDA Society

Dalhousie Mens Lacrosse

Environmental Programs Students Society (EPSS)

RoweOUT

Pre-Clerkship Residency Exploration Program (PREP)

Dalhousie Disability Advocacy Society (DDAS)

Dalhousie Water Polo Association

Dawson Geology Club

Faculty of Medicine Graduate Students Society (FMGSS)

Environmental Engineering Society

Popular Legal Entertainment Assessment Society (PLEAS)

DAL Law Community Outreach

Dalhousie Association of Marine Biology Students (DAMS)

International Development Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS)

Dalhousie Chinese Students and Scholars' Association

Dalhousie Recreation Association (DRA)

Catholic Christian Outreach

V-Care Society

Dalhousie Multiple Sclerosis Society (DALMSS)

Dalhousie Bladder Cancer Awareness Society

Dalhousie All-Inclusive Women's Network (DAWN)

BMO PennyDrops Dalhousie

Upcoming Dates

- Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting – September 15th
- Society Review Committee – September 16th.

Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: August 8 – September 4, 2020

Council Date: September 10, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- The SUB reopens September 8th to Dalhousie students and community, which is very exciting! Lots of my time has been dedicated to COVID-19 signage, safety measures, and work with tenants to develop safe reopening plans.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Offices Steering Committee: regular communications with part-time offices staff. Participated in hiring committee for the DSUSO Food Commissioner.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have held four sessions so far, with over 30 treasurers participating in total. There are still upcoming sessions taking place on a biweekly basis.
- Coordinating society office and locker pickups and cleanouts so that societies can resume their activities virtually.
- Events support for our reservations department; worked many evening hours as well as weekends, in addition to my regular hours, to accommodate an external booking that occurred throughout August.
- Society support: completing audits, ensuring that winter disbursements have been received. Coordinating hand-over of physical documents between outgoing and incoming society treasurers. Audits passed this reporting period: Get REAL, Dalhousie Arts and Science Society.
- Ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. Numbers have not been finalized, and we won't have updated financial projections until after the course drop dates.
- Have coordinated office access for E&A, DSUSO, and CKDU.

- Lots of communication with the Loaded Ladle to support their reopening plans. They will have snacks available in the first week back, starting on the 9th, and after the 14th they will be serving prepackaged meals!
- Support for O-Week event planning, budgeting, and helping to run events starting next week.
- Review of International Student Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference.
- International Student Bursary Committee: at the meeting on August 13, we awarded \$2350.00 in International Student Emergency Bursaries. At the August 20 meeting, we awarded \$1300.00 in emergency bursaries. At the meeting on September 3, we approved 3750.00 in emergency bursaries.

University Affairs and Committees

- Transportation and Security Committee did not meet this period.
- President's Advisory Council on Sustainability did not meet this period.

External and Broader Community

- Deliveries for the Loaded Ladle food box program every Tuesday afternoon. This program has now been discontinued as the SUB is reopening!
- Delivered the Tiger Patrol Dodge Caravan to Sipekne'katik First Nation, who will be using the van at the First Nations school and for other activities.
- Financial workshops with BMO Pennydrops will take place on September 15 and 29, on the topics of budgeting and investing, respectively. The workshops will be aimed at first years, but open to all Dalhousie students.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- At the Grants Review Committee meeting on August 20, we awarded grants to the following societies:
 - Dalhousie Birding Society
 - Islamic Relief at Dalhousie
 - PhD Health Student Society

- At the Grants Review Committee meeting on September 4, we awarded grants to the following societies:
 - Dalhousie Anime Club
- Next review period:
 - Deadline of **September 28 at noon**, Committee meeting on September 29.

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- Investment Review: continued review of our investments in order to implement the Responsible Investment policy.
- \$1000 was approved for use from the Survivor Support Reserve Fund to implement a virtual Sister to Sister Conference for BIPOC women and girls.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: August 7, 2020- September 3, 2020

Council Date: September 10, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee (August 26, 2020)
 - a. Introductions for new members
 - b. Ongoing discussing surrounding tuition increases and brainstorming how to address the problem with the provincial government
2. Hiring Committee for the DSU Market (August 24-28, 2020)
3. International Students Emergency Bursary Fund ongoing
4. Equity and Accessibility COVID-19 Relief Fund ongoing
5. Meet the executive insta-takeover (August 27, 2020).

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
3. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. Meeting with Dr. Vivian Howard (Associate Vice-President of Academic) (August 18, 2020)
 - b. Meeting with Dr. OmiSoore Dryden (James R. Johnston (JRJ Cha (August 20, 2020)
 - c. Meeting with Brad Wuetherick (Executive Director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching) (September 1, 2020)
 - d. Tentatively planning to share proposal at October 7, 2020 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
4. Working with student group from the School of Architecture about resolving a racist incident in an architecture classroom in the summer of 2019
 - a. More information about the incident and initiative can be found at <https://whereisdalarch.cargo.site/Letter-to-The-Administration>
 - b. Meeting with students running rally (August 25, 2020)

- c. Meeting with Dr. Theresa Rajack-Talley (Vice-Provost of Equity and Inclusion) (September 2, 2020)

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Development for NS Needs Students rally
 - i. Awarded tentatively \$350 by the Dalhousie Faculty Association to support the event.
2. Shinerama planning and events
 - a. Bottle Drive (August 29-30, 2020)
 - i. Collected boxed bottles from local restaurants to recycle
 - ii. Raised \$181.60
 - b. Planning for future events (August 17, 2020)

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Had our first meeting (August 18, 2020)
 - a. Appointed students to senate and senate sub-committees
 - b. Only remaining appointment to be recommended by DAGS

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: August 8- September 4th

Council Date: September 10th

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week

- a. Aug 7th: Selected artists for Block Party
- b. Aug 10th: Reviewed O-Week leader applications and offered positions.
- c. Aug 11th: Scheduled activities for students in isolation
- d. Aug 12th: Planned O-Week Leader Training
- e. Aug 13th: Finalized Fencing and grounds plan for Sept 8-11th
- f. Aug 17-21st: Planned O-Week alternative programming
- g. Aug 19-21st: O-Week Leader Training
 - i. This included online training modules on the 19th and 20th and an in-person training session on the 21st
- h. Aug 24-28th: Executed Online O-Week programming
 - i. This included VPSL insta Take-Over and Isolation Kahoot
- i. Aug 24th-25th: Executed Kit- Stuffing
- j. Aug 27th: Finalized in person O-week programming details
- k. Sept 1st - 4th: Began planning O-Week extended programming, Dream Bigger
- l. Sept 2nd: Aided in the execution of Sexy Kahoot online Trivia
- m. Sept 4th: Recorded Opening ceremonies video

2. ESRI Initiative

- a. Aug. 13th- Sept. 1st: Developed plans for ESRI.
 - i. Changed name from ESRI to SRCC (Student Reporting on Course Curriculum)
 - ii. Met with Dr. Dryden, DR. Howard to discuss project and possible solutions to its application

3. Shine Planning

- a. Aug. 17th: Drafted year plan for Shine programming.
- b. Aug 17th: Planned a bottle drive and began programming plans with community members.
- c. Aug 28th: Erica and campaigns commissioner executed bottle drive.
 - i. ~1500 bottles were collected totaling \$181.60

4. TEDx Toronto

- a. Met with organizers of TEDx Toronto to possibly partner on some programming throughout the year

External and Broader Community

1. CBC Interview

- a. Aug 18th: President and I met with CBC reporter regarding Covid-Conscious programming throughout the upcoming year

2. CTV Interview

- a. Sept 1st: Met with CTV reporter regarding O-Week and Covid-Conscious programming throughout the upcoming year

Upcoming Dates

1. O-Week Dates

- a. O-Week Dream Big programming begins September 8th with Movie Night and ends September 11th with Block Party
- b. O-Week Extension: Dream Bigger goes from September 21st until October 3rd.



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International Student Emergency Bursary Policy

Policy Information

Oversight Body: Budget and Finance Committee

Date Passed by Council:

Date of Next Review:

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: Financial Policy;

Definitions

International Student: A member of the Dalhousie Student Union who is registered as an international student with Dalhousie University.

International Student Emergency Bursary: (“a Bursary”) An allocation distributed from the ISEBF through the process outlined in this policy.

International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: (“the ISEBC”) A standing committee of the Dalhousie Student Union established in accordance with this policy.

International Student Emergency Bursary Fund: (“the Fund”) A designated fund within the Union budget, collected in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union regarding an International Student Health Insurance Plan.

Policy Year: The period between September 01 of a given year and August 31 of the following year, defined in line with the annual schedule for the Union’s International Student Health Plan.

Union: The Dalhousie Student Union

Purpose

This policy outlines the authority and process for the distribution of International Student Emergency Bursaries.

Scope

This policy applies to the distribution of funds from the International Student Emergency Bursary Fund.

Policy Statement

1. International Student Emergency Bursary Fund (“the Fund”)

- 1.1. The Fund is established to provide one-time bursaries to international students in emergency financial need.
- 1.2. Monies are collected and deposited into the Fund in accordance with agreements between the Union and Dalhousie University pertaining to student fees and the health insurance plan.
- 1.3. Funds distributed from the ISEBF must be authorized in writing by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

2. International Student Emergency Bursary Committee (“the ISEBC”)

2.1. Committee Mandate

- 2.1.1. The ISEBC is a standing committee of Union formed each year in accordance with this policy.
- 2.1.2. The ISEBC will review applications for International Student Emergency Bursaries (“Bursaries”) and allocate funding in accordance with this policy.
- 2.1.3. Meetings and minutes of the ISEBC are strictly confidential to protect information about members’ financial circumstances. All meeting minutes and other documents must be securely filed by the Director of Operations in accordance with Union policy.

2.2. Membership

- 2.2.1. The ISEBC will be formed by June 30 of each fiscal year and will contain the following voting members:
 - 2.2.1.1. The Vice President, Finance and Operations who will serve as chair;
 - 2.2.1.2. One other Executive Officer to be determined by the Executive Committee each year;
 - 2.2.1.3. The International Students’ Community Representative or, should they refuse the seat, another Community Representative on Council to be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- 2.2.2. The Director of Operations will be a non-voting advisory member of the ISEBC.

3. Application Process

- 3.1. Applications for Bursaries will be submitted to the Vice President, Finance and Operations using a standardized online form.
- 3.2. The application must include:
 - 3.2.1. The applicant's full name, student number, year of study, and Dalhousie email address;
 - 3.2.2. An explanation of the circumstance causing emergency financial need;
 - 3.2.3. The amount of the applicant's current financial need;
 - 3.2.4. The amount of funding sought through the Bursary;
 - 3.2.5. The applicant's personal budget and/or living expenses;
 - 3.2.6. The applicant's current income and/or other sources of financial aid;
 - 3.2.7. Proof of full-time enrollment at Dalhousie University;
 - 3.2.8. Documentation of the applicant's international student status, for example, copy of a student visa.
- 3.3. The Vice President, Finance and Operations and the Director of Operations will review and update the application form on a yearly basis and ensure that it is published on the Union's website.
- 3.4. The Vice President, Finance and Operations will work with the communications team and relevant student societies to ensure adequate promotion and advertisement of the Bursaries.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- 4.1. Only applications submitted by international students will be accepted.
- 4.2. The Bursary must be requested for a situation of one-time emergency financial need.
- 4.3. Bursaries may not be used to pay academic or non-academic fees to Dalhousie University or any other post-secondary institution. For further clarity and without restricting the generality of this statement, Bursaries may not be used towards the payment of a student's tuition, ancillary, or auxiliary fees.

5. Assessment Process

- 5.1. The ISEBC will meet at least once every four (4) weeks and will review applications submitted up to one (1) business day prior to the meeting. Submission deadlines will be published on the Union's website at the outset of each semester.
- 5.2. Applications will be reviewed in the order that they were received.

- 5.3. In the event that the ISEBC is unable to review all applications submitted up to the most recent submission deadline within one meeting, the Vice President, Finance and Operations will schedule a follow-up meeting within two (2) weeks to review any remaining applications.
- 5.4. The Vice President, Finance and Operations will update each applicant on the status of their funding within five (5) weeks of the date that their application was submitted.
- 5.5. The ISEBC will make decisions about the distribution of Bursaries based on the amount and urgency of the applicant's financial need and the availability of ISEBF funds.
- 5.6. Priority will be given to first-time applicants.
- 5.7. Priority will be given to applicants who have attempted to access or exhausted other sources of funding.
- 5.8. The ISEBC will assess applications in relation to a cost-of-living framework to be developed by the ISEBC.
 - 5.8.1. The framework will lay out standard costs for rent & utilities; food; transportation; and phone and internet.
 - 5.8.2. These standard costs will be set and updated each year in line with the most up-to-date statistics available on cost of living and typical costs for these goods and services in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), as well as the HRM's rate of inflation.
 - 5.8.3. The ISEBC reserves the right to proportionally reduce the amount of Bursary funding awarded to applicants whose living costs exceed the standard costs outlined in the cost-of-living framework.
- 5.9. The ISEBC may deprioritize or reject applications where the applicant has not adequately demonstrated financial responsibility and an effort to mitigate the financial need through other means.
- 5.10. The ISEBC may award the full amount of the Bursary requested or a part thereof.

6. Funding Limits and Restrictions

- 6.1. Bursaries may be awarded in amounts of up to two thousand dollars (\$2000.00).
- 6.2. A member may be awarded multiple Bursaries within the same fiscal year, provided:
 - 6.2.1. A separate application is completed for each Bursary requested;
 - 6.2.2. In each instance, the financial need meets the criteria laid out in this policy and is assessed according to this policy;
 - 6.2.3. The total amount of Bursary funding awarded to the member throughout the policy year does not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2000.00).

6.3. Bursaries awarded by the International Student Emergency Bursary Fund will not impact the applicant's eligibility for other DSU bursaries, including DSU Member Grants, DSU Accessibility Bursaries, or bursaries awarded by the DSU's levy offices.

DSU By-Election Fall 2020

Election Period Timeline – Draft

| Task | Date |
|--|--|
| Elections Period Begins | September 14 |
| Nominations & Campaign Registrations Opens | October 5 |
| Nominations & Campaign Registrations Close (all completed forms also due) | October 9 |
| Deadline for Appeals of the Verification of Nomination (to Elections Committee) | October 10 |
| Deadline for Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Info Forms (Candidate and Referenda) | October 12 @ 12 PM |
| All Candidates Meeting & Anti-Oppression Training | October 12 |
| Deadline for Elections Committee to Render Decisions on Appeals | October 12 |
| Campaign Period Begins | October 13 |
| Deadline for 1-Minute Campaign Video Submission | October 13 |
| Voting Details Released to All Students | October 13 |
| Campaign Period Ends: Deadline for Candidate to Withdraw | October 20 |
| Voting Period | October 21 & 22 |
| Unofficial Results Announced | October 23 @ When polls close |
| Appeals Deadline | October 26 |
| Appeals Ruling Deadline (if applicable) | October 28 (Most likely) November 2 (Latest) |
| Deadline to Submit Petition to Judicial Board Regarding the Elections Committee's Ruling | Within 2 Days of Final Ruling November 4 (Latest) |
| Deadline to Submit Itemized List of Campaign Expenses | 24 hours before close of Elections Period |
| Official Results Announced | 2 days after the Last Appeals Ruling November 6 @ 9AM (Latest) |
| Judicial Board's Ruling (if triggered) | November 11 (Latest) |
| Deadline for the Return of Unused Candidate Fees and Deadline to Submit Payment of Fines to the VPFO | 7 days after the Official Results Announcement November 13 @ 9AM (Latest) |
| Deadline for destruction of all declarations made by candidates and nominees (Community Rep); Deadline to destroy the record of the vote | November 21 |
| Elections Period Ends | November 21 |

All times listed in Atlantic Standard Time

Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed): Oct 1

Reading Break: Nov 9-13

Note, there are large Hindu and Jewish holidays within October



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: September 24, 2020; 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

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 2020-09-24-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting is adopted as circulated.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-09-24-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on September 10, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Document attached.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

PRESENTATION 2020-09-24-8.1

Presentation and invitation to NS Needs Students Rally

Presented by the Vice-President, Academic and External. Document circulated.

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy be adopted as circulated.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.1 - Motion to amend committee composition

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 2.2 of the proposed policy be amended by inserting “and will not carry a vote except in the case of a tie” to the end of the existing clause 2.2.1.1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT section 2.2 be amended by inserting “2.2.1.4 One international student who is not a Councillor or Executive Officer of the Union, to be appointed by Council”

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.2 - Motion to restrict identifying information

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 5 of the proposed policy be amended by inserting a clause following clause 5.1 that shall read: "In the interest of countering the potential effects of unconscious bias or conflict of interest, the chair must remove all names and identifying information from applications before circulating them to the ISEBC. For accounting purposes, only the chair of the ISEBC will be able to view applicants' names and identifying information."

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.3 - Motion to elaborate on cost of living framework

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 5.8 of the proposed policy be amended by inserting "This will be developed in consultation with international students to ensure that the framework is reasonable and realistic." at the end of the existing clause.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT section 5.8.1 be amended by striking out "standard" and inserting "average international student."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT section 5.8.2 be amended by striking out "standard costs" and inserting "cost-of-living frameworks" in its place; by inserting "and consultation" following the words "up-to-date statistics,"; and by striking out "these goods and services" and inserting "rent, food and services for international students." The section in its entirety as amended would read "These cost-of-living frameworks will be set and updated each year in line with the most up-to-date statistics and consultation available on cost of living and typical costs for rent, food and services for international students in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), as well as the HRM's rate of inflation."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT section 5.8 be amended by striking out the existing clause 5.8.3 and inserting "Applicants will be provided space and encouraged to elaborate on costs which have been created by family circumstances, access needs, dietary needs, or other individual concerns."

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.4 - Motion to clarify deprioritization and rejection

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the section 5.9 of the proposed policy be amended by striking out "where the applicant has not adequately demonstrated financial responsibility and an effort to mitigate the financial need through other means" and inserting "in the event an applicant did not provide enough information or did not thoroughly convey their circumstances and emergency financial need. The applicant is welcomed to reapply and may be prioritized upon second submission."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the section be further amended by inserting a subsidiary clause reading "The ISEBC chair will inform applicants whose applications are rejected of the reason(s) for said rejection."

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.5 - Motion to make cost of living framework available on website

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 5.8 of the proposed policy be amended by inserting an additional clause reading "The annual cost-of-living framework will be made available on the Union's website along with other information about applying for the ISEB."

MOTION 2020-09-24-10.1.6 - Motion to allow applicants to request information

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 5.8 of the proposed policy be amended by inserting an additional clause reading "A potential applicant may ask the chair of ISEBC for information on the cost-of-living framework being used to review applications."

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-09-24-11.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council sign the letter to support funding for the development of an Indigenous Major program at Dalhousie University as circulated.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-09-24-11.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU's audited financial statements for fiscal year 2020 are approved.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

MOTION 2020-09-24-11.3

WHEREAS the DSU Bylaws mandate that Council shall approve the appointment of the union's auditor each year;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the DSU's continued use of PWC for preparation of financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

MOTION 2020-09-24-11.4

WHEREAS Dalhousie students are concerned about rising tuition costs at Dal and within the province of Nova Scotia, and the DSU seeks to represent and advocate for these concerns; AND

WHEREAS the DSU advocates for accessible and affordable education including through the recent Reject the Three campaign; AND

WHEREAS Dalhousie University administrators often cite the lack of government funding as the cause of increasing tuition, and this issue is supported by the data on university funding in Nova Scotia which shows that public funding for institutions has generally decreased as a proportion of overall revenue while universities have become increasingly reliant on tuition and fees to make up their bottom lines; THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council endorse the DSU's NS Needs Students campaign and its demands that the provincial government act immediately to increase university funding and freeze tuition fees for all post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VPAE write a letter to the province on behalf of Council to echo these demands, which will be circulated to Councillors for edits and revisions prior to being finalized and delivered; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councillors are encouraged to participate in the digital or in-person rally in support of the campaign launch taking place on September 30 and encourage their constituents to participate as well. Note that those wishing to attend the in-person rally must RSVP to the VPAE to ensure COVID-19 precautions can be maintained.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: September 05 - 18

Council Date: September 24, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Ongoing meetings with directors, research & outreach team, operations team, health & safety committee, event approvals working group, Council prep, O-Week working group, & touch-bases with exec

- BRPC meetings for September delayed until October. I've been doing ongoing work to edit the policies schedules for September but unable to find the time to coordinate with BPRC, so all policies scheduled for September & August will go for review by the committee in October. Additional work will be on me to keep us on schedule.

- Ongoing meetings with the University admin and Return To Campus Committee (RTC) to finalize a process for societies to have their events approved so that they don't have to get approval from both the RTC and DSU. Task still unfinished; waiting on University.

Executive Committee Meetings

September 07: updates on graphics request for the AGM; reminder for execs to submit fall office hours; update on planned action; update on planned mural.

September 14: staff appraisal reviews; info from VPAAE on graduate departments and events; update from VPAAE on senate agenda

September 18: Policy & Governance Coordinator discussed results of annual survey and Dal Archival update; discussion on SUB capital project ideas; appointed VPAAE and VPSL to Ombudsperson Advisory Council; decided to allow Farmer's Market to sell tote bags; note from Director Ops on PT staff procedures; discussion on Grawood; AGM planning updates; approval of receipts; discussion on CRO and proper conduct.

Other Meetings/Tasks

September 08-11: O-Week in person events (Movie Night, Yoga, D.I.C, Block Party), all hands on-deck from executive and O-Week leaders

September 09: Senate Caucus meeting, I sent my regrets to assist with O-Week.

September 10: Council, I sent my regrets to assist with O-Week.

September 16: Media planning meeting with Architecture students; will be taking over as executive on the team for Where Is Dal Arch as per VPAAE's request. Meeting with operations staff to decide on new weekend hours for SUB.

September 17: AGM logistics meeting with DR&O, Policy Coordinator, Communications Coordinator; determined that Microsoft Teams with executives all in separate offices would work best – comms. to plan follow-up meetings with University personnel to practice.

September 18: Orientation debrief with O-Week working group. Went over good, bad; follow up from VPSL to come via transition report.

University Affairs and Committees

September 08: Residence Appeal Committee Review Meeting

September 10: Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub-Committee Meeting

September 14: Programming Sub-Committee Meeting; Senate

- Senate discussed several motions related to EDI which all students were vocal about.
Solid first meeting.

September 16: Executive Committee of the Board of Governors meeting. All discussion items confidential.

September 17: Virtual Sense of Belonging Sub-Committee Meeting

September 18: Meeting with Chair of Senate to discuss academic amnesty motion proposal for September 23rd meeting of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee.

External and Broader Community

No meetings to report.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No meetings of the BoG Caucus were held.

Upcoming Dates

- **September 30:** NS Needs Students Rally

- **September 30:** Orange Shirt Day



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: September 5th – 18th

Council Date: September 24th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- O-Week Assistance!
 - Large majority of a week was spent helping with O-week, taking photos, organizing O-week leaders and crowds when needed.
- Constitution Checks; a time-consuming process
- VPI Ratifications
 - Ratified over 15 societies last week alone; a continuous process that happens at least once a week.
- Society Expo: September 14th-18th
 - Offered assistance to incoming concerns and changes, as well as website requests.
- First Society Email Update!
 - Sent September 15th to all applied-to-ratify or ratified societies within our database. Email detailed society training, society expo, on-campus events approval processes (due to a high influx of inquiry), and more.
 - A personal VPI choice to keep the societies updated with information pertaining to their functioning; to also help keep connection with societies.
- Society Policy Review: beginning minor edits and detail changes on existing Society Policy to keep information up-to-date with offerings and current ratification processes.

University Affairs and Committees

- DSU/Student Affairs Meeting
 - Discussed a range of topics, mostly pertaining to societies ability to host events on-campus/off-campus, and within campus buildings, as well as a topic of alcohol licensing. Are waiting on a reply.
- Acted as a Second Executive on the Ombudsperson Follow up with VP AE & Vice Provost Student Affairs.

- Missed: Academic Unit Creation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer, and Termination (AUCRETT) Taskforce Meeting, September 14th, 2020, due to illness.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- Last met on September 16th, 2020 and ratified the following Societies. Must note that some societies reviewed this time around needed further constitution amendments as decided by SRC and therefore were updated as “pending” at SRC and are therefore not noted on this list:
 - Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society (DUES)
 - Dalhousie International Students Association
 - Dalhousie Outdoors Society
 - South House Sexual & Gender Resource Center

Upcoming Dates

- Offices Steering Committee: September 25th, 2020
- AUCRETT Taskforce Meeting: September 29th, 2020
- Accessibility Advisory Committee: September 30th, 2020

Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: September 5 – September 18, 2020

Council Date: September 24, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- The SUB has now been open for two full weeks, and I am happy to say that things have been going smoothly. We are still streamlining the process for students who wish to book meetings and are investigating possibilities of a phased reopening of the other spaces in the building. Room capacities will be slightly expanded on October 5th, if there is no community spread by that point in time.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Offices Steering Committee: part time staff support and oversight of payroll.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have held ten sessions so far, with over 70 treasurers participating in total. There are still upcoming sessions taking place on a biweekly basis. Updates to treasurer training for constituent societies.
- Coordinating after-hours office access for some levy societies.
- Society support: completing audits, ensuring that winter disbursements have been received. Coordinating hand-over of physical documents between outgoing and incoming society treasurers. No audits passed this reporting period.
- Ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. Numbers have not been finalized, and we won't have updated financial projections until after the course drop dates.
- International Student Bursary Committee: has not met this period, as we meet monthly, but there has been continued review and feedback on the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy from the international student members of the committee.

University Affairs and Committees

- Transportation and Security Committee met during this period, but I was unable to attend, as it is during a required class time. The Director of Operations will be attending throughout the year in my absence, as no other executives are available. Updates can be provided here at the request of any Council member.
- President's Advisory Council on Sustainability did not meet this period. There is an upcoming meeting on September 30th if anyone would like to attend.

External and Broader Community

- A financial workshop with BMO Pennydrops will take place on September 29, on the topic of investing. The workshop will be aimed at first years, but open to all Dalhousie students. Had great turnout for the first workshop which took place on the 15th!

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- Next review period:
 - Deadline of **September 28 at noon**, Committee meeting on September 29.

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- Investment Review: continued review of our investments in order to implement the Responsible Investment policy. Hoping to have a complete list of divested funds by October.
- \$1,610.00 was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee for withdrawal from the Survivor Support Reserve Fund to cover the costs of the O-Week Sex Talk. An additional \$6,250.00 was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee to support the Reclaim Your Voice programming currently being offered by the Survivor Support Centre. The proposals and documents are available for review upon request.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: September 3, 2020- September 18, 2020

Council Date: September 24, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee (August 26, 2020)
 - a. Introductions for new members
 - b. Ongoing discussing surrounding tuition increases and brainstorming how to address the problem with the provincial government
2. International Students Emergency Bursary Fund ongoing
3. Equity and Accessibility COVID-19 Relief Fund concluded September 17

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
 - a. Meeting on September 15, 2020: All outstanding areas of contention have been resolved and the advisory committee will meet at a date to be determined.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
3. Ongoing discussion with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. Consultation with the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. September 15, 2020
4. Working with student group from the School of Architecture about resolving a racist incident in an architecture classroom in the summer of 2019
 - a. More information about the incident and initiative can be found at <https://whereisdalarch.cargo.site/Letter-to-The-Administration>
 - b. Tentative media release September 21, 2020

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Development for NS Needs Students rally
 - i. Will take place September 30 from 1PM to 3PM

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Had a strong first planning meeting for Senate (September 9, 2020)
 - a. Only remaining appointment to be recommended by DAGS

Upcoming Dates

1. NS Needs Students Rally Sept. 30, 2020.
2. Senate presentation on Open Educational Resources October 26



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: Sept 3rd – Sept 18th, 2020

Council Date: Sept 24th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week Dream Big

- a. September 3rd: finalized production schedule and volunteer schedule.
- b. September 4th: Completed dry runs, tested equipment, etc
- c. September 7th: Set up volunteer green room, prepared kit bags, etc
- d. September 8th: Movie Night was executed successfully.
- e. September 9th: Yoga session and BUSA Block Party were executed successfully. Decided to continue with an in-person Dreaming in Colour despite forecasted rain for small portion of the day.
- f. September 10th: Dreaming in Colour was executed as planned despite the heavy rainfall.
- g. September 11th: Block Party was executed successfully.

2. O-Week Dream Bigger

- a. September 2nd: Created plan for a 2-week extension on O-Week Dream Big. With the aid of former commissioner Meghan Martin. Event to take place September 28th-October 9th.
- b. September 14th: Committee met to discuss plans for Dream Bigger. Locations, activities, and schedule was formed.
- c. September 15th: Communications to encourage more volunteers were posted

3. SRCC

- a. September 15th: Met with Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Dean, Roberta Barker, to get consultation on SRCC proposal. FASS will be the faculty most effected by the proposal and we wanted to ensure that we had their input.

University Affairs and Committees

1. In-Person Programming aid from Dalhousie Admin
 - a. September 15th: Met with Cynthia Murphy to discuss admin involvement with inperson programming during the semester.

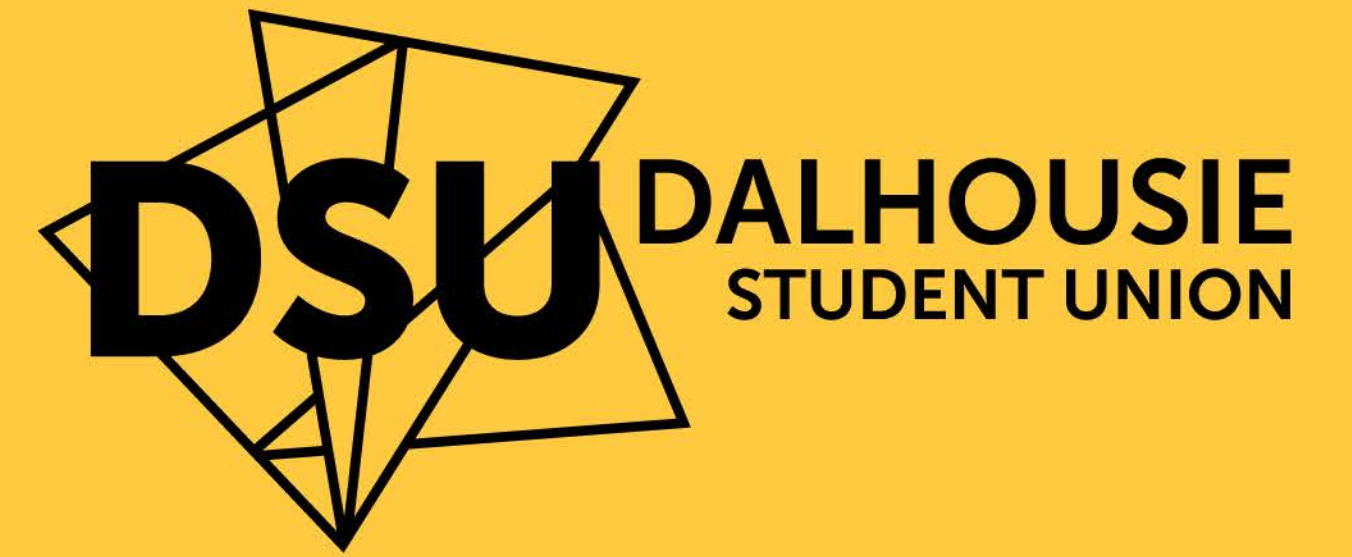
External and Broader Community

1. Title of Project/Event
 - a. Nothing to report

Upcoming Dates

1. Dream Bigger
 - a. September 28- October 3rd and October 5th- 9th

NS Needs Students



Let the NS Government know that they Need Students!
Join us on September 30th to demand they

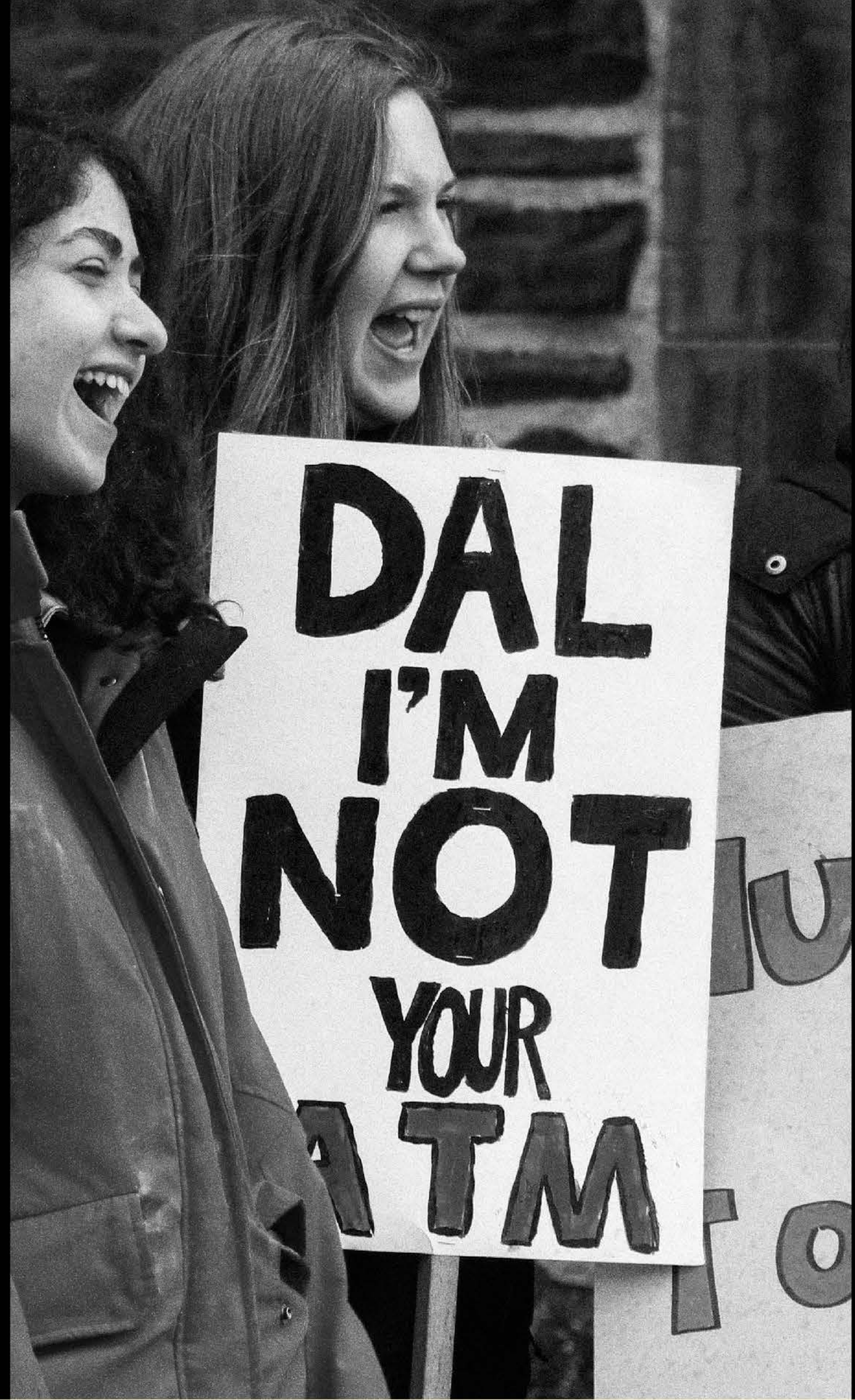
- 1. Freeze tuition**
- 2. Increase funding for post-secondary education in Nova Scotia**

Rally: September 30th, 1-3 pm ADT

In-person at Province House (1726 Hollis St.)

Livestream on DSU Instagram @dalstudentunion

Learn more at **dsu.ca/ns-ns**





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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: October 8, 2020 6:30pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using Microsoft Teams

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 2020-10-08-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-10-08-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on September 24, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-10-08-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee:

Councillors (unlimited): _____

General members (2): _____ and _____

Recommendations to be brought forward by Oversight Committee.

8. Presentations

8.1 Executive Goals for 2020-2021

Presented by the President and Executive Committee. Document Attached.

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: September 19 – October 02

Council Date: October 08, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

September 21: Set time/date for staff Anti-O; designated tasks for exec during Nova Scotia Needs Students (NSNS) rally; discussed Ascension lease; discussed academic amnesty for Indigenous students; decided on AGM final details; booked AGM prep meeting.

September 25: Newsletter updates; phone line updates; staff training updates; multiple group collaboration discussions.

September 28: Ascension update; event approvals process discussions; staff update; planning executive trip to Acadia; NSNS budget approval.

October 02: approval of O-week remaining costs; October programming update; staff update.

Other Meetings/Tasks

September 21: DSU Health and Safety Committee Meeting

September 23: Senate Caucus Meeting

September 24: DSU Council

September 25: Executive Year Long Plan Review Meeting

September 29: AGM Prep Meeting

September 30: Nova Scotia Needs Students Rally – Postponed due to weather, reorganized for October 14. Touch base meeting with working group.

October 01: Annual General Meeting; good participation from attendees but quorum not met. Executive reports and financial documents presented. Spring AGM to be organized to present Bylaw amendments.

October 02: Staff Meeting; SUB operations updates, executive update, work from home update.

University Affairs and Committees

September 22: Impromptu meeting with Chair of Senate to discuss amnesty requests for Indigenous Students taking part in community support efforts. Edits were made to original motion presented on recommendation from Senate Chair to make motion more likely to pass.

September 25: Senate Honorary Degrees Meeting

September 28: Senate Meeting: discussion on amnesty requests, employment equity report, and sexualized violence data report.

September 28: Orientation Debrief Meeting with Student Life – sent my regrets, VPSL attended.

September 29: Residence Code Appeal Meeting – sent my regrets, VPSL attended.

October 02: Residence Code Appeal Meeting

External and Broader Community

October 01/02: Attendance at the virtual UofT National Dialogues and Action Conference for Inclusive Higher Education and Communities (no cost).

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No meetings of the BoG Caucus were held.

Upcoming Dates

October 2020: [Mi'kmaq History Month](#) (Nova Scotia)

October 2020: Women's History Month (National observance)

October 2020: Queer History Month (International observance)

October 05, 2020: [Nominations for DSU By-Elections open](#)

October 11, 2020: [International Day of the Girl](#)

October 21 & 22, 2020: [DSU By-Election Voting Period](#)

November 09-13, 2020: Fall Study Break

December 08, 2020: Fall term ends

December 18, 2020: SUB Winter Break Closing date



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: September 19th – October 2nd.

Council Date: October 8th

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Society Policy Review
 - This was continuous throughout the reporting period. The review is not yet complete but will soon be ready for consultation.
- Student Accessibility Fund Committee Policy
 - Continuous but taking a back seat to the Society Policy review. This project will take a larger portion of time to complete.
- VPI Ratifications/ Constitution checks
 - These are continuously ongoing.
- Year Long Planning Meeting – September 25th
 - This meeting took place in order to regroup the executives in our year long planning goals.
- Offices Steering Committee – September 25th
 - The committee reviewed updates from the offices; no motions were raised.
- Accessibility Fund Committee – September 25th
 - The committee continued to approve and issue bursaries to applicants.
- AGM Report & Preparation – September 28th

University Affairs and Committees

- AUCRETT – September 22nd
 - The Co-chairs met to review the policy currently in drafting.

External and Broader Community

- Met with EDGE to discuss a Dalhousie EDGE Chapter – September 24th

- They are a student-run, non-profit looking to expand outside of Ontario. They support marginalized students across campuses and currently operate a chapter out of Queens University. They will begin their chapter next year but are looking for Dalhousie Co-chairs currently. Any folks interested should see about contacting them or reviewing their work.

Society Review Committee Updates

- Will be meeting on the 8th of October. No further updates.

Upcoming Dates

- NS Needs Students Rally – October 14th, 2020.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: September 24, 2020- October 5, 2020

Council Date: October 8, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee
 - a. Cancelled due to post-tropical storm Teddy
2. International Students Emergency Bursary Fund ongoing

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
 - a. Myself and Jad Ghiz were appointed by the Executive team to the Ombudsperson advisory committee. I was chosen because of my ongoing work resolving existing areas of contention with the Vice-Provost of Student Affairs and my familiarity with the Strople Report.
 - b. The committee will begin discussing recommendations in the Strople Report in preparation for reorganizing the role of and hiring a new Ombudsperson
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
3. Ongoing work with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on flagging oppressive content in the classroom and creating safer learning environments.
4. Working with student group from the School of Architecture about resolving a racist incident in an architecture classroom in the summer of 2019
 - a. More information about the incident and initiative can be found at <https://whereisdalarch.cargo.site/Letter-to-The-Administration>

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Development for NS Needs Students rally
 - i. Cancelled because of inclement weather. Rescheduled for October 14 1PM-3PM
 - ii. Developing information posts and advertisements to share with classrooms and promote the event

Senate Caucus Updates

a. In the process of developing a statement demonstrating our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion principles and the need for that focus in Senate

Upcoming Dates

1. NS Needs Students Rally October 14, 2020.
2. Senate presentation on Open Educational Resources October 26



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: Sept 24th – Oct. 5th, 2020

Council Date: Oct 8th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week Dream Bigger

- a. Sept. 25th: Registration went live.
- b. Sept. 28th: Events were postponed till Oct. 7th due to weather and low registration
- c. Sept. 29th: Posted promotional materials around campus.
- d. Sept. 30th: Rebuilt schedule and finalized events at Dalplex
- e. Oct. 2nd: Posted promotional materials on each residence floor.
- f. Oct. 5th: Executed first day of event

2. SRCC

- a. Oct. 5th: Revised updates to draft

3. Student Life Committee

- a. Sept 25th: Chaired introductory SLC meeting
- b. Sept. 30th: Chaired first SLC meeting and began planning of events in Oct. & Nov.

4. AGM

- a. Oct. 1st: Prepared and presented report

University Affairs and Committees

1. In-Person Programming aid from Dalhousie Admin

- a. September 28th: Met with Rigel Biscione and student life team regarding Orientation Programming

2. Appeals Committee

- a. Sept. 29th: Attended appeals committee regarding Dalhousie Student

External and Broader Community

1. NS Needs Students Rally

- a. Planned Chants and handouts.
- b. Found volunteers and coordinated sanitization stations for rally participants.

Upcoming Dates

No upcoming dates to report.

2020-21 Executive Goals - Summary

Madeleine Stinson: President

Madeleine is the chief spokesperson for the student union. Madeleine sits on the Dalhousie Board of Governors and Senate. She also oversees all day-to-day operations of the Union and regularly represents students to government officials and senior administrators at the university.

Internal Affairs

- ❑ Conduct a full review of the DSU's governing documents with the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to ensure efficacy and accountability.
- ❑ Conduct a full review of the DSU's governing documents with the Response Committee to ensure values of survivor-centrism, due-process, fairness & transparency.
- ❑ Development of the Strategic Plan to add mission and vision statements, and develop 5,7, and 10 year goals.
- ❑ Increase the presence of the DSU on campus through better use of social media and more executive involvement.
- ❑ Work with the Vice President, Internal on the development of several issues policies.
- ❑ Commission a mural for the SUB.

University Affairs

- ❑ Work with the Alcohol Advisory Committee and Student Affairs Office to review the liquor policy and options for bar services on campus.
- ❑ Work within the Board of Governors and Senate to advocate for better student support and increased accountability to students.

External Affairs

- ❑ Work with various levels of government and the Post-Secondary Education (PSE) sector to safely navigate Covid-19 developments.
- ❑ Continue lobbying efforts, in collaboration with the Vice President, External and Academic, to increase funding for PSE, implement a tuition freeze, and provide better support for the diverse student population in Nova Scotia.

Hanna Stewart: Vice-President, Internal

Hanna facilitates all student union societies and oversees all communications—including official correspondence and the Student Union website. Hanna also chairs several committees, including the Student Accessibility Fund, Sexton Campus Advisory, Society Review Committee.

Internal Affairs

- ❑ Release Annual Survey (2019/20) and Annual Survey Report; Create and release 2021 Annual Survey.
- ❑ Plan online Society & Volunteer Expos for fall & winter.
- ❑ Create and release a “Constitution Template” for Faculty & Levy Societies
- ❑ Help draft and finalize the new DSU website.
- ❑ Create a “What is the DSU” information booklet to educate Members on services, fee breakdowns, and internal processes.
- ❑ Facilitate conversation to separate SUB prayer space from the Wellness Room into two distinct spaces.
- ❑ Write Student Accessibility Fund Committee and Sexton Advisory Committee into the DSU Bylaws.
- ❑ Collaborate with the DSU President, Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective, ISR, and constituents to formulate the Indigenous Students Issues Policy.
- ❑ Create and release a new Annual Society Survey for feedback on the VPI and DSU internal processes.
- ❑ Plan and facilitate a Society Mixer to introduce collaboration between societies.
- ❑ Facilitate conversation on a permanent Sexton Loaded Ladle location and/or Sexton Wellness Room.

Isa Wright: Vice President, Finance & Operations

Isa oversees all of the student union's finances and oversees many operational aspects of the Union including Tiger Patrol. Isa audits the books of levied societies and is responsible for writing the student union's yearly budget.

Internal Affairs

- ❑ Streamline the audit process so that it is entirely online, faster, and has a maximum turnaround time of 10 business days.
- ❑ Improve treasurer training and implement bi-weekly training throughout the academic year, including a monthly treasurer newsletter.
- ❑ Improve the DSU bursary and grant application processes so that they are more user-friendly, with improved communications and turnaround time - including sample applications, FAQ guidelines, and simplified application forms. Increase promotion of the program to ensure members are informed of the financial support(s) offered by the DSU.
- ❑ Consult with DSU offices, services, and business during 2020-21 budget planning.
- ❑ Create a webpage which will continually be updated with external funding opportunities, including society sponsorship opportunities, bursary applications, and other sources of funding.
- ❑ Collaborate with student leaders on campus to offer sponsorship workshops and knowledge-sharing between societies.

Erica Seelemann: Vice President, Academic & External

Erica is responsible for the student union's advocacy and campaigns on academic and student issues, including tuition fees, student debt, academic integrity, and equity issues. Erica also sits on the Dalhousie Senate and represents students on various university committees and through municipal, provincial, and federal lobby efforts. Erica chairs the Academic and External Affairs committees and the student union's Senate Caucus.

Internal Affairs

- ❑ Support the planning of the Racial Justice Symposium

University Affairs

- ❑ Develop a proposal to bring forward to the Senate in regard to Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), a survey that will allow students to identify lack of diversity and/or oppressive course content in their classes.
- ❑ Responding to issues of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism on campus and in our community, with a focus on improving Dalhousie's mechanisms for holding individuals responsible for their actions.
- ❑ Responding to issues identified in the Strole Report as a part of the process of hiring a new Ombudsperson.
- ❑ Advocacy efforts focused on Open Educational Resources.
- ❑ Advocating for improved and culturally appropriate and supportive mental health resources.

External Affairs

- ❑ Extended work lobbying the government for a tuition freeze, including the NS Needs Students Rally and follow-up events and meetings.
- ❑ Ongoing representation of Dalhousie students at various levels of government.

Jad Ghiz: Vice President, Student Life

Jad facilitates student union activities that aim to increase student spirit on campus including Orientation Week, the Impact Awards, and various other activities. Jad is also responsible for promoting varsity athletics on campus, chairing a number of event related committees and overseeing the activities of the DSU's Shinerama campaign.

Internal Affairs

- ❑ Plan a covid-conscious Orientation Week with extended programming into the fall semester as well as a "Frost Week" in the winter semester.
- ❑ Incorporate principles of harm reduction in all programming.
- ❑ Continue work on addressing student mental health issues, including the development of programming and/or campaigns to support student mental health and self-care during online classes.
 - ❑ Study halls, community meals, exam prep support, etc.
- ❑ Collaborate with LGBTQ2SIA organizations on covid-conscious Pride programming.
- ❑ Run a Movember campaign.
- ❑ Collaborate with societies and community organizations to support African Heritage initiatives.
- ❑ Host a "Last Class Bash"

University Affairs

- ❑ Collaborate with the TedX team at Dalhousie to run a TEDxDalhousie event.
- ❑ Work with Student Affairs and the Residences to ensure student safety and strong community.
- ❑ Facilitate conversation with Dalhousie Health and Wellness unit on the Mental Health Forum or similar programming.

External Affairs

- ❑ Work with the Healthy Minds NS Committee to support student mental health initiatives in Nova Scotia.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: October 22, 2020; 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams.

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 2020-10-22-3.1

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 2020-10-22-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on October 8, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-10-22-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee on recommendation of the Oversight Committee:

Councillors:

General Members:

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.1

WHEREAS the typical practice at the DSU has been to approve minutes from an Annual General Meeting at the following Annual General Meeting; AND

WHEREAS the last DSU Annual General Meeting to reach a quorum of members was held on April 6, 2016, and because an AGM has not convened since then the minutes of that meeting have not been approved; AND

WHEREAS the DSU's governing documents do not specify that minutes from an Annual General Meeting must be approved at an Annual General Meeting; AND

WHEREAS some of the amendments to the bylaw amendments proposed in the 2016 meeting were voted on and ratified at the time but have since been recognized to be out of order under Robert's Rules of Order; AND

WHEREAS the membership of the DSU deserves access to the minutes of the 2016 AGM and transparency with regard to the amendments proposed, passed, and in some cases determined to be out of order; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the minutes of the DSU Annual General Meeting held on April 6, 2016; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council approve the accompanying document titled "Notes on Bylaw Amendments Made at April 6, 2016 Annual General Meeting" which clarifies the permissibility of amendments to the proposed bylaw amendments that were motioned within the Annual General Meeting; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The "Notes on Bylaw Amendments Made at April 6, 2016 Annual General Meeting" document be considered an Appendix to and therefore be attached to the 2016 AGM Minutes. These will be uploaded to the DSU website together as one document to ensure that all members accessing the minutes also have access to this document.

Documents attached:

- *AGM_Minutes_DRAFT_06.04.2016.pdf: draft minutes of the April 2016 AGM*
- *2016_Bylaw_Amendment_Notes_18.09.2020.pdf: compiled notes regarding amendments and their status as in or out of order*
- *Correspondence_RE_2016_Bylaws_29.10.2019.pdf: email correspondence between DSU President and Policy & Governance Coordinator regarding validity of bylaw amendments made on the floor at the April 6 2016 meeting*

MOTION 2020-10-22-11.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council sign on to the attached letter to Dalhousie Senate in support of the creation of an Indigenous Studies Major program.

Moved by the Vice President, Academic and External. Document attached.

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: October 5-16, 2020

Council Date: October 22, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

October 16: regular updates on meetings and ongoing projects; approval for master keys for Directors; motions to adjust capital spending approvals; formation of an executive-level working group on residence issues; discussion on student work load and need for study spaces – update from VPSL; upcoming meeting times set; update from VPI on University/Sexton/T-Room/Loaded Ladle collaboration; discussion on potential candidates for an ad hoc committee seat; talk on collaborating with student businesses and update from VPFO re: exec budget timelines.

- Due to a few unexpected scheduling conflicts and a holiday, fewer ECM meetings were held this reporting period than usual.

Other Meetings/Tasks

October 05: Meeting with a member regarding the Board of Governors and DSU Annual General Meeting

October 06: Regular meeting with DSU Offices (DSAS/DSUSO/E&A) for updates and discussion on residences appeals, programming, and general discussion.

October 06: Meeting with office staff on events approval process; still in the process of having the responsibility of society event approvals handed to the DSU from Dal.

October 06: Year-long planning review.

October 07: Council prep meeting with Policy & Governance Coordinator.

October 08: DSU Council.

October 13: Meeting with Policy & Governance Coordinator regarding policy review and development.

October 15: Operations meeting. Discussion on phase 3 SUB reopening, society event approvals process.

University Affairs and Committees

October 06: Meeting with DSU executive, Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion, and HRES staff for introductions and discussion on sexualized violence report, common interests, and potential areas to work together.

October 08: Board of Governors Executive Committee Meeting; minutes confidential.

October 08: Dalhousie Provost & Vice-President, Academic Search launch meeting; minutes confidential. Regrets sent due to scheduling conflict, follow up planned.

October 09: Meeting with Dalhousie Legal regarding ongoing discussion to switch responsibility of society event approvals to DSU, from Dal. Waiting on thoughts from Campus Bookings and Environmental Health & Safety before final RTC approval of process.

October 13: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Meeting; sat in for information.

October 14: Board of Governors Orientation. Regrets sent.

October 14: Bi-weekly meeting with Student Affairs and DSU executive. Discussion with lead negotiator on Dalhousie's team in DFA bargaining. Negotiator noted that filing for conciliation and a strike vote are both common, University remains optimistic an agreement can be reached. Also noted that the longest DFA strike in history, to their knowledge, was 17 days; shortest was 4. Discussion with VProvost, SA on how to communicate appropriately with students re: the strike. Discussion with Director of Residence on ongoing issues and the living guide.

- Executives were generally disheartened with the tone and contents of a conversation with the VProvost, SA surrounding several important issues, including student mental health in residences. Executives have decided to take on the task of holding direct consultation with students in residence to learn their thoughts on the Residence Living Guide and report back to the Director of Residence at the end of the year. The VPSL will lead the project.

October 16: Employment Equity Council; discussion on framework and consultation groups. Point made to include perspectives of students who are also employees of the University. Added to a working group on defining intersectional identities for reporting purposes.

October 16: Meeting with VPAAE and Senator to discuss ongoing topics, points of collaboration, and hold introductions.

External and Broader Community

No significant updates.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

October 15: Meeting to prepare for upcoming BoG. Discussion items include the President's report, an EDI report, and several capital projects. No large points of contention but several questions surrounding the EDI report. Caucus would also like to ask questions related to one of the capital projects and understand whether any environmental assessment of the project occurred (thermal system refurbishment with EllisDon). Caucus also plans to ask questions related to the Board's involvement in DFA bargaining and on student fees.

- BoG Caucus report to be delivered at next meeting of DSU Council.

Upcoming Dates

October 20: Board of Governor's Meeting

October 21: DSU BoG Caucus Meeting

October 21 & 22, 2020: [DSU By-Election Voting Period](#)

October 26: Senate Meeting

October 28: Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

November 09-13, 2020: Fall Study Break

December 08, 2020: Fall term ends

December 18, 2020: SUB Winter Break Closing date



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: October 5-16, 2020

Council Date: October 22nd, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- DSU Offices Meeting, October 6th
 - Updates from Offices & Updates on Exec projects.
- Year-Long Planning Meeting, October 6th
 - Another executive planning meeting to finalize our year goals in our calendar.
- Continuous Constitution Checks for Society Review Committee Meetings
- Society Monthly Email Planning, collecting a list of notable updates for societies to know for October
- Society Policy Review – almost done!
- Accessibility Fund Committee Meeting – October 9th
- Constitution Template – In Final edits
- Funding Guide in Final Draft stage
- Meeting with Dalhousie Commerce Society, October 15th
- Society Expo Winners – Outreach & Finance work.
 - The reason this outreach was about a month after was in order to ensure I could get as many society sign-up sheets from Societies as I could.

University Affairs and Committees

- Human Resources and Equity Services Meeting, October 6th
 - Introduction meeting
- Classroom Planning Committee Meeting, October 7th
 - Update on Campus infrastructure projects.
- Vice Provost Student Affairs Connection with Sexton Campus Administration, October 8th
 - This conversation was to guide connections for Loaded Ladle Services inquiring on Sexton Campus.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee, October 14th

- Vice Provost & DSU Executive Biweekly meeting, October 14th

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- Met last to approve on October 8th and approved the following societies:
 - Dalhousie Undergraduate Nursing Society
 - The School of Social Work Student Group (SWSG)
 - CKDU Society
 - Dalhousie Urban Garden Society (DUGS)
- Extraordinary Meeting of Society Review Committee, October 15th

Upcoming Dates

- N/A

Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: September 18 – October 16, 2020

Council Date: October 22, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- SUB update – phase 2 of reopening is now in place. There is increased seating on the first floor of the SUB. Plans are in place to increase study spaces during midterms and finals, more details will be released on the website when finalized.
- Weekly Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Offices Steering Committee: part time staff support and oversight of payroll.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have held fifteen sessions so far, with over 90 treasurers participating in total. There are still upcoming sessions taking place on a biweekly basis. Updates to treasurer training for constituent societies.
- Supported Dalhousie Outdoors Society to implement a gear drop-off and pick-up system, now occurring on Tuesday nights.
- Ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. Finalized numbers and reconciliations have not been sent to us.
- International Student Bursary Committee: has not met this period, as we meet monthly, but there has been continued review and feedback on the International Student Emergency Bursary Policy from the international student members of the committee.

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- Grants were allocated in this period to:
 - Dalhousie Dungeons & Dragons Society

- Dalhousie Environmental Engineering Society
- Dalhousie Holiday Helpers
- Dalhousie Cryptocurrency Research & Investment Society
- Dalhousie Student Supporting Nepalese Children
- Dalhousie Rotary Club of Halifax

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- Investment Review: please see the following list of the funds to be divested, and the reasons for divestment. These funds were approved for divestment by the Budget and Finance Committee. Finalized profit or loss figures will be reported once all funds have been reallocated by our Investment Manager.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Emera Incorporated | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", "Policies, practices, and/or record demonstrate a lack of respect for the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples" |
| Fortis Inc | "Policies, practices, and/or record demonstrate a lack of respect for the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples", "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Long term - Emera Inc preferred | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", "Policies, practices, and/or record demonstrate a lack of respect for the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples" |
| Pembina (Bond) | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Inter Pipeline (Bond) | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Transcanada Pipeline (Bond) | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", "Policies, practices, and/or record demonstrate a lack of respect for the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples" |
| Gildan Activewear | "Policies, practices, and/or record, or those of the companies that make up their supply chain, fall below recognized international standards for human rights and/or labour standards" |
| Alimant Couche-Tard CI-B | Derives profits from gambling, Derives profits from the manufacture and/or distribution of alcohol products |
| Loblaw Companies Ltd | Derives profits from gambling, Derives profits from the manufacture and/or distribution of alcohol products |
| Metro Inc | Derives profits from the manufacture and/or distribution of alcohol products, Derives profits from gambling |
| Weston George Ltd | Derives profits from the manufacture and/or distribution of alcohol products, Derives profits from the production of weapons or weapon systems |
| Enbridge Inc | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Freehold Royalties Ltd | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Keyera Corp | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Prairiesky Royalty Ltd | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| TC Energy Corp | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Canadian National Railway | Derives profits from mining or quarrying, "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", Has a record of cautions or convictions for water and/or air pollution offences |
| Canadian Pacific Railway | Derives profits from mining or quarrying, "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", Has a record of cautions or convictions for water and/or air pollution offences |
| Finning International Inc | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", Derives profits from mining or quarrying |
| Agnico Eagle Mines | Derives profits from mining or quarrying |
| Franco-Nevado Corp | Derives profits from mining or quarrying |
| Methanex Corp | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Wheaton Precious Metals | Derives profits from mining or quarrying |
| Altgas Ltd | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| CDN Utilities | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors" |
| Fortis Inc | "Operates in coal, oil and/or gas sectors", "Policies, practices, and/or record, or those of the companies that make up their supply chain, fall below recognized international standards for human rights and/or labour standards" |



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: October 5, 2020- October 16, 2020

Council Date: October 22, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee (October 6, 2020).
 - a. Discussion on the DFA's strike vote. Consensus that the DSU should support the DFA throughout the collective bargaining process.
 - b. Discussion on future projects
2. International Students Emergency Bursary Fund ongoing

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
 - a. First meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled for October 23, 2020.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
3. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. Consultation with Dr. Kevin Hewitt, Chair of Senate (October 15, 2020).
4. Confirmed appointment of Nik Isaac-Pictou to the Academic Amnesty Ad Hoc Committee
 - a. Senate communicated that they had two vacant seats for students on this committee
 - b. The executive felt it necessary that a student from the Dalhousie Indigenous Student Collective (DISC) have this seat because of the issues and racism their communities are facing
 - i. Nik Isaac-Pictou was appointed by DISC

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Development for NS Needs Students rally
 - i. Cancelled because of inclement weather. Will plan follow up events focused on advocacy and education
2. Development of academic amnesty motions for Indigenous students advocating in Saulnierville.

Senate Caucus Updates

- a. In the process of developing a statement demonstrating our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion principles and the need for that focus in Senate

Upcoming Dates

1. Postponed Open Educational Resources at Senate until the new year



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: Oct. 3rd - 16th, 2020

Council Date: Oct 20th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. O-Week Dream Bigger

- a. Oct. 5th:-9th Executed events

2. Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC)

- a. Oct. 19th: Revised updates to SRCC proposal. Added list of consultations.

3. Student Life Committee

- a. Oct. 7th: Chaired SLC meeting regarding Pumpkin Fest and brainstorming November programming.
- b. Oct. 14th: Chaired SLC meeting finalizing Pumpkin Fest and deciding on Movemeber, exam de-stressors and reading week activities for November

University Affairs and Committees

1. University meetings:

- a. Oct. 6th: Met with Laara Richardson regarding residence programming initiatives.
- b. Oct. 15th: Met with Rigel Biscione regarding off-campus student programming and opening new study spaces on campus
- c. Oct. 15th: Met with Kevin Hewitt regarding SRCC proposal

2. Appeals Committee

- a. Oct. 6th: Attended appeals committee regarding a Dalhousie Student in residence

External and Broader Community

Upcoming Dates

DSU X Shinerama Pumpkin Carving Fundraiser October 27th and 28th

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CALL TO ORDER at 5:11 PM

1. ROLL CALL

Quorum was determined to be present.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to discuss a motion to establish solidarity with sexual assault survivors.

Moved: Corey Seconded: Kaitlynn

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A01 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to limit debate to 2 minutes, and to allow 3 people for and 3 people against for discussion in each motion.

Moved: Dan Seconded: Corey

Dan: There's a lot to cover in the agenda, anything that can be done can be done in a 2 minute span of time and limits rambling.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A02 CARRIED

3. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: M01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the October 23, 2014 Special General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Rhiannon Seconded: Corey

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: M01 CARRIED

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MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: M02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the February 25, 2015 Special General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Kaitlynne Seconded: Kasey

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: M02 CARRIED

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Executive Committee reviewed some of the activities of the Union for the 2015-16 term.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: E01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the powerpoint is circulated instead of executive presentations, and executive members will take questions later in the interest of time.

Moved: Kathleen 2nd: Corey

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: E02 CARRIED

6. MOTIONS SERVED WITH NOTICE

A. Motion to Amend the Union Bylaws

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM N01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current Union bylaws be repealed and replaced by the draft bylaws as circulated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for the 2016-2017 year, the following process be used to fill Councillor positions:

- The following Councillors shall be appointed by the Faculty or Community Society representing that particular group:
- Twelve Faculty Representatives, with one representative from each of the following faculties:
 - Faculty of Agriculture
 - Faculty of Architecture and Planning
 - Faculty of Arts and Social Science
 - Faculty of Computer Science

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- Faculty of Dentistry
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Science
- Seven Community Representatives, with one representative from each of the following Communities:
 - Aboriginal students;
 - Black students;
 - International students;
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer students;
 - Students with disabilities;
 - Students living in residence; and
 - Women students.
- In the event that there are multiple societies representing a constituency, the societies shall jointly appoint a representative. Where agreement cannot be made, each society will be permitted to recommend a representative and Council will appoint someone from the Society nominees.
- If there is not a society currently representing that community, the Nominating Committee shall recommend a representative to be ratified by Council.

Moved: Nicholson Seconded: Dylan

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N02

Whereas any appeal process deals with extremely sensitive information;

Whereas members on appeal committees will be discussing potentially controversial matters;

Whereas committee meetings should be a safe place for committee members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw 9.6.h be amended to read:

“The Elections Appeals Committee shall, at the request of any candidate in an election or campaign team in an election, review a decision of the Elections Committee to determine if it is in line with the DSU Act, Bylaws, and Policies. Deliberations on questions related to any such request shall be held in camera.”

Moved: Corey DeGagné Seconded: Kathleen

Corey: I think this is a great idea for this committee. There is one year that there was a heated election and everyone who was on council was split, and there was a lot of appeal sent to this board. And if that happened, the members on the committee should feel as though they can express themselves. The amendment

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is that the discussions should be held in camera, so you can feel like you're in a safe place when discussing controversial subjects.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N02 CARRIED

Dylan: We are doing this to keep it transparent and engaging all students.

Dan: We went out and we found out a law firm to do a comprehensive sweep of our bylaws and they found things that we needed to change or weren't of our best standards. We created a committee of students to look over the comments over the year by the lawfirm and create a comprehensive set of bylaws by what the lawfirm suggested. Those bylaws went back to the law firm for review, then they came back and our council referred them to our Board of Operations who had an opportunity to make reviews, make edits, and went back to the committee and the law firm for another review. It was brought back to the Board of Operations where it was said that it looked good. They were referred back to our council and we decided that it's okay to refer it to our AGM. Our process has been just under a year in total. One thing is to limit our council size, put representatives to representative committees, redistributed Senate members to a Senate caucus.

Motion to extend speaking time: Moved by Kaitlynne, Second: Aaron, motion to extend speaking time carried

Dan: Often times there's only a small group of students that make high level decisions, we decided to disseminate their responsibilities to various committees. The judicial board was a 3 student committee that we went to for rulings or if there was a challenge on our bylaw, which is not proper practice since they are not actual lawyers but students. What we've done is created an elections appeals committee who will be appointed at the start of the year to avoid biases, and there will be law students as part of that process. That outlines the major changes; there were other changes to make bylaws more readable since they were tough to navigate. These are much more comprehensive and flow a lot better.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motions are accepted in an omnibus.

Moved: Corlyn Seconded: Bart S.

Bart: Would like to pull section 6

Corlyn: 4.1 is pulled out.

Bart: I don't know if we can go through and approve everything without talking about the changes, but I think we can discuss it in the omnibus.

Corlyn: I don't understand how this works right now; how will we approve the

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bylaws without approving all the things we've pulled out?

Greg: We approve everything except what we've pulled out

Kathleen: It's to prevent everything from not passing if the assembly disagrees with one of the changes. Everything that people agree with will be passed in omnibus while things that are pulled out will be subject to a vote.

Corlyn: Everything that is pulled out will be approved individually?

Greg: Yes

Dan: Any changes will take effect on May 1st.

Corlyn: wishes to pull out 4.2.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N03 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws and the agenda as a whole be approved at the same time.

Moved: Jeremy Banks Second: Aaron Prosper

Dan: The pieces that you pull out, you can put them back in with a resolution to whatever is pulled out.

Corlyn: I'd like to speak against voting all in one and then going through the amendments, we wouldn't vote to pass it. I'd like to vote for the omnibus.

Jeremy: If we passed the omnibus parts without approving the other pieces, we might have two section 7s that overlap or contradict each other, or two section 6's that overlap or contradict each other. We should approve the whole thing.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N04 FAILED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N05

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws are approved, minus the amendments that have been pulled out (all of 6, 4.1 and 4.2) pulled out and the second BE IT RESOLVED clause.

Moved: Dan Second: Andrew

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N05 CARRIED

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Katie Douglas: wishes to pull out Section 9. Section is pulled from the omnibus by unanimous consent.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N06

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws are amended by adding section 4.1.i reading “program representatives from any program levied society that wishes to have faculty representation split by program”

Moved: Corlyn Seconded: Bart

Corlyn: A lot of faculties have programs that can't be represented by just one person, for example Management and Commerce. As a program levied society, it is responsible to have a seat on council as well.

Bart: How many more people will be added if every program wants to be represented?

Corlyn: Based on this list, I saw that there is 19 levy'd program societies, however in terms of which faculties these would impact, there would be Faculties of Architecture and Planning, Graduate Studeis, Health Professions, Science, and Management.

Name inaudible: Even though there'd be 19 more, which would double Council membership, this would allow for things like chemical engineering and industrial engineering, materials engineering, mining engineering, and mechanical engineering to all become levied societies and deserve a seat on council. This could become a real disaster.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N06 FAILED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N07

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 6.5 be amended by adding “j. Committee meetings may be held in person or via teleconference at the discretion of the chair.”

Moved: Bart Seconded: Dan

Bart: This would make it easier for committees to meet more frequently and to do the work assigned to them.

Name inaudible: this should state that members can attend in person or via teleconference.

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John: We don't need to record how people are attending, it's fine if they are teleconferencing or in person as long as they are attending.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N07 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N08

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 4.1 be amended to include mention of proportional representation for faculties and communities.

Moved: Amr

Amr: Section 4.1H. My problem is that this setup, there's over 15% international students and will soon be 20% but we only have 5% of the vote. We need to have fair representation. With This setup, we only have one international student on council and we need to work on that. As well as aboriginal students, etc. We need to address this and have a system where we address this. I would like to make the amendment that these seats will be given in according to representation in the student population.

Chair requests specific wording for the amendment. The motion is tabled until after the next order of business to allow the mover time to prepare the language of the amendment.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N09

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws be further amended by adding a bylaw 12, reading:

Bylaw 12: External Groups

12.1 The Union shall not join any external advocacy group, that proposes to charge fees to either the union or its members, if the group's by-laws, policies, constitution, or any governing documents would prevent the union from ceasing membership through a process outlined in the Union's own constitution.

12.2 The Union shall be able to terminate membership in any external organization through a majority vote at a General Meeting

Moved: Bart Seconded: Corlyn

Bart: This prevents the DSU from joining an external advocacy group such as CFS, Students NS, or CASA if we are not able to leave at a general meeting. Recently we were able to leave Students NS when we discovered that that there were corrupted things happening. This language is important to maintain so we

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don't get locked into an organization in the long term when its not doing good work.

Kit Moran: By adopting this, my concern is that it would unallow us to make contract commitments with external groups/contracts that the DSU has outside the university and certain contract laws have predetermined times.

Corlyn: Would like to support the motion, it's not smart to get caught in anything if the student body decides to leave, based on other bylaws in the group. It allows students to be part of associations and allows us to leave when we don't want to pay fees to a society.

John: The way the Societies Act works is that once you're an organizational member of another organization you're bound by those bylaws. As the DSU is an independent organization, it's not bound by anything else so we only follow our own policies. But once you're in, regardless of the organization, you have to follow your own bylaws and the bylaws of an external organization. If we wanted to join any other coalition such as the Nova Scotia Post Secondary Education Coalition or CCPA, these bylaws would apply. I'm not sure it'd prevent us from joining them, but it's better resolved through policy. We could create a bylaw mandating a certain policy to exist. It wouldn't prevent us from joining, so I don't see the point of the amendment.

Aaron: I'd like to speak for the motion, mainly because I'd like to remind everyone of the case that happened at Cape Breton University. Their student union had issues in their bylaws when they were part of an external advocacy group. The student membership voted to leave the group, but because of the process went against the union's own constitution. A bylaw like this would protect us from what happened at CBU. They got billed for a \$3 million dollar lawsuit.

Jasper: My concern is that external advocacy can be beneficial....I'm concerned about a body representing a school of this size. Making a decision without insufficient oversight.

Member against: This won't protect the union from what people think it will. Not sure that this will help our union.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N09 CARRIED

Return to debate on MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N08

Language of the proposed bylaw amendment is amended by the mover to read:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 4.1.g be amended to read “a minimum of 12 faculty representatives with additional members be allocated by proportion of enrollment with a cap of 2 per faculty.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 4.1.h be amended to read “a minimum of 7 community representatives, with 1 from each of the following communities and additional representatives by proportion of student enrollment, with a cap of 2 per community group”

Moved: Amr Seconded: Kasey

Amr: The reason why I proposed this is that there's some faculties not represented, like management and commerce, there's no commerce rep even though they're much bigger than management. Same with the international students – not enough representation. A student group that has more students should have more votes.

Rhiannon: I'm against this. It undoes the work of trying to make council concise in general. The point of management and commerce, it's that it's Faculty of Management which includes Commerce, and a commerce student could get that. I think this is backtracking from what we're trying to accomplish with council.

Alexandra: Same thoughts as Rhiannon: this doubles council and we're working hard to minimize the position. I think it's important not to make the council bigger.

Michael: I'd like to be for this because the system will be more represented for, but unfortunately this is not logistically possible. How many international students consider themselves black? That way you've combined two sections, what point would you use to use your membrance – there's too much crossover and overlap and can't function properly.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N10

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the speakers list on the motion at hand is extended by 2 more speakers each for for and against.

Moved: Callahan Second: Aaron

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N10 CARRIED

Corlyn: Point of information: in terms of faculty representation being allocated by proportion of enrollment, what faculties would this impact by current enrolment levels?

John: These are estimates we would have one 1 rep per faculty and equity constituency and the following would have two: Arts and Social Sciences, Engineering, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Management, Science, International Students, Residence Students, and Women. This would be 35 in total roughly.

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Reah: Difficulty with logistics of organizing this. Rounding up to 2 and rounding down to 1 is hard. Law students is a small faculty and we have one representation, don't know how much more we'd achieve with this.

Angela: I understand that this does increase council, but it only adds 9 people. I think there's a lot of disappointment from people who represent larger faculties because we make up a significant proportion of the population at dal, and that means that we should be allowed a stronger voice/more amplified voice and with the situation of community reps: I don't think adding people would not be as big an issue here. The specific number needs to be reached.

Kasey: Angela just said everything I was going to say. To reiterate that, the faculties like Science are big but it wouldn't seem right that we'd have the same representation as Law. Could we vote separately on the two, or will it be joined?

Chair says that it is possible to vote on them separately.

Callahan: in terms of selection of the DSU council members is different for faculty, I believe with the faculty of arts I was wondering how the process works here – commerce and management select theirs individually, how would the selection of this occur?

Dylan: For selection, every program faculty puts their reps forward and council decides. Next year, every student in the faculty of management votes directly through elections for that representative.

Amr: To answer Michael's point: we already have overlap in representatives, it depends on what your job is on council that determines what you do there. I don't think that will be a problem. We are only adding 9 seats, and a lot of universities are using this proportion of enrolment. I don't think it's a big problem to add about 9 more representatives to make it fair.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N11

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the motion is divided into the amendment on 4.1.G and the amendment on 4.1.H.*

Moved: Bart Second: Aaron

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N11 FAILED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N10 FAILED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N12

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws be amended so that 4.1 reflects the composition of council as it was in the previous constitution.

Moved: Jeremy

Point of order by Bart: You should put down 4.1 and then vote on it.

Corey: the motion we just passed stated that the previous constitution is no longer in place, if we vote no to 4.1, we have no composition of council.

Chair requests specific wording of motion. MOTION N12 is tabled until after the next order of business to allow the mover to formulate the amendment.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N13

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 9.b be amended to read: “the Chief Returning Officer shall not be an Executive Officer, Councillor, committee member, or employee, of the union for the duration of their term, except for sitting on the elections committee.

Moved: Katie Secoded: Rhiannon

Katie: It’s important to have the Chief Returning officer to have them sit on the elections committee because they can oversee everything.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N13 CARRIED

Chair rules any further amendments out of order, stating that a year-long process was followed to arrive at this package and there are other avenues for amendments to be proposed, and time is limited.

Debate resumes on MOTION 2016-04-06: N12

MOTION 2016-04-06: N12

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 4.1 be amended to read:

“4.1 Council shall include the following people, who must be members of the Union at the time of their election and during their term in office, and who shall be elected by the membership at large:

(a) the President;

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(b) the Vice President (Academic and External);

(c) the Vice President (Internal);

(d) the Vice President (Student Life);

(e) the Vice President (Finance and Operations);

(f) two (2) student members of the Board of Governors; Council shall also include the following people, who must be members of the Union, whom are paying the Union fee at the time of their election and during their term of office, who shall be elected by, and be members of existing and operating Societies:

(a) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Architecture and Planning;

(b) two (2) representatives from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences;

(c) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Computer Science;

(d) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Dentistry;

(e) two (2) representatives from the Faculty of Graduate Studies;

(f) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Engineering from Studley Campus;

(g) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Engineering from Sexton Campus;

(h) two (2) representatives from the Faculty of Health Professions;

(i) one (1) representative from the Schulich School of Law;

(j) two (2) representatives from the Rowe School of Business; one of whom shall represent the Faculty of Management and one whom shall represent the Faculty of Commerce

(k) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Medicine;

(l) two (2) representatives from the Faculty of Science;

(m) one (1) representative from the Aboriginal Students' Community;

(n) one (1) representative from the Black Students' Community;

(o) two (2) representative from the International Students' Community;

(p) one (1) representative from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Students' Community;

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(q) two (2) representatives from the Residence Students' Community;

(r) one (1) representative from the Women Students' Community; and

(s) one (1) representative from the Faculty of Agriculture

(t) one (1) representative from the Students with Disabilities Community”

Moved: Jeremy Seconded: Corlyn

Jeremy: this big text is our composition of council as it existed in 2014 composition aside from the Senate representatives who are now appointed by faculties. The reason I mention this is because we're not satisfied with the representation, but this has been working effectively and a key part is that we don't have an assessment review of an appropriate representation process. Despite governance look at the most effective processes, it doesn't look at the most representational processes. My motion is to return to the representation we had of council currently so that we can review this in more depth.

Point of information: Does this conflict with the bylaw 9 we have passed?

Kaley: I think that it would be fine in the case of where commerce and management would be considered faculty level societies, even though they don't represent everyone in their faculty. It could be challenged but its not out of order.

Dan: I'm speaking against. I take the points that Jeremy brought forward, I'd like to say that the council is not effective, the main reason we wanted a difference – it took years to show that council meetings were large and dragged on. The old way was poor and non-functional.

Corlyn: I think the way that council is made up is good and effective. If in previous years it didn't work then the solution is hiring a better chair – I don't think the way to make more people heard is to cut down on people.

Michael: You get rid of the disability chair; that has been fully lacking of the school. It's not functional for people with disabilities. The way it was set up last year, puts it back to a heavy board with 2 or 3 people representing one group and 1 person representing one group. Everything we said no for to that other amendment, we have to say no to this one too.

Bart: I am speaking against this motion. I see why faculty of commerce want more representation, but as someone who reps a smaller organization, when it comes to DSU as a whole, we talk about high-level things. So if you're a rep you can represent a different variety of groups who have different ideals and needs, going back to the way the board was wasn't effective – we went overtime, people aren't engaged and the vote doesn't count for as much.

Amr: I think we can add a chair for a disability student group, we can amend to add one chair from the disability representative.

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MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N13

BE IT RESOLVED THAT amendment from motion N12 be amended, by adding one representative from the disability community.

Moved: Amr Seconded: Corlyn

Michael: I support disability representation but not within this structure. This Council is too big.

Amr: The reason I brought this up, is a point that was brought up is that the council last year didn't represent the disability group on campus. This isn't a perfect setup but I hope people like this.

Aaron: I will agree with Michael, this motion as it stands, there's no proportional of representation, there's no voice for people with disability, LGBTQ, aboriginal, the only equity seats that do have a voice because in that motion have 2 seats are international community and people with residency. I think the aboriginal community has the lowest % of aboriginal people – 2% - across the country. Why aren't aboriginal people coming to our school? There's no representation, no voice, so I think the new amendment would give that voice and make it more appealing to aboriginal students and bring our population up to the national average – 4-5%. This amendment will push people away like aboriginal people.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N13 CARRIED

Point of information: what does this motion state on members at large?

Answer: it keeps them.

Point of information: would this motion make it so that Council appoints members at large, which was identified as a major governance issue?

Answer: yes

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N12 FAILED

Corlyn: Point of order: don't think that we should cut off amendments, a lot of people are unhappy with the proposed council structure. I don't know why we would disallow people to make changes.

Chair: The ruling was made on the basis of the timing.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N14

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ruling of the chair is challenged and further amendments can be made.

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Moved: Corlyn Second: Callahan

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N14 FAILED

Call for quorum count. Quorum is not currently met. Recess for 15 minutes to re-establish quorum. Meeting back to order 7:16 pm

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N15

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the assembly accept the bylaws as amended in this meeting.

Moved: Dylan Second: Kathlen

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N15 CARRIED

Motion to amend previously adopted MOTION 2016-04-06: N01. Unanimous consent to consider an amendment; mover and seconder of original motion retained.

Bart: Who is appointing equity seats for this term?

Kaley: if a society that represents those equity groups, they will be the ones who appoint that person. If it's multiple societies, the societies have to agree and if there's no agreement – they'll each appoint one. Any society that represents a subsection of that group will not be considered in the multiple societies. For example, South House appoints the rep for Women's Students, anyone in Women in Engineering can go to a south House meeting to vote for Women's students – wouldn't be conflicting. If it was non society like students with disabilities or Black students, it would be through the nominating committee.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N16

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motion be amended to read “if there's not a society representing that community, the DSU shall be responsible for organizing a community meeting where members of the community will nominate their representative.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this transition process be the process for electing members of council up until there's a new process approved through a GM

Moved: Katie Second: Corey

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Katie: Speaking from the experience as a student with a disability, a woman, and a queer student –if there's no society representing that community, the DSU can organize a committee to represent that student. It's bad to arbitrarily assign someone to represent someone, it should be doing that at organized community meetings. We don't have policies for electing people for council, so if we weren't to make the second part of that amendment, we wouldn't have something for next year potentially.

Michael: I don't agree with this because there are several Black groups and when we elected, those groups got together and chose. We got together and voted for people that are our peers. As far as the disability one, because it's a new one, there might be a process to that.

Kati George-Jim: I am in favour. This facilitates an area which groups can hold a meeting whether or not they have the capacity to do it themselves, like aboriginal students don't have the capacity necessarily to hold it on their own so this encourages students to meet. So this is not just a group of white students voting in favor to elect a black student, disabled, aboriginal student etc; an area where people can meet and vote for their reps and I like that idea.

Kit: Is this just for this upcoming year?

Clarification: Yes.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N16 CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion on Faculty of Arts and Social Science Budget Cuts

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R01

WHEREAS the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is facing significant funding cuts due to the Enrollment-Based Budget Allocations (ERBA); and

WHEREAS the result of funding cuts have included required courses being cut, fewer Teaching Assistants being hired, and faculty not being replaced when they retire; and

WHEREAS many students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences are unable to graduate because of cuts to their programs and are forced to switch majors and minors to fulfil degree requirements; and

WHEREAS the current ERBA funding model forces faculties to fight for resources rather than promoting collegiality and collaboration; and

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WHEREAS the current ERBA funding model is not sustainable and will negatively impact all Faculties in the long run, not just the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union oppose the current funding cuts being faces by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union sign the attached letter in support of investment in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Moved: Angela Hou Seconded: Kaitlyne

Angela: We have a letter, it came out with the other info for this meeting. What is basically going on is that there's been funding cuts and public funding cuts, were losing the ability to operate and the university refuses to basically change the system in which funds are allocated and not just the faculty of arts and social sciences, enrollment based budget allcations will affect other faculties that have previously benefited for it. We want to get support from the general membership of the DSU to stop cutting cuts to academia.

Point of order by Katie: I had two amendments. When will we return to deal with the second amendment.

Chair: after this motion

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R01 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to discuss motion N01 again.

Moved: Katie Seconded: Corey

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R02 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the motion is amended by adding “that this transition policy exists until there is a new representation policy passed through the AGM.”

Moved: Katie Seconded: Corey

Katie: the reason I'm proposing this: in the election and referenda bylaws, there's a bylaw 9.2C and D it says voting for a faculty rep will be as determined by

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applicable policies. Those haven't been developed yet, we should have this transition policy.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendment be amended by striking out “passed through the AGM” and inserting “ratified through the council.”

Moved: Dan **Seconded:** Rhiannon

Dan: Policies are ratified through the council.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R04 CARRIED

*Michael: I'm concerned about how this interacts with groups that do want to appoint their own representative. Whaty would happen if the processes conflict?
Kaley: It would be at the discretion of Council. The society would have the right to impeach their representative.*

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R03 CARRIED

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AGM adjourn and the remainder of the agenda is referred to Council.

Moved: Dylan. **Seconded:** Inaudible

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R04 FAILED

B. Motion for DSU Support of LSS Convocation Date Change

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R05

WHEREAS the Law Students' Society (LSS) is a part of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU); AND WHEREAS Dalhousie Schulich School of Law is a national law school with students from across the country

AND WHEREAS prior to the 2014-2015 academic year the Law Students' Society (LSS) convocation date took place on or about the third week in May;

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AND WHEREAS convocation was scheduled on or about the third week in May to accommodate law students who were writing the bar exam or beginning their articling job;

AND WHEREAS in the 2014-2015 academic year the University condensed convocation for the entire university into one week;

AND WHEREAS the convocation week scheduled by the University is for the final week in May;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia bar course and Nova Scotia articling job both begin the final week in May;

AND WHEREAS some students may not attend convocation because of the scheduling conflict;

AND WHEREAS the University should try to accommodate all students to attend convocation as it is an important ceremony;

AND WHEREAS there was no scheduling conflict between convocation and any provinces bar exam prior to the changes made in the 2014-2015 academic year;

AND WHEREAS the Law Students' Society is seeking support from the DSU on this convocation scheduling issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the DSU declare a formal resolution in support of the LSS' efforts to schedule a convocation date that accommodates all law students.

Moved: Jennifer Hand **Seconded:** Kaitlynnne

Jennifer: As of last year, the university condensed all the LSS's convocations date to the third week of May forces students to decide whether they should come to convocation, take time off work, etc. What we want here is to get support from the DSU and have conversations with the president of Dalhousie.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R05 CARRIED

C. Discussion on the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R06

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this discussion is tabled.

Moved: Dan **Second:** Corey

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Desouza not present.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R06 CARRIED

D. Discussion on solidary with sexual assault survivors

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R07

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda is amended to allow for a motion on sexual violence to be added.

Moved: Kaitlynn Second: Colleen

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R07 PASSES

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R08

WHEREAS The Brandon University has been in the news recently regarding silencing sexual assault victims;

WHEREAS The DSU advocates for the safety of everyone, and supports all sexual assault survivors;

WHEREAS sexual assault survivors should never be forced to sign a ‘gag order.’

Be it resolved that the DSU stand in solidarity with sexual assault survivors.

Be it further resolved that the DSU write an open letter expressing their solidarity and support with sexual assault survivors.

Moved: Corey Second: Colleen

Corey: At Brandon University, if you are sexually assaulted you are subject to sign a gag order and you can't talk about it to anyone except to councillors or you may be expelled. I wanted to raise a motion to show solidarity and write a letter to support sexual assault survivors.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: R08 CARRIED

8. QUESTION AND ANSWER

No questions.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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John: executive reports are available in paper form and will be online.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Danielle Seconded: Hassen

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: A04 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Dalhousie Student Union
Policy & Governance Department
September 18, 2020

Notes on Bylaw Amendments Made at April 6, 2016 Annual General Meeting

Context

The DSU convened an Annual General Meeting on April 6, 2016 and approved a revised set of bylaws. A number of amendments to the proposed bylaws were made within the meeting, some of which were out of order under the governing documents of the organization. This document outlines the applicable bylaw and Robert's Rules sections in order to identify which amendments were out of order and are therefore not reflected in the bylaws approved at the AGM, despite being passed within the meeting.

Governing Documents

At the 2016 AGM, the DSU was operating under the Constitution that was approved in 2014. The constitution included the following sections concerning amendments to the bylaws served at a General Meeting (**emphasis added**).

Bylaw IX – General Meetings
General Meetings regarding Amendment and Revision

5. Where the General Meeting is called to consider business arising out of By-law XI, **notice of the General Meeting and copies of the text of any proposed amendments or revisions to these By-laws shall be published at least two (2) weeks before the General Meeting is convened.** The Executive and Council shall make every reasonable attempt to publicize the time, date and location of the General Meeting.

Bylaw XI – Amendment and Revision
By-laws

1. A General Meeting may amend or revise these By-laws, by a majority vote of those present, **subject to procedures set down in these By-laws.**

Proposed amendments from Council

2. Proposed amendments or revisions to these By-laws originating from Council shall not be considered by a General Meeting until:

(a) notice of motion of such proposed amendments or revisions has been given at a meeting of Council;

(b) Council has referred such proposed amendments or revisions for the consideration of the Board, which shall consider the amendments or revisions within two (2) weeks of the original notice of motion; and

(c) Council has received and reviewed a report from the Board, and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present at least two weeks (2) subsequent to the original notice of motion, voted to refer the proposed amendments or revisions to these By-laws for the consideration of a General Meeting, in accordance with By-law IX.

Proposed amendments by petition

3. Proposed amendments or revisions of these By-laws that do not originate from Council, shall not be considered by a General Meeting until a bona fide petition signed by 10% of the members of the Union proposing such an amendment or revision is presented to the President; where after, they shall refer such amendment or revision for the consideration of a General Meeting in accordance with By-law IX.

The Constitution and Policies of the Union at the time also recognized the use of Robert's Rules of Order. In the absence of additional detail within the constitution on the possibility for bylaw amendments to be amended during a meeting, we can refer to this resource for additional regulations. Robert's Rules states (**emphasis added**):

(Section 57, p.594-595) Amending a Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

While amendments to the proposed bylaw amendment can be made in both the first and second degrees (as applicable) and can be adopted by a majority vote without notice, **they are subject to restrictions on the extent of the changes they propose.** If the bylaws require previous notice for their amendment (as they should) [...] **no amendment to a bylaw amendment is in order that increases the modification of the article or provision to be amended [...].** This restriction prevents members from proposing a slight change and then taking advantage of absent members by moving a greater one as an amendment to the amendment.

Permissibility of Amendments to Proposed Amendments Passed at 2016 AGM

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw 9.6.h be amended to read:

"The Elections Appeals Committee shall, at the request of any candidate in an election or campaign team in an election, review a decision of the Elections Committee to determine if it is in line with the DSU Act, Bylaws, and Policies. Deliberations on questions related to any such request shall be held in camera."

OUT OF ORDER. This amendment added additional language that required Elections Appeals Committee to discuss decisions by the Elections Committee in camera. This is beyond the scope of the original amendment.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N07

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 6.5 be amended by adding “j. Committee meetings may be held in person or via teleconference at the discretion of the chair.”

OUT OF ORDER. This amendment stipulated that meetings of standing committees could be held via teleconference or in person at the discretion of the chair. This is beyond the scope of the original amendment.

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N08

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws be further amended by adding a bylaw 12, reading:

Bylaw 12: External Groups

12.1 The Union shall not join any external advocacy group, that proposes to charge fees to either the union or its members, if the group’s by-laws, policies, constitution, or any governing documents would prevent the union from ceasing membership through a process outlined in the Union’s own constitution.

12.2 The Union shall be able to terminate membership in any external organization through a majority vote at a General Meeting

OUT OF ORDER. This amendment inserted a new section into the proposed bylaws. There had been a section on External Advocacy Groups in the 2014 bylaws, but this amendment contained different stipulations and language and was therefore out of order in the process by which it was approved. This is covered under section 57 (p. 595-596) of Robert’s Rules of Order, which reads (**emphasis added**):

“Amendments to strike out a sentence, paragraph, or section deserve special care. In such cases, **the existing bylaw is not itself open to consideration, but only the amendment.** If notice is given to strike out a provision of the bylaws and some members feel it should be retained with certain changes whose substance would be outside the scope of that notice those members should immediately give notice of the amendments to the existing provisions which they think are advisable.”

MOTION 2016-04-06-GM: N13

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws section 9.b be amended to read: “the Chief Returning Officer shall not be an Executive Officer, Councillor, committee member, or employee, of the union for the duration of their term, except for sitting on the elections committee.

IN ORDER. This amendment stipulated that the Chief Returning Officer will sit on the Elections Committee. Under the 2014 Constitution, the CRO was a member of the Elections Committee, and thus this amendment is within the scope of the original amendment.

From: DSU Policy and Research Coordinator <dsu.policy@Dal.Ca>

Date: Friday, October 25, 2019 at 9:42 AM

To: DSU President Email <dsupres@dal.ca>

Subject: 2016 bylaw amendment

Hi Aisha,

I've been looking into the question of whether or not Bylaw 12 in the 2016 bylaw package was appropriately adopted. Here's what I've found:

- The 2014 bylaws state any bylaw amendments must be introduced by Council or by Member petition.
 - In the case of Council, a Councilor must provide Notice of Motion prior to a discussion and vote. If Council accepts the noticed amendments, the Membership must be provided those amendments two weeks in advance of a General Meeting where they can have a discussion and vote.
 - In the case of Member petition, it requires 10% of the Membership and two weeks notice to the Membership as well.
- In respect to the 2016 bylaws, Council was served Notice of Motion for the new set of bylaws but it did not include any bylaw addressing External Organizations. At the Council meeting on March 23rd, 2016 where Council discussed and voted on the new bylaw package, a Councilor added a motion introducing a new bylaw to do with External Organizations, however, the motion failed to carry and it was not included in the bylaw package noticed to the Membership two weeks in advance of the AGM in April.
- At the AGM, Bylaw 12 "External Organizations" was added to the agenda without appropriate notice to the Membership.

Given the above circumstances, the 2016 Bylaw 12 is not enforceable as its introduction was not in accordance with bylaw or policy at that time.

Please let me know if you have any follow up questions!

Best,
Meghan

Meghan McDonald
Policy & Governance Coordinator
Dalhousie Student Union
E-mail dsu.policy@dal.ca
Phone 902-494-1282
Website dsu.ca



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2016 Bylaws

1. Originally noticed to Members:

Previously there was no term 6.5j.

Amendment made on AGM floor without notice:

6.5: Standing Committee Meetings be added to section J. Committee meetings may be held in person or via teleconference at discretion of the chair.

2. Originally noticed to Members:

9.4b. The Chief Returning Officer shall not be an Executive Officer, Councillor, Committee member, or employee of the Union for the duration of their term.

Amendment made on the AGM floor without notice:

9B be amended to the chief returning officer shall not be an Executive Officer, Councillor, committee member, or employee, of the union for the duration of their term, **except for sitting on the elections committee.**

3. Originally noticed to Members:

9.6h The Elections Appeals Committee shall, at the request of any candidate in an election or campaign team in an election, review a decision of the Elections Committee to determine if it is in line with the DSU Act, Bylaws, and Policies.

Amendment made on AGM floor without notice:

9.6h "The Elections Appeals Committee shall, at the request of any candidate in an election or campaign team in an election, review a decision of the Elections Committee to determine if it is in line with the DSU Act, Bylaws, and Policies. **Deliberations on questions related to any such request shall be held in camera.**"



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To whom it may concern,

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) stands in full support of the work of the Indigenous Studies Major Curriculum Committee and Advisory Council and of the development of an Indigenous Studies major and honours program at Dalhousie University. We hope to see the Committee's applications for funding to develop these programs approved. This program is a necessary addition to Dalhousie University's campus. Because we live and learn on Turtle Island, we must remove the barriers preventing Indigenous People from teaching others about and exercising their way of life on their land.

Dalhousie University is located on ancestral, unsundered, and unceded Mi'kmaw territory. We recognize this truth in our Senate meetings, Board of Governors meetings, Induction, and Convocation ceremonies with land acknowledgments and yet we continue to leave this truth largely unexamined in our classrooms. An Indigenous major and honours program will allow our community and students to learn and understand what those acknowledgements truly mean. Until Dalhousie University develops content that rightfully teaches about Indigenous cultures these land acknowledgements, while a beautiful symbol, are largely not understood by our students. Stronger action and education are needed.

The Indigenous major and honours program would allow students from all over the world to be educated on Indigenous cultures, languages, and histories in the territory currently known as Canada; it would also give Indigenous students and teachers the ability to have their knowledge recognized by an academic institution.

Due to the intricacies involved with creating an Indigenous major and honours program in a colonized space, considerable time and consultation are required to ensure that course content and course delivery accurately and respectfully reflect the values, culture, history, and language of both specific Nations, Peoples or communities and of Indigenous peoples as a whole.



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We want to emphasize that this program must be developed under the leadership of Indigenous teachers, scholars, and communities. Teaching, marking, and student experiences, in particular, may look different within this program than in other areas of Dalhousie University. It is necessary that qualified individuals who have a critical and deep understanding of the subject matter are hired to develop and teach this material. In hiring instructors for these programs, it is paramount that Dalhousie University recognize Indigenous ways of knowing and find ways to honour the wisdom and teachings of elders and knowledge-keepers who have not necessarily received post-secondary education. Finally, special consideration must be given with respect for the different ways that Indigenous students and settler students participate in spaces introducing Indigenous content. Learning the important material that will be offered in this program will be a markedly different experience for these groups of students, and both mental health and pre-existing knowledge must be considered in developing course content.

We recognize that these issues are complex, and we are confident that the Indigenous Studies Major Curriculum Committee is equipped to solve these issues and develop this major and honours program. The Committee has the benefit of personal and professional experiences and the input of the Indigenous Studies Advisory Council. On top of these resources, the time and consultation required for the development of the Indigenous Major and Honours programs requires funding. It is for these reasons that we voice our support not only for the creation of the program, but also for adequate funding to support the development process.

We have the utmost faith that the Indigenous Studies Major Curriculum Committee is prepared to develop a comprehensive Indigenous major and honours program that will enrich Dalhousie's community in new ways and reinforce the equity, diversity, and inclusion principles the University stands on. The student body is in support of this project.

Sincerely,

The Dalhousie Student Union Council



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm stinson'.

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Seelemann'.

Erica Seelemann, Vice President Academic & External

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanna Stewart'.

Hanna Stewart, Vice President Internal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isa Wright'.

Isa Wright, Vice President Finance & Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jad Ghiz'.

Jad Ghiz, Vice President Student Life

Fatima Beydoun, Board of Governors Representative

Aparna Mohan, Board of Governors Representative

Nik Isaac-Pictou, Indigenous Students Community Representative

Claudia Castillo-Prent, Black Students Community Representative

Isabela Paes de Mello de Camargo, International Students Community Representative

Drew Guyan, LGBTQ Students Community Representative

Kathrine Guevara, Women Students Community Representative

Robert Larsen, Faculty of Agriculture Representative

Zacharia Scinocca, Faculty of Dentistry Representative

William Luton, Faculty of Engineering Representative

Shane Isler, Faculty of Law Representative

Cameron Penny, Faculty of Medicine Representative

Sahl Zahoor, Faculty of Computer Science Representative

For Council October 22, 2020

WHEREAS the DSU is located on the unceded and unsurrendered lands of the Mi'kmaq nation and fulfilling our treaty obligations involves supporting our Mi'kmaw and Indigenous members as well as the peoples of this land more broadly; AND

WHEREAS the Mi'kmaq have an inherent right to sovereignty, self-determination, and safety on their territory; AND

WHEREAS the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed between the Mi'kmaq and the British in 1752, 1760, and 1761 included an agreement that the British would not interfere with Mi'kmaw hunting, fishing, and farming, and this agreement was affirmed in 1999 Marshall Decision in the Supreme Court of Canada which stated that Mi'kmaw have the right to earn a "moderate livelihood" through these activities; AND

WHEREAS the failure of Canadian federal governments to respect Mi'kmaw rights and to collaborate on defining "moderate livelihood" led the Sipekne'katik First Nation to launch their own self-governed fishery on September 17, 2020, the 21st anniversary of the Marshall Decision; AND

WHEREAS settler fishers employed by commercial fisheries have responded to this assertion of treaty rights with violence, intimidation, and anti-Indigenous racism, in some cases claiming that their actions are motivated by concern for the environment, conservation, and the preservation of lobster stocks despite significant evidence to discredit this claim; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU stand wholeheartedly in solidarity with Sipekne'katik First Nation, with the Mi'kmaq asserting their treaty rights, and with the Indigenous people who have been demonstrating and defending these rights despite threats and acts of violence; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU follow the leadership and direction of the Dalhousie Indigenous Student Collective (DISC) in determining the best ways to show support and stand in solidarity on this issue; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU share educational content relating to Mi'kmaq rights and this ongoing situation on social media and encourage members to get informed and to show solidarity; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU condemn the use of "conservation" as an excuse for anti-Indigenous racism and affirm that decolonization and affirming Indigenous sovereignty are necessary actions for countering environmental destruction.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, November 5, 2020 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams

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 2020-11-05-3.1

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 2020-11-05-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on October 22, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-11-05-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ and _____ be appointed to the vacant Faculty Representative seats on Oversight Committee.

MOTION 2020-11-05-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee:

8. Presentations

8.1 Provost Search Committee Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by Provost Search Committee Lead Laura Godsoe

Documents attached

8.2 LGBTQ+ Admissions Questions Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by Vice President, Academic and External

Documents attached

8.2 DLI & Arriving International Students Consultation (20 mins)

Presented by President

Documents Attached

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-11-05-11.1

WHEREAS Council struck the Response Committee on July 30, 2020 and mandated that the committee report at the last Council meeting of the 2020/21 Fall term and the 2020/21 Winter Term; AND

WHEREAS there have been delays in filling the seats on the committee, such that work has not been able to begin throughout the summer or early fall; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Response Committee will not report at the final Council meeting of the 2020/2021 Fall term but will instead report at the final Council meeting held in February 2021. The mandate to deliver a final report at the final Council meeting of the 2020-2021 Academic Year will be unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Response Committee membership be extended to allow a representative from the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service to participate in a voting capacity.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2020-11-05-11.2

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the pandemic, students at Dalhousie University have continued to express their concerns around access to campus resources, and barriers attached to online learning,

WHEREAS The Dalhousie University has claimed that students have adequate support in coping with the various health, economic and equity stressors that have become predominant at this time;

WHEREAS, since beginning of the Fall semester the University has not implemented new services or policies to help ease the pressures that online learning and coping during a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, with an increase in 3% tuition for domestic student and even more for international students, students studying at Dalhousie have only seen an increase in fees, workload and stress, paired with a decrease in resources;

WHEREAS, a recent anonymous open forum open to students studying the Faculty of Arts and Social Science provides a snapshot on some of the current barriers, concerns and frustration attached to this new learning environment faced by students;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU lobby the University to implement policy changes and services that will help address some of the concerns that have been outlined by students

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU release a statement outlining students concerns and calling for the University to take immediate steps to help alleviate the stressor and workload being faced by Dalhousie University students

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all councilors endorse the DSU's statement unless indicated otherwise, in writing to the DSU President, within 24 hours of the statement's circulation to council.

MOTION 2020-11-05-11.3

WHEREAS the DSU successfully advocated to the University for an alternative grading option in the 2020 Winter Semester, resulting in the ability for students to opt for "Pass/ILL" grading rather than the standard grade scale; AND

WHEREAS students have, through all forums available to them, expressed continued frustration, concern, and dissatisfaction with the online learning environment and many have reported high levels of anxiety and difficulty completing coursework this semester; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU advocate to the University for adjustments to grading that reflect the unique challenges of this semester and allow students to succeed; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU seek out input from students on which specific grading options or other academic accommodations would be most helpful through the following mediums:

- Councillors will reach out directly to their constituents to solicit input, and will forward this input on to the VPAAE along with any of their own thoughts and opinions;
- The Executive will circulate a survey to Councillors that can be used to help engage constituents;
- The Executive will seek out input from general students using the DSU's official social media channels and will update the website with this information

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU will specifically seek student input on:

- The merits of a Pass/Fail grading system compared to Pass/ILL;
- How the adjustments to grading worked for students who took advantage of them last semester;
- Which other adjustments to assessments and academics would be most beneficial to students (e.g. extension of deadlines to withdraw from classes or switch between audit/credit or changing the formats of examinations and final assessments)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the results of this consultation will be compiled, shared with Council, and presented to Senate.

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

The following motions will appear on the agenda for the Council meeting on November 19, 2020:

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed amendments to the Elections and Referenda Policy circulated to Councillors on Thursday, November 5 be approved as presented.

Moved by the President

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed amendments to the Facility Operations Policy circulated to Councillors on Thursday, November 5 be approved as presented.

Moved by the President

13.3 BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed Students With Disabilities Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.

13.4 BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed Students Living in Residence Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.

14. Announcements

14.1 Update Regarding Appointments to Council

14.2 Announcement Regarding Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings

14.2 Announcement Regarding Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination, or Transfer (AUCRETT) consultation

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: October 17-30, 2020

Council Date: November 05, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

October 19: updates from VPFO regarding executive budgets; updates on staff holiday socials and appreciation; Part-Time staff update on hiring and communication; discussion on motion for academic amnesty in Senate; update from VPSL on Redbull sponsorship agreement.

October 23: discussion on recommendations to DFA about how to communicate with students in their planned open letter to; discussion on University response to DFA negotiations and communications concerns; Director of Research & Outreach updates on Research & Outreach meeting and newsletter; Response to SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a specialized police force in Nigeria) concerns; Movember updates from VPSL.

October 26: Discussion on university call to action regarding student workload and mental health; Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and university funding discussion with VPSL; DFA update; Newsletter reminder from DR&O.

October 30: Continued discussion on student workload from VPI; discussion on third party chapter request from VPI; discussed concerns brought forward about TA's accessing CERB; Provost Search Committee consultation with executive; Archives partnership follow-up from VPFO; Pride Planning update from VPFO.

Other Meetings/Tasks

October 19: Health and Safety Meeting – general updates, discussion on Phase 3 of re-opening for November 01.

October 21: Meeting with Dal Management Society Executives to discuss event approvals.

October 21: Council Prep Meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator.

October 21: Student Senate Caucus

October 23: Staff Anti-O Training Session.

October 27: Pumpkin Carving with students & VPSL/VPI.

October 28: Year Long Planning Meeting with executive & directors.

October 28: Council Prep Meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator.

October 29: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Meeting – discussion on elections policy.

October 30: Meeting with DISC representatives.

University Affairs and Committees

October 19: Senate Planning and Governance Meeting Prep with Senate Chair – presentation of amendments to the Academic Amnesty Request for Indigenous students from October.

October 20: Board of Governors Meeting

October 21: Senate Planning and Governance Meeting – presentation of the Academic Amnesty Request for Indigenous students.

October 23: Senate Meeting

October 28: Board Academic and Student Affairs Meeting

October 28: Student Affairs/DSU Meeting

October 28: Meeting with Laura Godsoe regarding Provost, Vice President Academic Search Committee.

External and Broader Community

October 20: CTV Interview regarding DFA/DAL negotiations.

October 21: The Watch Interview regarding DFA/DAL negotiations.

October 23: CTV Interview regarding students and online learning.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

The BoG Caucus met on October 15th and the BoG met on October 20th. BoG Report attached to package.

Upcoming Dates

Reading Week: Nov 9-12



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: October 17th – 30th

Council Date: November 5th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Focus these past two weeks has mainly been on the Society Policy and figuring out a way to configure an easier society training system for the next ratification year.
- Constitution Template: This project is complete and has been uploaded to the website for the support of future re-ratification processes.
 - This resource can be used by any society interested in making a constitution to help support their organization, or for Faculty/Levy societies to create or update their constitutions prior to re-ratification submission for a quicker process. The template is available at <https://www.dsu.ca/society-administration/>.
- Funding How-To Guide: This project is also complete and available at <https://www.dsu.ca/society-administration/>.
 - This resource will help societies navigate and secure funding for future projects.
- Event Approval Process Reconfiguration: I worked with the University to simplify this process. The DSU will now review any society event for approval. This has eliminated a need for the Return To Campus Committee (RTC) to review DSU Society events and makes approval quicker for societies.
- Attended Office Anti-Oppression Training: Friday, October 23rd.
- Accessibility Fund Committee: Monday, October 26th, 2020.
 - Continued to approve and issue bursary applications.
- Adding Societies on the Website: I have recently taken this onto my portfolio.
- Loaded Ladle Outreach: I am in conversation with the Loaded Ladle about space requirements to operate on Sexton campus.
- Assisted with Pumpkin Carving Set-up: Tuesday, Oct. 27th.
- Annual Survey Update:
 - I am continuing to work on the final presentation of the Annual Survey. While data analysis has been complete for a while, there have been delays with graphic design. I plan to present the final report on the survey to council once graphics are finished.

University Affairs and Committees

- Anti-O Training Update Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 22nd, 2020
 - Meeting with HRES and Center for Learning and Teaching to discuss content review, next steps, and process to upload on Brightspace for student access.
- Meeting with DISC/DSU: October 30, 2020.
 - Discuss bettering the current relationship dynamics with DISC & the DSU to be more inclusive of consultation and collaboration.

External and Broader Community

- Meeting with North American Youth Parliament for Water: October 29th, 2020.
 - Inquiring for Chapter at Dalhousie.

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC has not met within these past two weeks.

Upcoming Dates

- N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: October 12, 2020- October 30, 2020

Council Date: November 5, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- a. Accessibility Fund Committee met on October 23 for a regular ongoing meeting to allocate funds.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
 - a. First meeting was on October 23, 2020.
 - i. Faculty and administrative members of the Ombudsperson Advisory Council (OAC) will develop a proposal based on the Stroppe Report to present to student members tentatively the week of November 23, 2020.
 - ii. Long-term goal is to hire an Ombudsperson by April 30
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
 - a. Community presentations and consultation are scheduled throughout November. The tentative dates are:
 - i. November 23, 2020 (5-6PM): Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services (DSAS and Dalhousie Law.
 - ii. November 24, 2020 (5-6PM): DSU executive and Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS)
 - iii. November 25, 2020 (6:30-7:30PM): Black Student Societies, Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective (DISC), Dalhousie International Students Association (DISA)
 - iv. November 26, 2020 (5-6PM): Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association (DASA)
 - v. November 30, 2020 (12-1PM): Town Hall Number 1, Faculty, Staff, and Students
 - vi. December 3, 2020 (9-10AM, 12-1PM, 4-5PM): Town Halls 2, 3 and 4.
3. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on flagging and avoiding oppressive content in the classroom.

4. Developing Open educational resources (OER) presentation for OER committee meeting November 4, 2020 In preparation of Senate presentation in the new year.

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Reassessing how to promote NS Needs Students

Senate Caucus Updates

1. Strong work discussing Senate's agendas from an EDI lens. Several areas of concern:
 - a. Higher academic integrity allegation rates in the international student community
 - i. Brainstorming ways to make information about academic integrity more accessible
 - b. Academic amnesty for Indigenous students
 - c. The default confidential state of all Senate sub-committees

Upcoming Dates

None to report.



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: Oct. 17th- 30th, 2020

Council Date: Nov 5th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Pumpkin Carving Fundraiser for Shinerama
 - a. Oct. 27th & 28th: Executed event

2. Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC)
 - a. Oct. 19th: Revised updates to SRCC proposal. Added list of consultations.

3. Student Life Committee
 - a. Oct. 21st: Chaired SLC meeting focused on planning for frost week.
 - b. Oct. 29th: Chaired SLC meeting finalizing plan for November and December
4. Men's Mental Health Campaign
 - a. Recorded intro video for video series

University Affairs and Committees

1. University meetings:
 - a. Oct. 20th: Met with DFA president David Westwood regarding SRCC proposal
 - b. Oct. 21st: Met with Theresa Rajack-Talley regarding SRCC proposal
 - c. Oct. 26th: Met with David Pilon regarding restarting the Mental Health Forum
 - d. Oct. 22nd: Met with Rigel Biscione & Said Msabaha regarding study halls

2. Appeals Committee

- a. Oct. 29th: Attended two appeals committee meetings regarding a Dalhousie Student in residence

External and Broader Community

1. Meeting Community Members

- a. Oct. 20th: Met with Finn Magee regarding possible partnership/ promotion of subletting site

Upcoming Dates



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Provost & Vice President, Academic Search Committee Consultation

November 05, 2020

Presenter: Laura Godsoe, Madeleine Stinson

Laura.Godsoe@dal.ca

Dsupres@dal.ca

As you are all likely aware, Dr. Frank Harvey was recently appointed as Dalhousie's acting Provost and Vice President, Academic. A search committee to propose a new Provost/VPA has convened and is now undergoing consultation with relevant stakeholders.

For reference, information on the Provost/VPA position and its responsibilities can be found [here](#).

The following questions are posed:

1. From your perspective, what are the main opportunities and challenges the new Provost & VPA will face coming into the role?
2. How would you describe the ideal Provost & VPA in terms of their experience, skills, interpersonal qualities, values, etc.?
3. What one interview question would you ask of all the candidates?
4. Do you have any recommendations of potential candidates that you would like the search committee to consider?

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is any additional information that you wish for the committee to consider.

Email received from Kristen Sutherland, Associate Registrar and Director, Student Recruitment and Undergraduate Admissions, on October 29, 2020.

Hello Erica,

Thank you for taking the time to connect last week. As discussed, we are modifying the way we collect gender identity within Dalhousie's admissions application. As per provincial privacy regulations, the intention is not to ask for, or extrapolate information, if it is not used to inform admissions or scholarship decisions. **Gender identity/ expression is being collected from applicants for the purpose of connecting applicants to affirmative action/equity admissions processes; and to connect applicants with specific university resources.** The Dalhousie census is also employed as a tool through which to make informed decisions on policy and planning and to develop programs and initiatives to support under-represented groups.

Dalhousie's undergraduate application form has an unused field within the self-identification section which we will repurpose to expand the gender identity/gender expression options presented to undergraduate applicants. The aim in revisioning how the undergraduate application form collects gender identity/expression information is three-fold:

1. **Reflect the values of an inclusive and diverse university community**
2. **Minimize harm to students**
3. **Adopt industry best practice**

The revisioning of the collection of gender identity within the undergraduate application supports Dalhousie's commitment to cultivate and nurture a more inclusive environment that is representative of our student population. Additional context will specify at time of collection the reason for the information collection and how it will be used. Disclosures are only required when it's legally mandated or when there is a legitimate University-related reason for the request.

The screenshot attached depicts the self-identification section (in development/not finalized) for reference.

We welcome feedback Erica as we make the proposed edits:

Question pertaining to sexual orientation: Do you identify as a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, Two-Spirit, asexual, or someone who otherwise expresses gender or sexual diversity)? The plus sign indicates that while not all possible categories of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression are captured in the acronym, they are understood to be included.

Responses: yes/no

Question pertaining to gender identity/gender expression, with yes or no responses, **removed**.

Question pertaining to Legal Sex **removed**.

Gender identifying nomenclature is evolving, the options selected for the drop-down menu include: intersex, female; non-binary; queer; male; transgender; and different identity.

I look forward to any feedback you receive, understanding that we are working with an imperfect system.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Citizenship: * | None | ▼ |
| Voluntary Self-identification: | None | ▼ |
| Are you providing the following self-identification information with consent? | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Response | |
| Do you consider yourself a person with a disability? If yes, please indicate your consent below. | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Response | |
| Note: If you require accommodation that relates to your disability, you must register with the Advising & Access Services Centre and provide appropriate documentation. Visit dal.ca/access | | |
| Do you consent to receiving information on support services?: | <input checked="" type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Disability No Consent <input type="radio"/> Disability With Consent | |
| Applicant e-mail address: * | | |
| Verify e-mail address: * | | |
| Social Insurance/Security Number (XXXXXXXXXX): | | |
| Gender Identity/Expression: * | None Female Male Transgender Non-Binary Intersex Queer Different Identity | No Response Day ▼ None ▼ Year (YYYY) |
| Do you identify as a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community (i.e. Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, or someone who otherwise expresses gender or sexual diversity)? The plus sign after the "Q" indicates that while not all possible categories of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression are captured in the acronym, they are understood to be included. | | |
| Birth Date: * | | |
| Are you a current Ontario high school student?: * | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No | |
| Have you previously applied, attended, or worked at Dalhousie, King's, the former TUNS, or the former NSAC? * | | |
| If yes, please provide your student ID number (if known). | | |



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Information on International Students and Designated Learning Institutions

November 05, 2020

Updated: November 04, 2020

Presenter: DSU President

Dsupres@dal.ca

In response to student concern, the DSU reached out to the Dalhousie International Centre, Provost, and Student Affairs Office for information regarding the arrival of international students on November 02, 2020.

As of November 03, 2020, Dalhousie University was re-added to the list of Designated Learning Institutions in Nova Scotia. This means that Dalhousie is among the post-secondary institutions that the government has re-approved to locally accommodate international students. This designation is not a new process (several years old) and is required. Without this designation, international students registered at Dalhousie would be refused at the border, regardless of study permit status. DLI status was revoked from many institutions in response to Covid-19 but is now slowly being reinstated.

To receive DLI status, Dalhousie University had to assure the government that they could and would comply with the requirements outlined in the International Student Institutional Readiness: Public Health Requirements (ISIR: PHR) document (attached to Council package). The University must comply with these requirements or risk losing their DLI status. The ISIR: PHR document was created by the NS and Federal Governments and communicated to NS post-secondary institutions. According to Dalhousie, international students were not consulted during its development. Dalhousie was also not directly consulted, but did stipulate that the university is in regular communication with government and advocacy organization partners.

Under the ISIR: PHR, Dalhousie must (key points):

- Oversee a mandatory 14-day quarantine;
- Communicate before, during, and after an international student's quarantine;
- Communicate the need for completion of mandatory daily digital check-ins (email);
- Communicate the need to monitor for symptoms;
- Encourage students to use the ArriveCAN application (mobile app);
- Arrange or provide suitable quarantine accommodations for all international students (and co-arriving family members). These accommodations must be provided regardless of where the student will be living after they complete quarantine. The quarantine accommodation may be located on or off campus. Suitable accommodations generally mean a place where:
 - There is access to basic necessities

- They are not in a group or community living arrangement
- They will not have contact with people who are 65+, have underlying medical conditions, and/or have compromised immune systems;
- Ensure additional requirements for food, accommodation infrastructure, logistics, transportation, and daily health monitoring are met during quarantine;
- Provide post-quarantine support for students and their immediate family members, including: mental and physical health supports, anti-racism supports, Covid-19 stigma supports, and mitigation of social barriers to support compliance and infection control practices;
- Communicate with off-campus landlords and community to inform them of returning students;
- Ensure that messaging and information provided to international students is both culturally and language appropriate.

The original cost for quarantine (hotel, meals, supports) was estimated to be \$1,800-\$2,000 per student. Dal Conference Services has since negotiated better rates, and the cost for a 14-day quarantine with 3 meals a day will now cost \$1,625. The SA Office also noted that they expect to have updates regarding financial assistance by early next week. The cost of quarantine for students with co-arriving families will depend on the number of rooms required. The SA Office also committed to reviewing the quarantine process and assessing the potential for using on-campus accommodations once residences are vacated at the end of this academic year.

All communication to international students thus far has been conducted in English due to timing constraints and ongoing adjustment to details.

International Student Institutional Readiness: Public Health Requirements

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will be maintaining a list of designated learning institutions (DLIs) that have been deemed ready to accept new international students by their province or territory (effective October 20, 2020). Canadian Border Service agents will be using this list of DLIs as one criteria to determine the admissibility of the international student into Canada.

To be included on the IRCC list of DLIs, institutions must meet the requirements in this document.

To maintain its inclusion on the list of DLIs confirmed as ready to safely welcome international students, the institution must ensure continued compliance with the requirements listed in this document.

COMMUNICATIONS

Liaison with Nova Scotia Public Health Officials

Nova Scotia Public Health (NSPH) will be leading any contact tracing efforts if a case is identified. The DLI will assist NSPH with these efforts when requested, including providing information and access to faculty, staff and/or students if need be. The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) liaisons with NSPH for the education sector are Dr. Jenni Cram and Dr. Daniela Kempkens. In the event of any COVID-19 cases, should it be determined, based on NSPH investigation, that there is an exposure related to the DLI, NSPH will work with the DLI on a response and communication plan.

Information provided to international students and their co-arriving immediate family members in advance of travel to Canada.

In general, the DLI must ensure they are using consistently the following language in their communication with international students:

- 'mandatory quarantine' (mandated by law under the Federal Quarantine Act for arriving international students);
- 'quarantine' or 'self-isolation' (implemented when awaiting a COVID-19 test result or for identified contacts of cases); and
- 'isolation' (implemented after an individual has received a positive COVID-19 test result).

The DLI must provide the following information to all international students prior to their travel to Canada:

- The requirement of having a 14-day quarantine plan in place prior to arrival. The DLI should provide support in the development of these quarantine plans. (Refer to Mandatory 14-day quarantine by international students and co-arriving immediate family members section below.)
- Information and resources about the public health measures put in place by the DLI and NSPH. This information should make it clear that they need to follow these practices upon their arrival, during, and after their 14-day quarantine.
 - The specific information provided must include:
 - The requirement to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-In form prior to arrival in Nova Scotia (<https://travel-declaration.novascotia.ca/en>).

- The requirement to complete the Nova Scotia daily digital check-in. An email, containing the link to the check-in form, will be emailed to them daily.
- The need to monitor for symptoms before, during, and after their arrival in Canada. If they are ill, they should stay home/avoid travel.
- How to stay safe, protect others and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by:
 - Physical distancing
 - Frequent hand hygiene
 - Practicing respiratory etiquette (e.g. cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Or use the inside of your elbow)
 - Frequent environmental cleaning (e.g. cleaning of high touch surfaces and objects)
 - Wearing non-medical masks (NMM)
 - Avoiding close contact with populations at high-risk for severe COVID-19 disease and outcomes (e.g. older adults, individuals who are immunocompromised and/or with underlying medical conditions).

The DLI must obtain information regarding the international student's confirmed arrival date/time in Nova Scotia. (See transportation section below.)

The DLI should be:

- Working with off-campus landlords and/or the community to ensure their readiness to welcome international students.
- Actively promoting on its campus (including virtually) reliable and accurate messages about COVID-19, including who is at higher risk of severe illness and messaging around stigma.
- Ensuring all messaging and information provided to international students is language and culturally appropriate.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S ARRIVECAN APPLICATION

The DLI, in its communication to students prior to and after arrival, provides information about, and encourages students to use, the ArriveCAN application. (<https://arrivecan.cbsa-asfc.cloud-nuage.canada.ca/privacy>)

This mobile app may be used to speed up an international student's arrival process in Canada and they will be able to submit their information easily and securely using the app within 48 hours before arriving in Canada. The app helps an international student to provide the Government of Canada with voluntary updates on their quarantine compliance and the development of any symptoms during the 14 days after arriving in Canada.

MANDATORY 14-DAY QUARANTINE BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND CO-ARRIVING IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

International students (and co-arriving immediate family members) are responsible for on-going self-monitoring and assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and for ensuring their compliance with the Quarantine Act. One of those requirements is the mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Canada.

In general, a suitable place to isolate or quarantine means a place where they:

- Will have access to basic necessities, including water, food, medication and heat during the winter months;
- Are not in a group or community living arrangement (on-campus residence arrangements with limited shared bathroom facilities are acceptable); and
- Will not have contact with people who:
 - are 65 years or older
 - have underlying medical conditions
 - have compromised immune systems.

To ensure compliance with the mandatory 14-day quarantine, the DLI must arrange or provide quarantine accommodations in Nova Scotia for all international students (and co-arriving immediate family members) regardless of where the student will be living (i.e. on or off campus) after they complete their quarantine period.

The quarantine location may be in an on-campus residence or arranged in off-campus accommodations such as a hotel. The DLIs have oversight responsibility and must ensure the international student (and co-arriving immediate family members) is monitored and has the necessary supports, to complete their 14-day quarantine successfully.

For students completing their quarantine period in an owned and operated DLI residence, the DLI:

- Assigns only one student per room.
- Has established an arrival and move-in schedule and protocols where move-in times are staggered and/or assigned to mitigate risk of transmission within large crowds potentially arriving at the same time. Measures such as physical distancing and the wearing of NMM are enforced during this process.
- Ensures the HVAC system is adjusted to increase airflow and/or encourages students to open windows in their accommodations.
- Ensures regular and robust institutional monitoring of quarantined individuals throughout the 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 symptoms, general well-being, compliance with quarantine requirements, with an emphasis on individual COVID-19 infection control practices.
- Offers one or both options for dining services:

Option A:

Meals will be delivered by staff to the residents, leaving them outside the room door. The tray/container and utensils will be disposable, and each delivered meal will include a bag for all items to be placed in by the resident for disposal once the meal is consumed. The bag will be

placed outside the room for pickup and disposal by DLI staff. From a risk mitigation perspective, Option A would provide less opportunity for potential COVID-19 transmission.

Option B:

Where meals are served at the DLI's Dining Hall, signage/floor markings are used to ensure unidirectional flow of foot traffic so physical distancing can be maintained as diners enter/exit the dining hall. Hand hygiene materials such as 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer, or soap and water, are readily available for students to use at each entrance and exit of the dining hall.

The DLI may consider creating residence "bubble units" consisting of a group of the same students who will attend as a group for dining. Each bubble will have designated times to attend, and appropriate social distancing and cleaning protocols will be used. Plated meals, wrapped utensils, labelled routes, and frequent cleaning will be active components of the strategies. This option also serves as a deliberate mental wellness strategy by creating a managed opportunity for access to fresh air and a physical exercise (walking) period.

- Will provide DLI staff who are working where international students are undergoing quarantine with information about, and encouraged to use, the provincial Self-Assessment Test and COVID-19 Self Assessment Questionnaire <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>.
- Provides custodial services as follows:
 - Students under mandatory quarantine are responsible for their own linen changes and environmental cleaning to mitigate risks of transmission. Custodial staff should do a no-contact drop-off of new linens to the students' room and a plastic bag for students to place their old linens in.
 - When performing duties where they could come into contact with potentially infectious materials (e.g., linens, garbage, food trays), custodial staff should be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., mask, eye protection or facemask, gown). Custodial staff must perform hand hygiene immediately after handling materials originating from the international student in quarantine.
- Permits the use of designated outdoor spaces for mental health breaks during the international student's mandatory quarantine period only under the following conditions:
 - Students must complete self-screening forms such as the Self-Assessment Test and COVID-19 Self Assessment Questionnaire prior to using outdoor spaces <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/> (security may also perform screening of students prior to leaving their accommodations).
 - Students who are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 may not participate in outdoor time for any reason.
 - Students must be following quarantine requirements to remain in their room in order to qualify for outdoor time.
 - Outdoor time must be scheduled, approved and supervised.
 - Students must wear a NMM at all times while travelling (both indoors and outdoors) to and from designated outdoor or recreational spaces back to their assigned quarantine room.
 - Students must always maintain a distance of 2 metres (6 ft.) from others while travelling to designated outdoor or recreational spaces and while participating in outdoor time.

- Students must wash their hands frequently including before leaving their room/washroom and avoid touching surfaces as much as possible while exiting the building. Students should avoid touching their face, nose, mouth and eyes. Students should also bring their own hand sanitizer with them for use to sanitize hands before re-entering their building.
- Students must remain within the boundaries of designated outdoor spaces, recreation spaces, designated smoking areas, and/or identified travel routes at all times.
- Students must not block pathways, entrances, or exits and ensure that it is possible for other campus users to pass by with 2 metres (6 ft.) or greater between them.
- Ensures signage is posted to direct foot traffic in potentially congested areas like entry ways.
- Will disinfect frequently using hard surface disinfectants¹, frequently touched surfaces (door handles, accessibility buttons, swipe access readers etc.).
- Will provide designated space limits to students where appropriate.
- Will ensure patrol or residence staff wear appropriate NMM or face coverings while performing duties.

For students completing their quarantine period in DLI accommodations arranged off campus, the DLI:

- Must ensure any accommodation arrangements made involving a third party includes established comprehensive COVID-19 quarantine protocols that align with public health directives as well as procedures in place for the monitoring of quarantined individuals throughout the 14-day quarantine period for their general well-being.
- Ensures only one student (including co-arriving immediate family members) is assigned per room.
- Ensures that three meals per day per individual are delivered to the room.
- Ensures the room is prepared with adequate toiletries, linens and other supplies for 14 days.
- Ensures that adequate supervision services exist to ensure the international student (and co-arriving immediate family members) do not leave their room.

TRANSPORTATION

The DLI must provide or arrange transportation for international students (and co-arriving immediate family members); as such, the DLI must ensure that:

- International students can practice physical distancing as much as possible during transportation as well as upon arrival to their accommodation (e.g., occupancy limits in vehicles/elevators/stairwells, sitting in the back of a vehicle, blocking of seats in a bus/shuttle, specific entrances/exits). Where possible, windows should be open in vehicles transporting international students from airport to accommodations.
- Adequate environmental cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces is being performed in transportation vehicles as well as when the international student is entering their accommodations.
- International students have access to hand hygiene materials (e.g., soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol) while in transit.
- International students are aware of NMM protocols and have access to NMM while traveling.

- they outline/describes how to quarantine safely and the regulations/restrictions related to mandatory quarantine when international students arrive.

HEALTH MONITORING

The DLI should encourage students to self-monitor during their quarantine period and provide information to support this, including <http://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus-home/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>.

Students who become unwell or develop symptoms (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/#symptoms>) should be directed to complete the online assessment (<https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>). When completion of the online assessment is not possible, international students should be advised to call 811 for assessment by a nurse.

If the assessment determines that the student needs a test, Nova Scotia Health or IWK Health Centre will contact the student within 1 or 2 days to book the testing appointment.

Where possible, the DLI should support the student in arranging transportation to the Assessment Centre for their appointment. During transportation to the Assessment Centre, the student must wear a NMM, use proper hand hygiene, and maintain a distance of 2 metres (6 ft.) from others.

IN CASE OF A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19:

- When an international student receives a positive diagnosis, they transition from being in “mandatory quarantine” to “isolation”.
- While awaiting the test results, typically available within 48-72 hours, they will be required to isolate within their assigned room or be moved to a designated isolation room.
- While in isolation, if the international student is staying in residence, the student will only be permitted to leave to attend the designated washroom on that floor (assuming there is no washroom located in the room). If there are other residents assigned to that same washroom, they must be assigned to an alternate washroom. Custodial staff will ensure that the washroom is well stocked and sanitized at all times. Custodial staff will also provide janitorial services during the period of the active isolation. All appropriate PPE will be used by custodial staff while conducting their duties concerning the isolation. Any contact tracing required will be initiated and coordinated by NSPH.
- Meals will be delivered to the student by staff wearing all appropriate PPE. In addition to PPE, custodial staff will perform hand hygiene before and after pick up/disposal of meal trays. Timings for meals will be pre-arranged and left outside the occupied room(s) so that there is no possibility of encountering a student in isolation. The meal tray and utensils will be disposable, and each delivered meal will include a bag for all items to be placed in by the resident for disposal once the meal is consumed. The bag will be placed outside the room for pickup and disposal by custodial staff.
- An appropriate receptacle will be available outside the room and collected regularly.
- A phone will be provided within the room with all appropriate contacts, including Safety and Security, Residence Life, Counselling Services, Physical Plant, etc.

- For individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19, use of a medical mask is preferred over a non-medical mask, if available.
- Frequent hand hygiene is recommended over the use of gloves. When appropriate, a risk assessment should be conducted with local occupational health authorities to determine proper use of gloves.
- A student who has tested positive must remain in isolation until they are determined to be recovered by NSPH

POST-QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

The DLI will continue to support international students and immediate family members after completion of their 14-day quarantine period.

This includes offering mental and physical health supports, anti-racism and COVID-19 stigma supports (<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid19-stigma-guide.pdf>), and mitigation of social barriers to support their compliance with individual COVID-19 infection control practices.

Any messaging and information provided to international students should continue to be language and culturally appropriate.

ⁱ PHAC hard surface disinfectant list: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: November 19, 2020; 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using Microsoft Teams

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 2020-11-19-3.1

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 2020-11-19-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on November 5, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2020-11-19-7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed Students With Disabilities Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.

MOTION 2020-11-19-7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed Students Living in Residence Representative on DSU Council for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Recommendation to be made by Oversight Committee.

MOTION 2020-11-19-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Response Committee:

Councillor(s):

General Members:

Recommendations to be made by Oversight Committee

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-11-19-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed amendments to the Elections and Referenda Policy circulated to Councillors on Thursday, November 5 be approved as presented.

Moved by the President

11. New Business

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: November 01-15, 2020

Council Date: November 19, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

November 02: Discussion on creating Senate preparation meetings, options for supporting international students entering quarantine, Member Services Assistant hiring committee schedule, VPAAE update on LGBTQ+ student consultation with admissions, VPSL update on winter welcome week programming.

November 06: Discussion on covid in the province and SUB operations, update on holiday planning, executive and directors each gave updates on time off in next few months, impact awards update from VPSL, study hall update from VPSL, Council debrief, The New Corporation update from Director Ops, and FASS Board update from VPAAE.

November 13: Discussion on Graphic Designer hiring, executive registration for the National Skill share Series by Courage to Act, tabling plans for exam de-stressors, winter programming check-in with VPSL, Covid-19 update based on St.Fx and Acadia updates to winter break.

Other Meetings/Tasks

November 02: Meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator about Judicial Board Policy and other updates to BPRC planning.

November 04: Society Event Management Committee meeting, approval for 4 society events under Covid guidelines.

November 05: Council preparation with executives and Policy and Governance Coordinator.

November 05: DSU Council.

November 06: Staff Meeting

November 06: Senate and Board preparation meeting with Director R&O and Policy and Governance Coordinator.

November 06: Meeting with Graduate Planning Society executives to discuss studio space.

November 12: Meeting with Director R&O and Policy and Governance Coordinator to discuss Response Committee.

November 12: Meeting with Jordan Roberts from Kings College to discuss Response Committee training.

November 12: Council preparation with executives and Policy and Governance Coordinator.

University Affairs and Committees

November 05: RTC Executive Committee Meeting. Discussion on Winter term planning and approval of experiential classes proposing face-to-face courses. Updates on residence life, holiday functions, and overview of event approvals.

November 05: Meeting with Sheila Blair-Reid and VPFO for discussion on alumni funding collaboration with DSU to support Foodbank on Giving Tuesday.

November 07: Dalhousie Virtual Open House participation (Student Life Panel).

November 09: Meeting with VPSL, Director African Nova Scotian Community Engagement for introductions, invitation to Mental Health Forum.

November 10: Meeting with new Vice President Finance and Administration, Gitta Kulczycki for introductions. VPFO to join monthly meetings for ongoing discussion.

November 10: DSU event approvals meeting with Isabelle French and Leanne French to discuss MBA Formal concerns.

External and Broader Community

November 03: Interview with Lane from Dalhousie Gazette.

November 05: Meeting with Nick Chambers from Boyden about Provost/ Vice President Academic search.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No updates.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 16-19: Exam De-stressors

December 07: Last day of fall classes.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: October 31st – November 13th

Council Date: November 19th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Continuing Ratification Duties; VPI ratifications and bank letters.
- Adding Societies to the website: all newly ratified General Interest societies have been added to the website – continuing to add on a daily basis.
- Society Policy Review
 - Continuous but paused to reconfigure trainings to work with the upcoming ratification year and changes to mandatory trainings.
- Grants Review Committee – Nov. 3rd, 2020
 - Continued to review Society, Member, and Accommodation grants.
- Society Event Management Committee Meeting – Nov. 4th, 2020
 - First of this committee meeting – met to approve society events with new COVID precautions & requirements.
- Meeting with Dalhousie Commerce Society – November 6th, 2020
 - Met to discuss society executive inquiry.
- Student Accessibility Fund Committee – Nov. 6th, 2020
 - Continued to approve and issue Student Accessibility Bursaries.
- Digital Community Coordinator Interviews – November 12th, 2020
 - Interviewed 4 applicants with the Communications Coordinator.

University Affairs and Committees

- N/A

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- This committee is set to meet next on November 18th, 2020. The amount of society approvals is declining. We are set to speak about society office spaces & society training changes.

Upcoming Dates

- N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: October 19, 2020- November 16, 2020

Council Date: November 19, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- a. Accessibility Fund Committee met on November 6th for a regular ongoing meeting to allocate funds.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing Ombudsperson negotiations with Vice-Provost of Student Affairs
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
 - a. Community presentations and consultation are scheduled throughout November. The tentative dates are:
 - i. November 23, 2020 (5-6PM): Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services (DSAS and Dalhousie Law.
 - ii. November 24, 2020 (5-6PM): DSU executive and Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS)
 - iii. November 25, 2020 (6:30-7:30PM): Black Student Societies, Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective (DISC), Dalhousie International Students Association (DISA)
 - iv. November 26, 2020 (5-6PM): Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association (DASA)
 - v. November 30, 2020 (12-1PM): Town Hall Number 1, Faculty, Staff, and Students
 - vi. December 3, 2020 (9-10AM, 12-1PM, 4-5PM): Town Halls 2, 3 and 4.
3. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on flagging and avoiding oppressive content in the classroom.
4. Developing Open educational resources (OER) presentation for OER committee meeting November 4, 2020 In preparation of Senate presentation in the new year.
5. Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Transfer and Termination (AUCRETT) Taskforce will present a draft of their new policy to DSU members November 17th, 4PM-5PM. All are welcome. Please email me for an invitation to the Teams event.

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Reassessing how to promote NS Needs Students
2. Addressing changes students would like to see to the semester to allow them to be successful.

Upcoming Dates

November 17th, 4PM-5PM AUCRETT consultation regarding their draft policy.



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: October 31st – November 13th

Council Date: Nov 19th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Student Life Committee
 - a. Nov 5th: Chaired SLC meeting finalizing plan for November and December and brainstorming for Winter orientation
2. Men's Mental Health Campaign
 - a. Nov 6th: Recorded first episode for video series
3. Mental Health Forum
 - a. Began preparing promotional materials for first meeting of the year
4. International Student Bursary Committee
 - a. Nov 5th: Committee met and decided upon recipients
5. Brightspace Mental Health Course Initiative
 - a. Oct 31st: Met with student Catherine Robertson to address proposal for permanent course on BS for all students to ensure resources are easily accessible
 - b. Nov 5th: Met with Dr Sparks & FASS faculty members regarding logistics behind creating a BS course
6. Member Services Assistant Hiring Committee
 - a. Participated in the Interviewing of 3 Candidates for MSA

University Affairs and Committees

1. University meetings:
 - a. Nov 3rd: Met Administration faculty regarding Impact Awards
 - b. Nov 2nd: Met with David Pilon to finalize the Mental Health Forum
 - c. Nov 4th: Met with Rigel Biscione & student affairs regarding quarantine programming
 - d. Nov 9th: Met with Jalana Lewis regarding BIPOC student initiatives

External and Broader Community

1. PSVPC Meeting
 - a. Nov 5th: Attended Committee Meeting
2. Sexualized Violence Prevention Resource Group
 - a. Nov 10th: Attended Committee Meeting and reported on DSU initiatives regarding mental health/ campaigns

Upcoming Dates

November 17th at 4:30pm: Dalhousie Mental Health Forum

November 17th at 12:00pm: Exam De-stressor Tabling



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Elections and Referenda Policy

Policy Information

Oversight Body: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Date Passed by Council:

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: DSU Bylaws

Definitions

Business Hours: the hours during the day when business is commonly conducted in Halifax, NS; 9am-5pm Atlantic Standard/Daylight Time, Monday through Friday.

Campaign: a coordinated effort to elect any candidate and/or to pass or defeat any referenda question during DSU elections or referenda.

Campaigning: advertising by any medium designed to influence voters.

Campaigning Period: the period during which candidates and referenda campaigns are permitted to advertise their campaigns.

Campaign Worker: an individual who has been asked by a candidate or referendum spokesperson and has agreed to assist that campaign with campaigning in any capacity.

Chief Returning Officer: CRO; the primary elections official.

Community Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a community.

Candidate: any member who declares themselves to be running for any of the position up for election, has successfully completed all necessary documentation and submitted it by the deadline, and who is otherwise eligible to run as a candidate according to the DSU Bylaws and this policy.

Elections Committee: The body which governs all DSU elections and referenda.

Elections Period: the period starting when nominations for an election or registration for a referendum opens and ending when the results of the elections or referendum become official.

Commented [DP&GCI]: Rearranged to alphabetical order

Endorsement: Any statement(s) and/or action(s) in support of a particular candidate or campaign by an individual, group, or organization other than the candidate or campaign themselves. Includes, but is not limited to, the promotion of materials from specific campaigns in the same electoral race.

Commented [DP&GC2]: Defines endorsement, previously undefined

Faculty-Level Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a faculty.

Member: an individual who meets the membership criteria of the DSU as outlined in the DSU Bylaws.

Nomination Period: the period during which members can nominate themselves for positions up for election and/or when referendum campaigns can register.

Non-DSU Member: an individual who is not a member of the DSU but has been asked by a candidate or spokesperson to be a DSU elections or referenda campaign worker.

Official Results: elections and/or referenda results that are considered binding following the end of the Results Appeals Period and the resolution of any appeals.

Ordinary Resolution: a simple majority vote.

Resource: any material or asset that provides a non-monetary benefit to a candidate or campaign.

Society: A student organization that receives resources or funding from the DSU, is subject to oversight by the DSU, and/or fulfills all necessary requirements to be designated as a DSU society as set out in the DSU Bylaws.

Spokesperson: the member of the DSU chosen by a referendum campaign team to act as the official lead spokesperson for the campaign and as the team's sole liaison with the Elections Committee and CRO.

Special Resolution: a 2/3 majority vote.

Unofficial Results: elections and/or referenda results announced after the end of the Voting Period that may be appealed.

Voting Period: the period during which all members can vote in an election and/or referendum.

Purpose

To outline the rules and processes with which to conduct DSU elections, by-elections, and referenda to ensure fair, equitable, democratic, and transparent practices.

Scope

The provisions of this Policy will apply to Dalhousie Student Union elections, by-elections, and referenda. The CRO, Elections Committee, and all candidates, campaign spokespersons, campaign workers, and DSU staff, must abide by the provisions of this policy.

The entirety of this policy will apply to those candidates running for Executive Officer and Board of Governors Representative positions in a DSU election. The entirety of this policy will also apply to those Faculty and Community Representative positions that are determined through a DSU election.

Faculty Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a faculty-level society will only be bound to sections one (1) and ~~three (3)~~ two (2) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair and democratic processes.

Community Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a community society will only be bound to sections one (1) and ~~four (4)~~ three (3) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair processes.

Policy Statement

1. Eligibility for Referenda and Elections

1.1. Any DSU member may run for office or serve as a referendum spokesperson. It is the responsibility of the CRO to authenticate candidate and spokesperson eligibility with the Registrar's Office or Student Accounts.

1.1.1. In the case where a Faculty or Community Representative is elected or appointed through an internal society process, the appropriate executive member of that society, as determined by that society's internal processes, is responsible for determining candidate eligibility.

1.2. Candidates running for office or serving as spokespersons must not sit on the Elections Committee or hold the position of CRO.

~~Elections Nominations~~

~~1.3. Successful nominations for each position must be made by accurately submitting the completed nomination forms developed by the Elections Committee, before the end of the Nomination Period.~~

~~1.3.1. The CRO must publish the nomination forms to the membership no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period.~~

Commented [DP&GC3]: Section on Nominations moved to section 8 of the policy along with other information about nominations.

~~1.3.1.1. Nomination forms must include at least the following information:~~

~~1.3.1.1.1. Nominee Name~~

~~1.3.1.1.2. Desired position~~

~~1.3.1.1.3. Major(s)/Program(s) & Year of Study~~

~~1.3.1.1.4. Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee~~

~~1.3.1.1.5. Nominee signature and date~~

~~1.3.2. All nominees must attend the "All Candidates Meeting". Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.~~

~~1.3.2.1. The All Candidates Meeting must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.~~

~~1.3.2.2. During the All Candidates Meeting the CRO and Elections Committee must present:~~

~~1.3.2.2.1. All policy, rules, and regulations of a DSU Election.~~

~~1.3.2.2.2. Any new, additional guidelines for the Elections Period not described in this policy.~~

~~1.3.2.2.3. The location of all poster display areas must be provided.~~

~~1.3.2.2.4. The official handles of all DSU election media accounts.~~

~~1.3.3. All nominees must attend the Anti-Oppression Training Session during the Nominations Period. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the session may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.~~

~~1.3.3.1. The Anti-Oppression Training Session must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.~~

1.3.3.2. All successful nominations must be verified by the CRO and published for the membership to view no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nomination Period, at which point nominees become candidates.

1.3.4. Appeals regarding the verification of a nomination must be made in writing to the Elections Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nominations Period. The Elections Committee must render a decision on any appeals before the start of the Campaigning Period.

1.4. The nomination process for the Vice-President Finance and Operations must have the following additional requirements:

1.4.1. The CRO must publish a technical questionnaire no later than two (2) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period. The questions must relate to the requirements of the VPFO position and must be approved by the Elections Committee.

1.4.1.1. Candidates for Vice-President Finance and Operations must submit a completed questionnaire to the CRO no later than the end of the Nominations Period.

1.4.1.2. The CRO must publish all completed questionnaires online before the start of the Campaigning Period.

1.5. Until the Voting Period starts, a candidate may withdraw their nomination form and have their name removed from the election. Upon submitting written declaration of their withdrawal to the CRO, the candidate must meet with the CRO at the first possible opportunity to sign a declaration of withdrawal in their presence. The CRO must remove a candidate's name from the list of candidates once that candidate has confirmed their intent to withdraw and with the approval of the Elections Committee.

1.5.1. A person who, to prevent the election of a candidate, knowingly publishes a false statement of withdrawal of a candidate that is not themselves, is guilty of an offence as defined by Appendix III of this policy.

1.6. If a candidate dies during any part of the Elections Period as described by this policy, a by-election must be held for that position.

~~1.6.1. If the candidate dies on the day that the Unofficial Results are published and the results favour the deceased candidate, the results are void and a by-election must be held for that position.~~

2. Faculty Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections

2.1. Representatives from the following faculty constituencies must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:

1. Faculty of Agriculture
2. Faculty of Architecture and Planning
3. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
4. Faculty of Computer Science
5. Faculty of Dentistry
6. Faculty of Engineering
7. Faculty of Graduate Studies
8. Faculty of Health Professions
9. Faculty of Law
10. Faculty of Management
11. Faculty of Medicine
12. Faculty of Science

2.1.1. Eligibility to run for a Faculty Representative seat is based on a member's association to that faculty, defined according to the Office of the Registrar's records of the member's declared major(s).

2.1.1.1. Should a member be enrolled in a joint program at the University where they complete two or more degrees either consecutively or concurrently, they are considered to belong to all faculties in which any of their degree programs fall.

2.1.1.2. Should a member be enrolled in a graduate program at the University, they are considered to belong to both the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Faculty under which their degree program falls.

2.2. Faculty-level societies have the option to elect their Faculty Representative through an elections or appointment process laid out within their own Constitution or other governing document. The CRO must contact the President or suitable executive [member](#) of each faculty-level society at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period to discuss this option.

2.2.1. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal election or appointment process, the society President or suitable executive [member](#) must provide the CRO with a copy of their governing documents outlining that process, as well as the text of a motion passed by special resolution at a meeting of the society's governing body indicating their decision to determine their representative through an internal process. These documents must be submitted to the CRO for verification no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Nomination Period to ensure they describe a fair, democratic process.

2.2.2. Faculty-level societies that elect their Faculty representatives internally must submit the name of their determined representative to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator directly following their election or appointment, and no later than May 31. The society must include the official minutes from the meeting of their governing body where their representative was determined.

2.3. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, that society must notify the CRO and their constituents immediately and no later than one (1) week before the start of the Nomination Period. Faculty Representative candidates must follow the nomination requirements described in [Section 2 of](#) this policy.

2.3.1. Faculty-level societies that do not indicate to the CRO at least one (1) week before the Nomination Period starts that they choose to elect their representative through a DSU election will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

2.3.2. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, this choice will only apply to the present DSU Election Period. Faculty-level societies must re-indicate this choice for each Election Period where it is desired.

2.3.2.1. Faculty-level societies wishing to adopt the DSU Election process on a permanent basis ~~must~~[should](#) add a clause to this

effect into their Constitution or other governing document. This decision must be communicated to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

2.3.3. Only members who belong to a given faculty, as determined by the faculty under which their degree program(s) fall, must be permitted to vote for that Faculty Representative in a DSU election.

2.3.3.2.4. Should any of the faculty societies listed in this policy cease to exist, the Faculty Representative positions for those constituencies must be determined through a DSU election until an alternative society is ratified and instated by ordinary resolution of the DSU Council.

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3. Community Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections

3.1. Representatives from the following communities must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:

1. Black Students
2. Indigenous Students
3. LGBTQI2SA+ Students
4. Students with Disabilities
5. Womean Students
6. International Students
7. Students in Residence

3.2. The following Community Representatives must be elected during a DSU Election by members who belong to that community, based on the following criteria:

3.2.1. Black Students Representative

3.2.1.1. The Black Students Representative must self-identify as a Black student and be elected only by self-identifying Black Students.

3.2.2. LGBTQI2SA+ Students Representative

3.2.2.1. The LGBTQI2SA+ Students Representative must self-identify as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Questioning, Gender-Fluid, Gender Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, Intersex,

Asexual, Two-Spirit, and/or Queer student and be elected only by self-identifying LGBTQI2SA+ students.

3.2.3. Students with Disabilities Representative

3.2.3.1. The Students with Disabilities Representative must self-identify as a student with a disability and be elected only by self-identifying students with disabilities.

3.2.4. Woman Students Representative

3.2.4.1. The Woman Students Representative must self-identify as a woman and be elected only by self-identifying woman students.

3.2.5. Students in Residence Representative

3.2.5.1. The Students in Residence Representative must live in a Dalhousie residence during their term and be elected only by students in residences.

3.3. The Indigenous Students Representative must self-identify as an Indigenous student and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie Indigenous Student's Collective no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

3.4. The International Students Representative must be classified as an International Student by Dalhousie University and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie International Students Association no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

3.5. Where membership in a community is through self-identification, the DSU must honour a candidate or nominee's self-identification and must not request proof of their identity. Any declaration of self-identification with a community made by a candidate or nominee must be destroyed within thirty (30) days of the end of the Voting Period or their election/nomination to Council, whichever is later.

3.6. Should any of the [community](#) societies listed in [Section 4.3 or 4.4](#) of this policy cease to exist, the Community Representative positions for those constituencies must be determined through a DSU election until an alternative society is ratified and instated by ordinary resolution of the DSU Council.

3.7. Should a society wish to take on the responsibility of nominating a Community Representative listed under [3.4.1](#) of this policy through internal elections or nominations processes of their society rather than through a DSU Election, that

society must be recognized as the official representative of that community through a referendum process carried out in accordance with the DSU Bylaws and this policy.

3.7.1. The general form of such a referendum question is: "Do you support the designation of [Society Name] as the official representative society of [Community] students within the DSU's membership, and further do you support granting this society the authority to nominate the [Community] Representative on DSU Council and on any other bodies with a seat for a(n) [Community] Representative?"

3.7.1.1. Only students who are self-identified members of the community in question are eligible to vote in said referendum.

3.7.1.2. Societies that wish to take on this responsibility must demonstrate meaningful efforts and/or willingness to connect with all members who self-identify as a part of that community, as determined by the DSU Council.

4. Referenda Registration

4.1. A referendum to increase DSU Fees over and above the rate of increase of the Canadian Consumer Price Index must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

4.2. Members wishing to register a society levy referendum question in the general election must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

4.2.1. The Referendum question must be found to meet the objectives of the DSU under Bylaw 3.

4.3. Any Referenda question initiated by DSU Council is bound only by the DSU Bylaws and Sections 5 and 6 of this policy.

5. General Procedure for Referenda

5.1. Referenda will be held alongside the DSU's elections and are subject to the Elections Period schedule developed by the Elections Committee and approved by DSU Council each year.

5.2. Before posed to the membership, referendum questions must be approved by special resolution of the DSU Council. Approval must be granted prior to the start of the Nomination Period as determined in the Elections Period schedule.

- 5.3. A society or member wishing to propose a referendum question should reach out to the Chair of the DSU Council for guidance in phrasing their question and in bringing the motion forward to Council.
- 5.4. Council may only approve a referendum question that meets the following minimum criteria:
- 5.4.1. The question contains the dollar value of the proposed change.
 - 5.4.2. The question is phrased to elicit yes/no answers and is phrased such that a vote of “yes” signifies agreement with the proposal and a vote of “no” signified disagreement with the proposal.
 - 5.4.3. The proposal supports the objectives of the DSU as defined in the Constitution.
 - 5.4.4. For referenda questions on the creation of new society levies, the motion is accompanied by a petition in support of the proposal containing full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) percent of all members to whom the society levy would affect.
 - 5.4.5. For referenda questions on changes to existing society levies or society fees, the motion is accompanied by both:
 - 5.4.5.1. Official minutes from a meeting of the society’s governing body indicating the proposal’s approval by special resolution; and
 - 5.4.5.2. 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.
- 5.5. Council has the authority to offer amendments to a proposed referendum question that does not meet these minimum requirements. All proposed amendments are subject to approval by the member or society that proposed the referendum question.
- 5.5.1. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed by an individual may be granted by a written statement circulated to Council, or by verbal statement of the approval within a minuted session of Council.
 - 5.5.2. Approval of an amendment to a referendum proposed in line with Section 6.4.4 of this policy may be granted:
 - 5.5.2.1.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of a referendum question but not its intention, dollar value,

or effect, by a written statement circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the original petitioners; or

5.5.2.1.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by a petition circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of all members to whom the society levy would apply. The petition must include full names, student numbers, and signatures for each signee.

5.5.3. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed in line with Section 6.4.5 of this policy may be granted:

5.5.3.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of the referendum question but not its intention, dollar value, or effect, by a special resolution of the society's council, board, or similar governance body; or

5.5.3.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by both a special resolution of the society's council, board, or similar governance body and a petition in support of the amendment containing the names, student numbers, and signatures of at least five percent (5%) of members that the change in fees would affect.

5.6. Referendum Campaign Teams must register during the Nomination Period using the Campaign Information Form, which must be developed and published by the Elections Committee prior to the beginning of the Nomination Period. The form must indicate the spokesperson for the referendum campaign team and whether the team will be campaigning for the "YES" or "NO" option in the referendum.

5.7. No more than one Referendum Campaign Team may register for each option presented in the referendum. For further clarity, there may only be one "YES" team and one "NO" team. Should the CRO receive Registration Forms from more than one group seeking to campaign in favour of a particular side, they must immediately contact all relevant spokespeople to advise them of the issue. It must be the responsibility of the prospective Campaign Teams to select one spokesperson.

5.8. The CRO must set and administer a Referendum Campaign Information Meeting to be held between the end of the Nomination and Campaign Registration Period and the beginning of the Campaign Period.

5.8.1. Based on the circumstances of a given year, the CRO may choose to combine this meeting with the All Candidates Meeting for DSU Elections, or to hold a standalone meeting regarding referenda.

5.8.2. This meeting is mandatory for all campaign spokespersons and must also be open to campaign workers.

5.8.3. Any spokesperson who is unable to attend the Information Meeting must make alternate arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the event. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the Referendum Campaign Team as a whole.

5.9. The Campaign Period and Voting Period must follow the Council-approved elections timeline.

5.10. Referendum results must be published alongside General Election results.

5.11. Fee or levy changes brought on by successful referenda will, subject to any restrictions imposed by the University, be implemented for the next fall term following the referendum vote.

6. By-Election

6.1. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors Representative, Faculty Representative, and/or Community Representative position remain vacant following the DSU's annual elections or becomes vacant before October 1st, there must be a by-election held, ~~but not necessarily finished,~~ by October 31st. If necessary, DSU Council may appoint a councillor to act as an interim Executive Officer until the time where a by-election can be held.

Commented [DP&GC4]: Changed for consistency with bylaw

6.2. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position remain vacant following a by-election, the DSU Council must make an appointment.

6.2.1. After a by-election has been held, vacant Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, and Community Representatives may be filled by any member of the DSU.

6.2.2. The Oversight Committee must evaluate all candidates who have expressed interest in appointment to the vacant positions and provide

recommendations to the DSU Council regarding the filling of those positions and Council must then make the appointment.

6.3. Faculty-level and Community societies must be given the opportunity to temporarily hold one (1) voting seat on the Oversight Committee during any appointment under Section 6.2 of this policy that may affect their constituency.

6.4. Unless otherwise stipulated in the DSU bylaws or this policy, by-elections will be administered in the same way as general elections.

6.3.6.5. Debates are not required for by-elections but may be planned if the Elections Committee determines they would be to the benefit of voters.

7. Elections Officials

7.1. The Elections Committee

7.1.1. DSU elections or referenda must be conducted and supervised by an Elections Committee as provided for in Section 9 of the DSU Bylaws.

7.1.2. The Elections Committee must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.

7.1.3. The Elections Committee must always be available during business hours and official events to serve as the supervising body of elections and referenda and to provide advice and guidance to the CRO or Deputy Returning Officer.

7.1.4. The Elections Committee must appoint a Deputy Returning Officer from among the Elections Committee members who will assume the responsibilities of the CRO in their absence.

7.1.5. The Elections Committee must assist in the completion of all elections and referenda procedures in collaboration with the CRO.

7.1.6. The Elections Committee must refer to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and inquiries upon their appointment each year.

7.1.7. For a decision of the Elections Committee to be valid, three (3) of the Committee members must be present at a meeting and the decision must be made through special resolution.

7.1.7.1. The CRO must be present at all meetings of the Elections Committee but is not permitted to vote.

7.1.8. A written report of any Elections Committee minutes will be made available to the public upon written request within a forty-eight (48) hour period. Any discussion that may lead to a candidate or spokesperson/campaign being disqualified from the election must be held in-camera.

7.2. The Chief Returning Officer

7.2.1. Must report directly to and be supervised by the Elections Committee.

7.2.2. Must be autonomous from the executive officers of the DSU.

7.2.3. Must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.

7.2.4. Is to be paid hourly.

7.2.5. Must not be an executive officer, councillor, committee member, or employee of the DSU for the duration of their term.

7.2.6. Must not vote in the DSU elections or referenda.

7.2.7. Must not rule on any undefined violations, unspecified fine amounts, or interpretations of DSU policy and/or Bylaws without the demonstrated guidance of the Elections Committee.

7.2.8. In addition, the CRO must:

7.2.8.1. Authorize all official notices and elections and/or referenda publicity.

7.2.8.2. Set up the Elections Period schedule, subject to the provisions in this policy.

7.2.8.3. Compose the ballot subject to this policy and supervise the voting process.

7.2.8.4. Receive and analyze the Unofficial Results of the election and/or referenda from the official voting software, in collaboration with the Elections Committee.

7.2.8.5. Publish unofficial election and/or referenda results from the official voting software no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Voting Period has ended.

7.2.8.6. Issue official election, referenda, or recount results after any appeals have been ruled, should any occur.

- 7.2.8.7. Submit an electronic copy of a post-election report to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator. The CRO must not be given their final paycheque until this report has been submitted.
- 7.2.8.8. Hold an All Candidates Meeting and Anti-O Training Session for all candidates and spokespersons.
- 7.2.8.9. Reserve any rooms in the Student Union Building for the election and/or referenda with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager.
- 7.2.8.10. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the first day of the Campaigning Period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.
- 7.2.8.11. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the last day of the Campaigning period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.
- 7.2.8.12. Ensure the secure collection and destruction of all personal identification materials.
- 7.2.8.13. Monitor the conduct of all candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers in collaboration with the Elections Committee, throughout the entirety of the Elections Period.
- 7.2.8.14. Prepare the online voting form to ensure that only members of a given faculty or community can vote in the election of a Faculty or Community Representative, or referenda question that impacts the given constituency.
- 7.2.8.15. Ensure they are fulfilling the extent of the CRO's responsibilities in accordance with all sections of this policy and the DSU Bylaws.

8. Elections and Referenda Rules and Regulations

8.1. General

- 8.1.1. A DSU Election must be held once a year to appoint the Executive Officers of the Union, Board of Governors Representatives, Faculty Representatives, and Community Representatives.

- 8.1.1.1. The DSU Elections Period must conclude no later than March 31 of each year.

- 8.1.2. All DSU Elections and referenda must be administered using principles of democracy and fairness.
- 8.1.3. All DSU Elections and referenda must consist of a general Elections Period during which the Nomination Period, Campaigning Period, and Voting Period occur.
- 8.1.4. ~~All members must be notified by the CRO of an Elections Period at least two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period starts. All positions up for election must be specifically listed.~~ Representatives elected to the Board of Governors or Senate are subject to approval and appointment by those bodies.
- 8.1.5. The Elections Committee must present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval at least three (3) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period.
- 8.1.5.1. The CRO must publish the approved Elections Period schedule to the membership ~~and directly to all candidates~~ no later than two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period. ~~All positions up for election must be specifically listed in this notice.~~
- ~~8.1.5.2-8.1.5.3.~~ 8.1.5.2. The approved Elections Period schedule must include the time of day, Atlantic Standard Time, at which the Campaigning and Voting Periods start and end. It must also include the date(s) and time(s) of the All Candidates Meeting, Anti-O Training Session, a debate for each position, and all planned meetings of the Elections Committee.
- ~~8.1.5.2-8.1.5.3.~~ 8.1.5.3. The Elections Period schedule must be posted on the DSU website.
- 8.1.6. All violations of rules or regulations outlined in this policy may be met with a penalty in line with Appendix III of this policy.
- 8.1.7. All members of the DSU are subject to the Dalhousie University Code of Conduct. Offences against persons and/or property as defined in the Student Code of Conduct are strictly prohibited. Candidates and their representatives are expected to adhere to the Code and should be aware that the CRO and Elections Committee reserve the right to sanction violators of the Code as is deemed appropriate. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election.

Commented [DP&GC5]: Deleted due to redundancy (2 weeks notice covered in clauses below)

Commented [DP&GC6]: Deleted due to the fact that no candidates exist prior to the campaign period

8.1.8. No campaign may engage in libel, nor distribute material which could be construed as slanderous towards an opponent.

8.1.9. Any new interpretation or clarification of elections rules by the Elections Committee that occurs during the Campaigning Period must be noticed to all candidates and spokespersons within twenty-four (24) hours of being ruled on. The ruling will come into effect once all campaigns have been notified.

~~8.1.9-8.1.10.~~ Accommodations for candidates and spokespersons may be made in accordance with the steps outlined in the Accommodations Policy. For the purposes of Elections and Referenda, the CRO will be considered the 'Supervisor.'

8.1.10.1. Accommodations must not provide an advantage and must not violate any substantial rules outlined by the Elections Committee or DSU policies.

8.1.11. If a candidate dies during the Campaign or Voting Periods, a by-election must be held for that position.

~~8.1.9-1-8.1.11.1.~~ If the candidate dies on the day that the Unofficial Results are published and the results favour the deceased candidate, the results are void.

8.2. Nomination Period

8.2.1. Any nomination which includes false information, including but not limited to forged nomination signatures must be rejected at the discretion of the CRO.

8.2.1.1. Any nomination found to include false information after its approval is subject to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

8.2.2. All nominations must occur in line with the procedure provisioned in Section 2 of this policy.

~~8.2.3-8.2.2.~~ Successful nominations for each position must be made by accurately submitting the completed nomination forms developed by the Elections Committee, before the end of the Nomination Period.

~~8.2.3.1-8.2.2.1.~~ The CRO must publish the nomination forms to the membership no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period.

Commented [DP&GC7]: Accomodations were not specifically covered in the policy. This clause allows for accomodations in line with existing accomodations policy as long as accomodations do not provide unfair advantage.

Commented [DP&GC8]: Moved down from previous section 2 for logical ordering.

Commented [DP&GC9]: Provision that a by-election must be held deleted. Depending on time of year the voiding of results could lead to an appointment instead of a by-election.

~~8.2.3.1.1~~ ~~8.2.2.1.1~~ Nomination forms must include at least the following information:

- i. Nominee Name
- ii. Desired position
- iii. Major(s)/Program(s) & Year of Study
- iv. Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee
- v. Nominee signature and date

~~8.2.3.2~~ ~~8.2.2.2~~ All nominees must attend the "All Candidates Meeting".

Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO ~~at least forty-eight (48) hours~~ before the meeting may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

Commented [DP&GC10]: 48 hour requirement unfair to nominees who submit their forms within the last 2 days of the nomination period. "Prior arrangements" still requires them to have an alternate plan with the CRO if they can not attend.

~~8.2.3.2.1~~ ~~8.2.2.2.1~~ The All Candidates Meeting ~~will be held on the school day following the close of the Nomination Period~~ must occur no later than the last school day of the ~~Nomination Period~~.

Commented [DP&GC11]: Changing the ACM to being held on the school day following nominations closing rather than the final day of nominations ensures that all candidates will be nominated prior to the meeting and make the process smoother.

~~8.2.3.2.2~~ ~~8.2.2.2.2~~ During the All Candidates Meeting the CRO and Elections Committee must present:

- i. All policy, rules, schedules, and regulations of a DSU Election.
- ii. Any new, additional guidelines for the Elections Period not described in this policy.
- iii. The location of all poster display areas must be provided.
- iv. The official handles of all DSU election media accounts.

~~8.2.3.3~~ ~~8.2.2.3~~ All nominees must attend the Anti-Oppression Training Session ~~during the Nominations Period~~. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at

least forty-eight (48) hours before the session may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

~~8.2.3.3.1~~ ~~8.2.2.3.1~~ The Anti-Oppression Training Session must be held before the beginning of the Campaign Period and may be held in conjunction with the All Candidates Meeting, occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.

8.2.2.4. At the close of nominations, the CRO will submit the names and student numbers of all nominees, campaign workers, spokespeople, and signatories to each nomination to the Registrar's Office for verification of current student status.

8.2.2.4.1. All nominations must be published for the membership to view by the beginning of the Campaign Period, at which point nominees become candidates.

8.2.2.4.2. In the event that the Registrar's Office is delayed in verifying the data submitted, all campaigns will be able to proceed as normal until the verified data is returned.

8.2.3.4. All successful nominations must be verified by the CRO and published for the membership to view no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nomination Period, at which point nominees become candidates.

~~8.2.3.5~~ ~~8.2.2.5~~ Appeals regarding the verification of a nomination must be made in writing to the Elections Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nominations Period publication of the names of nominees. The Elections Committee must render a decision on any appeals before the start of the Campaigning Period within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt.

8.2.4.8.2.3. The nomination process for the Vice-President Finance and Operations must have the following, additional requirements:

~~8.2.4.1~~ ~~8.2.3.1~~ The CRO must publish a technical questionnaire no later than two (2) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period. The questions must relate to the requirements of the VPFO position and must be approved by the Elections Committee.

Commented [DP&GC12]: Consistent with change to ACM timing given that they are generally held in conjunction.

Commented [DP&GC13]: This change clarifies the process for verification of student numbers and provides for potential delays on the end of the Registrar's Office. It also changes the timeline so that nominations must be published before the beginning of the campaign period but not necessarily within 24 hours of closing. This is in recognition of the fact that nominations may close on a Friday and communications/website staff do not work on weekends.

Commented [DP&GC14]: Changes timeline for nomination appeals so that the appeal period begins when nominations are posted. This ensures that students can see names of candidates before launching an appeal.

Commented [DP&GC15]: Given the close timing of the publication of nominations and beginning of campaign period, this is a more realistic timeline.

~~8.2.4.1.1~~8.2.3.1.1 Candidates for Vice-President Finance and Operations must submit a completed questionnaire to the CRO no later than the end of the Nominations Period.

~~8.2.4.1.2~~8.2.3.1.2 The CRO must publish all completed questionnaires online before the start of the Campaigning Period.

~~8.2.5.8.2.4~~ Until the Voting Period starts, a candidate may withdraw their nomination form and have their name removed from the election. Upon submitting written declaration of their withdrawal to the CRO, the candidate must meet with the CRO at the first possible opportunity to sign a declaration of withdrawal in their presence. The CRO must remove a candidate's name from the list of candidates once that candidate has confirmed their intent to withdraw and with the approval of the Elections Committee.

~~8.2.5.1.8.2.4.1~~ A person who, to prevent the election of a candidate, knowingly publishes a false statement of withdrawal of a candidate that is not themselves, is guilty of an offence as defined by Appendix III of this policy.

Commented [DP&GC16]: Entire section moved down from previous section 2 for logical ordering. Clause referring to section 2 removed in light of this change.

8.3. Campaigning Period

8.3.1. Elections candidates must submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form to the CRO no later than 12 noon on the day before the Campaigning Period starts. Spokespeople must submit a Campaign Information Form.

8.3.1.1. The Candidate Questionnaire must include at least the full name, major(s)/program(s), and year of study of the candidate. Any other questions are to be determined by the Elections Committee each year.

8.3.1.2. The Campaign Information Form must include the full names, student numbers, and emails of all campaign workers. It must also include the name(s) and link(s) for any candidate websites and/or social media platforms to be used during the Campaigning Period.

8.3.1.3. Should a campaign worker cease to be a campaign worker after a Campaign Information Form is submitted, the candidate must notify the Elections Committee immediately via email.

8.3.1.4. Faculty, teaching assistants, and all other University staff must not serve as campaign workers.

8.3.2. No campaigning of any medium may take place outside of the Campaigning Period.

8.3.3. The Campaigning Period must be at least five (5) school days in length.

8.3.4. Campaigns must not accept offers from societies or external organizations. Offers include but are not limited to donated goods, funds, and/or services.

8.3.5. Candidates and spokespersons are responsible for the actions of their campaign workers and are solely liable for campaign violations.

8.3.6. There must be no campaigning of any kind at any of the University libraries, on-campus bars or residences except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.

8.3.7. Campaigning must be restricted to Dalhousie University campuses. Public sidewalks adjoining campus buildings are considered for the purposes of this policy to be a part of the University.

8.3.8. Campaigns must not use coarse language or references to alcohol or drugs in any campaigning materials.

8.3.9. Candidates or spokespersons who work for the DSU in any capacity are not required to take a leave of absence for their work. However, these candidates must contact the CRO and inform them of their work. Candidates, spokespersons and campaign workers must not campaign while they are working.

8.3.10. DSU societies and student-run organizations may endorse a campaign if the opportunity for endorsement is presented to all candidates for that position.

8.3.10.1. Societies that wish to make endorsements must consider all candidates for a particular position for endorsement. A process for communication with candidates and determination of who to endorse is up to societies to determine.

~~8.3.10.2.~~ Campaigns can-not request that individual students, societies, or organizations endorse them or campaign on their behalf.

~~8.3.9.1-8.3.10.3.~~ The CRO will send out an email to current ratified DSU societies prior to the beginning of the campaign period to inform them of this requirement. The email list for this communication will be provided by the Vice President, Internal.

~~8.3.9.2-8.3.10.4.~~ Executive Officers may not endorse candidates unless they themselves are running for a position or are registered on a referendum campaign team. Non-executive Councillors may endorse campaigns; however, they may not use their position title in any publications of the endorsement.

~~8.3.10-8.3.11.~~ Candidates and spokespersons must not endorse one another, run in a slate, or campaign together except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.

~~8.3.11-8.3.12.~~ All candidates and spokespersons are permitted a total campaign value of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), excluding the cost of printing official posters. The specific guidelines relevant to campaign expenditures can be found in Appendix IV of this policy, to which all campaigns are subject.

~~8.3.12-8.3.13.~~ Candidates, spokespersons, Elections Committee members, and the CRO must also abide by the specific regulations outlined in Appendix II of this policy.

~~8.3.13-8.3.14.~~ Incumbent candidates running for executive positions must:

~~8.3.13.1-8.3.14.1.~~ Not be permitted to campaign during any office hours, official meetings, or interactions with members while acting in their official capacity as an executive officer.

~~8.3.13.2-8.3.14.2.~~ Be permitted to carry out all essential duties reasonably incident to their portfolio.

~~8.3.13.3-8.3.14.3.~~ Submit a schedule of all office hours, official meetings, and/or events during which they are to act as a representative of the DSU and therefore are not permitted to campaign, to the CRO before the Campaigning Period starts.

~~8.3.13.4-8.3.14.4.~~ Not be permitted to use their incumbent status or the resources available to them as an executive officer in a manner

Commented [DP&GC17]: Provides more specifics around what constitutes endorsement and when it is permissible

which manipulates or extorts members or provides them an unethical advantage over other candidates.

8.3.15. Election events including, but not limited to, debates, candidate meet and greets, trips to the Agricultural Campus and forums will be organized by the CRO in conjunction with the Elections Committee.

8.3.15.1. At least one election event, generally in the form of a debate, will be planned during a regular general election. The format will be at the discretion of the Elections Committee and CRO but must be open to all students and offer opportunity for candidates to present their platforms.

Commented [DP&GC18]: Specific provision concerning elections events, which was missing from the policy

8.4. Voting Period

8.4.1. The Voting Period must be two (2) school days in length.

8.4.1.1. The CRO may extend the Voting Period by up to two (2) additional days, only in the event that quorum has not been reached; a technical error occurs that interferes with some or all voters' ability to vote; or another major disturbance impacts voting in some way.

~~8.4.1.1~~8.4.1.2. The decision to extend the voting period will be immediately emailed to Elections Committee and all campaigns. Updates about extension to the voting period will be posted on the Union's website and social media at the earliest opportunity following the decision.

Commented [DP&GC19]: Addition in light of the fact that disruptions to voting can occur and we need to have flexibility to extend voting. Voting days can never be reduced, only extended.

8.4.2. Voting must be done using an anonymous, online ballot.

8.4.3. Each ballot must include the option to spoil that ballot.

8.4.4. Votes will be collected using a preferential voting system.

8.4.4.1. Each candidate must be credited with the number of first votes for their name.

8.4.4.2. Where no candidate received more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of first choices, then the candidate with the least number of choices will be struck off the ballot and the second choices marked on all ballots for that candidate will be credited to the candidates for whom they were cast.

- 8.4.4.3. Where a candidate whose name has been struck off the ballot is the next choice on the ballot, then the ballot will be counted in favour of the candidate subsequent in choice to the candidate whose name has been struck.
- 8.4.4.4. Where two (2) or more candidates are tied with the least number of votes, both or all must be struck from the ballot. Should this procedure result in only one candidate remaining, that candidate will be elected.
- 8.4.4.5. This process will continue until one (1) candidate has a majority of the votes.
- 8.4.5. Should a tie occur for any position, a run-off election must be held between the tied candidates. The timeline for the run-off must be as follows:
- 8.4.5.1. Nominations must not be reopened.
- 8.4.5.2. The Campaigning period must begin no later than (2) school days after the announcement of the Election Period for the run-off election and extend no more than five (5) days.
- 8.4.5.3. The Voting Period must ~~be two (2) school days and~~ follow all guidelines of a regular Voting Period as provisioned in this policy.
- 8.4.6. Should a candidate for any position run unopposed there will be a yes/no option after the candidate's name on the ballot. Any candidate that runs unopposed must participate in any official Elections ~~Committee~~ events.
- 8.4.7. The online voting system must be in operation continuously from at least 8am to 8pm Atlantic Standard Time on each day of voting.
- 8.4.8. The methods of voting for all DSU elections and referenda must be as follows:
- 8.4.8.1. The full names of all candidates must be placed in random order on each ballot.
- 8.4.8.2. Candidate names must be grouped by position and referendum questions must be listed on a separate page.
- 8.4.9. Any one member's vote must belong to that member alone. There must be no voting by proxy.

8.4.9.1. Online voting must not be done in a group setting or in the presence of persons who may influence the direction of a member's vote.

8.4.10. Should a member with a disability require assistance to use the online voting software, they may seek it from the CRO.

8.4.11. Electronic balloting provides opportunity for abuse, intentioned or not, by voters, candidates, campaign workers, and spokespersons. Abuse of electronic balloting includes, but is not limited to the following types of action:

8.4.11.1. Efforts by voters to vote more than once.

8.4.11.2. Efforts by candidates, spokespersons, or campaign workers to influence voters by holding social events at which members are encouraged to vote on the premises.

8.4.11.3. Offering favours or gifts in exchange for votes.

8.4.11.4. Pressuring members to vote in the presence of a candidate, spokesperson, campaign workers, or any other member.

8.4.11.5. Bringing the means of electronic voting to a member.

8.4.12. In determining whether abuse of electronic voting has occurred, the CRO, as supervised by the Elections Committee, must consider potential abuses on a case-by-case basis. Abuse must be interpreted in the spirit of this section and in the spirit of upholding the principle of an anonymous, secret-ballot vote. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments for abuses ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election

9. Elections and Referenda Offenses

9.1. All candidates and spokespersons are solely responsible for their actions and those of their campaign workers and are liable for non-refundable fines according to Appendix IV of this policy.

9.2. The CRO will have the authority to enforce the provisions of this policy except in the case of an appeal.

9.3. The Elections Committee may lay charges of violations of its own volition.

9.3.1. Should the Elections Committee find there has been an egregious violation it may:

9.3.1.1. Declare that the election in its entirety, the election of a specific position, or the election of a specific candidate be voided.

9.4. Charges of violation against any campaign may be submitted in writing to the CRO who must contact the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign within twenty-four (24) hours to notify them of their right to appeal. The CRO must rule on the charge within two (2) days of receiving it.

9.4.1. The CRO must notify the candidate or spokesperson on the status of a charge immediately after ruling on that charge.

9.5. Appeals against charges of violation levied by the CRO must be made in writing to the Elections Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the CRO's ruling on that charge.

9.6. The Elections Committee must meet to discuss any appeals against charges of violation and decide no later than two (2) days after receiving an appeal on the appropriate action(s) to be taken. The Elections Committee must notify the CRO and the candidate or spokesperson who submitted the appeal immediately after ruling on the appeal.

9.7. Appeals against a ruling levied by the Elections Committee must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Board within two (2) days of the candidate or spokesperson being informed of the ruling. The Judicial Board will then investigate and return their findings.

9.8. Decisions to disqualify a campaign must not be made known to any party during the Voting Period. If a ruling to disqualify is made during the Campaigning Period, the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign must be notified immediately.

9.8.1. Should a spokesperson be disqualified, the referenda campaign must also be disqualified.

9.8.2. Should a winning candidate be disqualified after the Voting Period has ended, the position for which that candidate was running must be brought to by-election.

9.9. The CRO must publish an updated list of all offenses, except those that result in disqualification, outside of the designated DSU Elections Office

9.10. A candidate or spokesperson is deemed to be informed of an Elections Committee ruling six (6) business hours after the ruling is emailed.

10. Appeals of Elections and Referenda Results

10.1. Any member may challenge the validity of election, referendum, or recount results in a written submission to the Elections Committee no later than two (2) school days of the end of the Voting Period.

10.1.1. Written submissions appealing election, referendum, or recount results must contain the appellant's full name, student number, contact information, and signature, as well as a detailed explanation of the reason(s) for challenging the results.

10.2. The Elections Committee must investigate the appeal and rule on the appropriate action(s) within one (1) week of the submission.

10.2.1. Should a member challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee investigation into the validity of an election, referendum or recount result, the member may submit a petition to the Judicial Board to review the Elections Committee's findings within one (1) week of the Elections Committee's initial ruling.

10.3. No record of the vote for an election or referendum may be destroyed until thirty (30) days after the end of the Voting Period.

10.4. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the end of the Voting Period.

10.5. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO. Once the elections and/or referenda results are made official any challenges of the results must be made in accordance with the DSU Bylaws.

11. Appendix I: Elections Timeline

Before the Elections Period Starts:

- I. The Elections Committee and CRO must contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and to ask any questions.

Elections Period Starts

Commented [DP&GC20]: Moved to beginning of nomination period, in line with definitions

3 Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the CRO to contact the President/suitable executive of each faculty-level society to discuss Faculty Representative election/appointment options
- II. Deadline for the Elections Committee to present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval & for the Council to approve the schedule.

2 Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the CRO to publish the nomination forms
- II. Deadline for the CRO to publish the VPFO technical questionnaire
- III. Deadline for the CRO to publish the Elections Period schedule to the membership ~~and directly to all candidates.~~
- IV. Deadline for the CRO to officially notice the Elections Period and specifically list all positions up for election.

Commented [DP&GC21]: There are no candidates prior to the campaign period

1 Week Before the Nomination Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the CRO and indicate they wish to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal process and submit the required supporting documents.
- II. Deadline for a faculty-level society that chooses to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election to notify ~~the CRO, and~~ their members to promote that choice.
 - I. Faculty-level societies that do not make this indication by the deadline will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

Commented [DP&GC22]: Redundant due to clause directly above

Before Nomination Period Begins

- I. Deadline for referenda questions to be approved by special resolution of Council.

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Nomination Period Starts

Last School Day of the Nomination Period:

- I. ~~Deadline for the All Candidates Meeting to occur~~
 - I. ~~Any nominee who is not able to attend the ACM must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.~~
- II. ~~Deadline for Anti-Oppression Training Session to occur~~
 - I. ~~Any nominee who is not able to attend the session must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.~~

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Before the End of the Nomination Period:

- I. Deadline for VPFO nominees to submit the VPFO technical questionnaire
- II. Deadline for all nominees to submit completed nomination forms
- III. Deadline for CRO to verify the eligibility of all nominees with the Registrar's Office or Student Accounts

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Nomination Period Ends

24 Hours After the End of the Nomination Period:

- ~~Deadline for the CRO to publish the successful nominations for the membership.~~
 - i. ~~Deadline for appeals regarding the verification of a nomination to be made.~~
 - ii. ~~Deadline for campaigns to submit posters and handbills to CRO.~~

School Day Following Close of Nomination Period

- I. All Candidates Meeting is held.

Before the Campaign Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for the Elections Committee to render a decision on any appeals regarding the verification of a nomination
- II. Deadline for CRO to publish all completed VPFO technical questionnaires.
- III. No campaigning of any medium may take place.
- IV. Deadline for incumbent candidates running for executive office to submit their schedules to the CRO.
- V. Anti-Oppression Training must be held.

~~IV~~.VI. All nominations must be published for the membership to view. Appeals regarding the validity of these nominations can be made for twenty-four (24) hours following this publication.

12 Noon, the Day Before the Campaigning Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for all candidates to submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form.
- II. Deadline for referenda campaign spokespersons to submit the Campaign Information Form.

Campaigning Period Starts

First Day of Campaigning Period:

- I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.
- II. Deadline for campaigns to submit 1-minute videos for the DSU elections webpage.

Last Day of Campaigning Period:

- I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.

Campaigning Period Ends

Before the Voting Period Starts:

- I. Deadline for a candidate to withdraw their nomination.

Voting Period Starts

- I. 2 days must transpire.

Voting Period Ends

No Later than 24 Hours After the Voting Period End:

- I. Deadline for CRO to publish unofficial election/referenda results to the membership.

No Later than 2 School Days After the Voting Period Ends:

- I. Deadline for a member to submit a written appeal to challenge the validity of election, referendum or recount results.

- I. The Elections Committee must investigate and decide on any actions related to an appeal within 1 week of its submission.
- II. A member may challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee through submission of a petition to the Judicial Board within 2 days of the Election Committee's ruling.

2 Days after the End of the Voting Period:

- I. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become the Official Results.
- I. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referendum will automatically become the Official Results 2 days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO.

Election Period Ends

30 Days after the End of the Voting Period:

- I. All declarations made by a candidate or nominee for a Community Representative position must be destroyed.
- II. Record of the vote for an election or referendum must now be destroyed.

Elections Period Ends

12. Appendix II: Campaign Regulations

I. Poster Regulations

- I. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to secure poster display space in as many University buildings as possible.
- II. Poster display spaces secured by the CRO and Elections Committee must house one (1) poster per campaign. These posters must be distributed equally and when possible, grouped by position.
 - i. Posters not approved and posted by the CRO and Elections Committee must not be displayed by any campaign in any location.
- III. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to obtain, approve, print, and display campaign posters, of a maximum size determined by the Elections Committee and communicated during the All Candidates Meeting.
- IV. Posters that have been vandalized or damaged will be replaced by the Elections Committee as soon as possible. Notice of damaged posters may be given to the CRO who must replace them within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the notice.
- V. The Elections Committee will make regular rounds to inspect posters.
- VI. All posters must be taken down by the Elections Committee no earlier than the end of the Voting Period.
- VII. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval and printing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.

II. Other Forms of Campaigning

- I. Advertisements placed in The Dalhousie Gazette or The Sextant are subject to limitations by those publications.
- II. Campaign displays and tabling within the DSU must be booked with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager and with the Facilities Manager of any non-DSU buildings. All display and tabling approvals must be submitted to the CRO for verification.
- III. The use of any physical campaign materials including posters within classrooms is not permitted.
- IV. Verbal campaigning in classrooms is permitted when express written permission is given to a campaign by the presiding faculty member. All class

talks must be verified by the CRO before they occur by presenting a faculty member's note of permission to the CRO.

- V. Campaigns must distribute handbills directly to members.
 - i. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.
 - ii. Handbills must be no larger than 4.25 inches and 5.5 inches in size.
 - iii. Campaigns are responsible for printing and distributing their own handbills.
- VI. The use of Union or University facilities not available to all campaigns is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. DSU branding and logos.
 - ii. DSU television screens.
 - iii. University branding, logos, footage, and 'tiger mascot' costume.
 - iv. The facilities of the offices of the DSU or any society under its jurisdiction and any resources or promotional materials owned by the DSU and its societies. This includes, but is not limited to: society funds, websites, email accounts, and/or distribution lists.
- VII. The use of stickers is not permitted.
- VIII. Only water-soluble chalk may be used for chalking
 - i. Chalking within ten (10) feet of doors is prohibited.
 - ii. Chalking on vertical surfaces or buildings is prohibited.
 - iii. Chalking on any recreational or athletic field is prohibited.

III. Media Regulations

- I. All forms of media may be used during the Campaigning Period except where explicitly prohibited by the Elections Committee and noticed during the All Candidates Meeting.
- II. Any additional media platforms not listed below must be used in accordance with the spirit of this section of the policy.
- III. All personal accounts of candidates, spokespersons, and/or campaign workers that are used for the purposes of campaigning during the Campaigning Period must be public.

- i. Media pages and groups may remain live after the end of the Campaigning Period, but campaigns must not make further posts or accept more followers. Campaigns must not send any further messages.
 - ii. Candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers are permitted to use their personal media pages to promote voting during the Voting Period but must not refer to their campaigns.
- IV. All emails and media campaign materials must include:
 - i. A link to the DSU elections webpage.
 - ii. The hashtags #dsuvotes and #dsuelxn
 - ii-iii. Tags of the DSU elections account or the DSU account in absence of the DSU elections account.
- V. Video Regulations
 - i. Each campaign is encouraged to create a one (1) minute video that will be used on the DSU elections webpage.
 - ii. Campaigns are permitted to make further videos but only one video may be used on the DSU elections webpage.
 - iii. All videos must be submitted to the CRO for approval.
 - iv. To be used on the webpage, the video must be submitted no later than the first day of the Campaigning Period.
- VI. Email Regulations
 - i. Campaigns must only send emails to those members who have given them their email address for campaigning purposes.
 - ii. Members must have the option of unsubscribing from the email list by sending an email to the campaign.
- VII. Facebook Regulations
 - i. Campaigns may create a new Facebook page or group to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal Facebook pages.
 - ii. Campaigns may use Facebook groups or pages created for use in past DSU elections.

iii. Campaigns may use Facebook events that extend into the Voting Period.

1. No campaigning materials may be posted during the Voting Period.
2. The link to the Facebook event must be submitted under "Social Media Accounts" in the Nominations Package.
3. The host(s) of the event may only be the candidate or listed campaign workers or spokespersons.

VIII. Twitter Regulations

- i. Each campaign may create a new Twitter account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.

IX. Snapchat Regulations

- i. Each campaign may create a new Snapchat account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
- ii. All snapchats must be sent to the DSU elections snapchat account including stories.

X. Instagram Regulations

- i. Each campaign may create a new Instagram account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
- ii. All posts and stories must tag the specified official DSU ~~elections~~ account.

XI. TikTok Regulations

- i. Each campaign may create a new TikTok account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
- ii. Stitches and duets are not permitted.
- iii. All posts must tag #dsuvotes #dsuelxn and the specified official DSU account if applicable.

XII. Discord Regulations

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- i. Campaigns may use pre-existing channels to promote their campaigns.
- ii. Each campaign may create a new Discord channel and account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their account.

XIII. Reddit Regulations

- i. Campaigns may use pre-existing subreddits to promote their campaigns.
- ii. Each campaign may create a new subreddit and account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their account.

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13. Appendix III: Offenses and Fines Table

| Offense | Fine |
|--|--|
| Poster located outside of the Elections Committee poster display area | \$5.00 |
| Prohibited displays | \$20.00 |
| Pre/post Campaigning Period campaigning | \$20.00/incident |
| Email violations *1 incident refers to 100 emails | \$20.00/incident |
| <u>Social Media violations (appropriate tags)</u> | <u>\$5.00/post/story</u> |
| Use of prohibited DSU or Dalhousie resources | \$50.00/incident |
| Additional violations according to Sections 2.3 and 9, and/or Appendix II of this policy | Up to \$50.00/incident at the discretion of the CRO |
| <u>Incomplete Nomination Forms</u> | <u>Rejection of nomination at the discretion of the CRO</u> |
| Non-attendance of the All Candidates Meeting or Anti-Oppression Training Session | Rejection of nomination at discretion of Elections Committee |
| Failure of a VPFO candidate to submit a completed technical questionnaire. | Rejection of nomination |
| Tampering with the Elections Committee poster display area | Automatic disqualification |
| Spending over the maximum \$200.00 campaign expenditure | Automatic disqualification |
| Accruing more than \$100.00 in fines | Automatic disqualification |
| Attempted interference with the voting process | Automatic disqualification |
| Slanderous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law. | Automatic disqualification |

14. Appendix IV: Campaign Expenditures

- I. No campaign may exceed a total expenditure of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), including any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee.
- II. The Vice President Finance and Operations may provide each campaign an advance equal to the amount specific in their application for the purposes of facilitating their campaign. Applications for advances must be submitted in writing to the VPFO no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Campaigning Period.
 - I. Should a campaign have unused funds they must return those funds to the VPFO within one (1) week of the end of the Elections Period.
- III. No campaign may receive discounts that are not available to all members.
- IV. Any in-kind good or service given to a campaign will be assigned a 'market-value' price as determined by the Elections Committee and included in the total expenditure for that campaign.
 - I. Goods and/or professional skills belonging to a candidate, spokesperson, or campaign worker are exempt from this regulation.
- V. An itemized account of all campaign expenditures must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the Elections Period. These accounts must include a written receipt or bill for each separate item, signed by a candidate or spokesperson.
- VI. All campaigns that received more than twenty percent (20%) of the vote in an election with two (2) or less candidates or more than ten percent (10%) of the vote in an election with three (3) or more candidates may be reimbursed for campaign expenditure up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The itemized account provisioned above in Section 15.5 must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within the twenty-four (24) hour deadline for a candidate or spokesperson to receive their reimbursement.
- VII. Any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee to a campaign may be deducted from that campaign's two hundred-dollar (\$200.00) expenditure total.
 - I. Should the addition of levied fines to a campaign's expenditure total result in that campaign exceeding the expenditure total, the Elections Committee will determine if those fines must be owed to the DSU according to the seriousness of the offenses. Any fines must be collected by the Vice-President Finance and Operations within one (1) week following the end of the Elections Period.

15. Appendix V: Important Dates

I. May 31

- I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator to submit the name of the Faculty Representative they have internally elected or appointed to that position, along with all supporting documents.
- II. Deadline for the Dalhousie International Students Association to appoint an International Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
- III. Deadline for the Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective to appoint an Indigenous Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

II. September 30

- I. Deadline for the Elections Committee and CRO to be appointed by the DSU Council.

III. October 31

- I. Deadline to hold, but not necessarily to have concluded, a By-election in the case that an Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position is vacant following the annual DSU election or becomes vacant before October 1st.

IV. March 31

- I. Deadline for the annual DSU Elections Period to conclude.

Response Update to DSU Council: UNB Students Union Solidarity

November 19, 2020

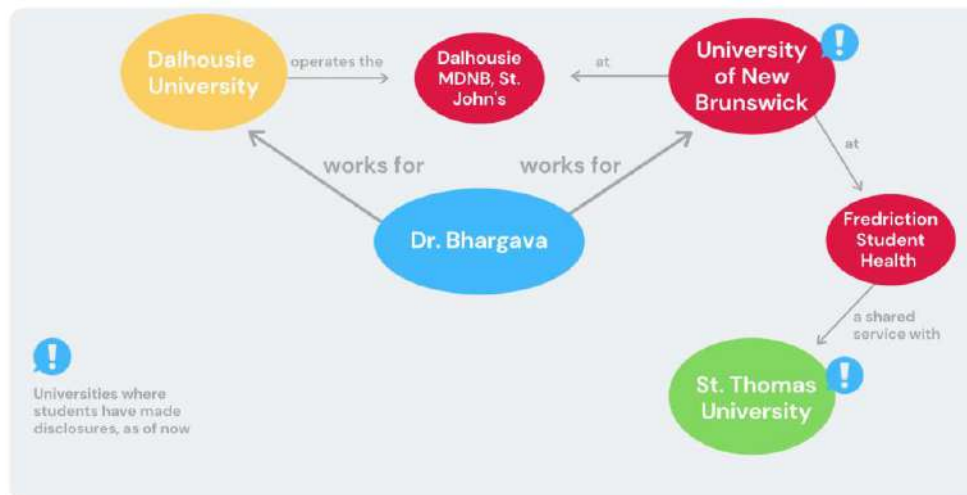
Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

Content Warning: This report contains discussion of sexualized violence and medical misconduct

Background

On Friday, November 13th, 2020, the University of New Brunswick Student's Union (UNBSU) President contacted the DSU to notify us of disclosures made regarding a faculty member who teaches at Dalhousie Medicine, New Brunswick (DMNB). These disclosures were made online, in response to recent statements from survivors at other Universities in New Brunswick.

Dr. Bhargava teaches at the Dalhousie Medicine, New Brunswick (St. John's) satellite program. The students he teaches are Dalhousie students. There are currently just under 20 allegations against Dr. Bhargava, dating back to the early 2010s. He not only works in a teaching capacity at UNB, but has a practice in the UNB Student Health Centre in Fredericton. This health facility is shared with St. Thomas University. All current disclosures have come from individuals who accessed Dr. Bhargava's services through this health centre, or off-campus medical facilities in New Brunswick. As of right now, the DSU is not aware of any disclosures from Dalhousie students; this was confirmed on November 18th by the Student Affairs Office at Dalhousie.



Dr. Manoj Bhargava was previously listed as an Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry, under the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine. His contact and listing on the Department's website has been removed. On November 17th, 2020, the College of Physicians

and Surgeons of New Brunswick suspended Dr. Bhargava's license to practice. To the best of the DSU's knowledge, Dr. Bhargava does not have an active license to practice medicine in Nova Scotia.

DSU Response

On the afternoon of Friday, November 13th, 2020, after receiving communication from UNBSU, the DSU contacted the Dalhousie Student Affairs Office, the DSU Survivor Support Centre Manager, the Director of Dalhousie Counselling & Psychological Services, and the Assistant Director of Security. The Students Affairs Office forwarded notification of the disclosures on to Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services and Student Health and Wellness. These units were all notified as soon as possible to ensure that appropriate supports and resources could be provided to any Dalhousie students who wish to access them in response to the allegations. The DSU Survivor Support Centre also clarified on Friday that their services are currently open to all students, from all universities, in both provinces. This information was immediately shared with the UNBSU.

The DSU continues to work with the UNBSU and Dalhousie Student Affairs to address the situation. The Student Affairs Office provided additional information on the University's response on November 18th, 2020. Forwarded on from Dalhousie Human Resources, the SA Office provided the following response to inquiry on Dr. Bhargava's status as a faculty member at Dalhousie:

"In order for a physician living in New Brunswick to have an active faculty appointment with Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine, they must have an active license with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick and privileges at one of New Brunswick's health authorities."

Dr. Bhargava no longer holds an active license to practice in New Brunswick, and thus, under this guideline, he no longer holds an active faculty appointment with Dalhousie. Typically, a CPSNB investigation takes a few months before a determination is made. The SA Office assumes this response to indicate that Dalhousie will continue to follow the lead of the CPSNB. Dalhousie Human Resources was unable to provide answers, due to confidentiality, as to whether Dr. Bhargava has ever taught on a Nova Scotian campus or held a practice at a Dalhousie Health Centre.

The DSU will continue to support students both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as our peers at the UNBSU. The DSU stands in solidarity with all survivors. Questions regarding the DSU's response can be directed to Madeleine Stinson, at dsupres@dal.ca.

Resources

- **Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services**

- Crystal Ragush, Sexualized Violence Advisor – crystal.ragush@dal.ca
- [The Purple Folder](#)

- **Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness**
 - [Website](#)
 - Appointments in [Truro](#)
 - Appointments in [Halifax](#)

- **[The DSU Survivor Support Centre](#)**
 - survivorsupport@dal.ca
 - 902-425-1066

- **Dalhousie Security**
 - security@dal.ca
 - 902-494-4109 (Halifax)
 - 902-893-4190 (Truro)



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: December 3, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

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.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-12-03-3.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be approved as presented.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION 2020-12-05.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the present meeting be approved as presented.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1 Updates on Senate Advocacy and Pass/ILL Grading Option

Presented by the VPAE

8.2 Presentation of Revised Budget

Presented by the VPFO

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.1

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that students doing online schooling are struggling with excessive workloads and/or unreasonable behaviour from professors;

WHEREAS the DSU recognizes that without effective feedback, professors & faculty admin cannot correct the behaviour;

WHEREAS graduate students have found success in formally addressing professors as students on a united front and demanding the change they needed; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT faculty representatives on Council are tasked to contact constituents to compile a report on issues that students in their faculty are facing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these reports will be presented by the first council meeting of 2021 on January 7th

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the VPSL will work with each faculty representative over the winter semester to develop faculty-level advocacy about the issues raised, including submitting formal complaints to official body/ies in each faculty where appropriate.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.2

WHEREAS the Winter General Election timeline has been prepared by the CRO and recommended for approval by the Elections Committee; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the timeline for the DSU Winter General Election be approved as presented.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.3

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic means that many students are studying from outside the HRM, and that those who are within the HRM must limit their close contacts, and therefore soliciting nominations signatures in person is not feasible; AND

WHEREAS requiring hard copy forms during this pandemic is unfair to those students studying outside HRM; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the purposes of the winter 2020 general election, the Elections and Referenda Policy be interpreted such that all forms and questionnaires will be submitted using web forms instead of paper forms; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for the purposes of the winter general election in 2021, the requirement for nomination forms to include “Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee” (Elections and Referenda Policy s.8.2.2.1) be interpreted to allow for the following process:

Nominees will collect the names, student numbers, and @dal.ca email addresses from at least twenty-five (25) current students who support their candidacy and will submit this information to the Chief Returning Officer using a standardized template. The CRO will email all submitted signatories for a particular nominee to ensure that they do in fact support that individual’s candidacy.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.4

WHEREAS Dalhousie students have expressed widespread concern about financial precarity, rising tuition, and their ability to make ends meet during COVID-19; AND

WHEREAS the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) ended on August 29, 2020 and the majority of the funds allocated to the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) were not distributed, but many students are still without work and unable to access other supports; AND

WHEREAS international students were not covered under the CESB to begin with; AND

WHEREAS the DSU advocates for the rights and needs of international students and all students, and most recently built the NS Needs Students campaign focusing on the need for increased public funding for universities and reduced tuition costs for students; AND

WHEREAS on April 22, 2020, DSU Council voted unanimously in favour of signing on to a petition and open letter by Don’t Forget Students and the Canadian Federation of Students, calling on the Prime Minister to expand CERB to include students and recent graduates, and this petition was a factor in the government’s decision to create the CESB; AND

WHEREAS the April 22, 2020 motion also mandated “THAT the DSU continue to research ways to advocate for better student supports during the COVID-19 pandemic;” THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the executives of DSU sign on to Our Commons petition e-2986 to the Government of Canada, launched by the Canadian Federation of Students and Don’t Forget

Students. The petition calls on the Government of Canada “to implement a plan for pandemic relief and stimulus for Canada’s post-secondary sector and students that:

1. Utilizes the funds originally allocated for the CSSG [Canada Student Service Grant] and remaining funds from the \$9 billion allocated for post-secondary students in April to extend the CESB while also including International students;
2. Includes newly graduating students and recent graduates (retroactive to Fall 2019) in Employment Insurance and the new CRB program;
3. Extends the moratorium on student debt loan interest and payments until May 1, 2021, with consideration of further extensions based on the public health and economic situation, and commits to significant student debt relief;
4. Expands the Canada Student Grant, returns to 50-50 cost-sharing with provinces and territories, and increases funding for post-secondary institutions.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Councillors are encouraged to sign on to the petition and to talk about it with their constituents, communities, and peers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU post about the petition on social media and other official channels to encourage our members to sign on in support.

MOTION 2020-12-03-11.5

WHEREAS the DSU Council received a presentation on allegations made against an associate professor in the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine on the November 19th meeting of Council; and

WHEREAS the DSU is dedicated to supporting all survivors of sexualized violence;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the DSU Council endorse the attached statement, to be circulated to the membership.

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

The following motions will appear on the agenda for the next Council meeting on December 17, 2020:

13.1: Motion to approve the revised budget

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year be adopted.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

13.2: Motion to discipline a councillor

WHEREAS the duties of a DSU councillor, as described in Section 4.4 of the Bylaws, include that they must use reasonable efforts to advance the interests of the constituency they represent, must attend all meetings of Council, and must sit on at least one Union Committee; and

WHEREAS Councillor Sahl Zoor, Computer Science representative, has been absent without regrets from 8 meetings of DSU Council and has not yet joined a Committee; and

WHEREAS Section 4.8 of the DSU Bylaws dictates that councillors may be disciplined for failure to attend Council meetings and/or failure to perform their duties;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Sahl Zoor, Computer Science representative, be recalled-to By Election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council empower the DSU president to formally request that the Dalhousie Computer Science Society nominate a new Computer Science Representative no later than January 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should Councillor Sahl Zoor provide reasonable explanation for his lack of participation, as well as present a plan to ensure his commitments to the student body are met in the future in his response to this motion, that Council consider his response with empathy for his individual circumstances.

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: November 16-27, 2020

Council Date: December 03, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

November 18, 8am: Covid-19 Meeting. Based on confirmed presence of community spread in the HRM, executive committee enacted a previously agreed upon set of actions to keep students safe. Changes include: closure of the atrium seating area, all staff given work-from-home option, tenants encouraged to work remotely, all society event approvals revoked, no further society event approval until at least January 18th, 2021. Communications sent to societies before noon, November 18th.

November 20, 1pm: discussion on lack of use of dedicated prayer space downstairs in the SUB; agreement on building budget space to purchase menstrual cups for free distribution to students; VPSL to send in communications request to build an info graphic for returning international students; discussion on 16 days of activism involvement; planning for a mid-term review with commissioners; addressing society event questions from VPI.

November 23, 12:30pm: discussion on new timesheet/payroll requirements for December; plan to send staff a memo on mask requirements; Ombudsperson letter draft presented to executive from VPAAE; VPSL question on adding volunteer opportunities section to website – agreed to liaise with communications; discussion on a potential CTV interview regarding Covid-19 and students, holiday plans; brainstorming for Winter content planning.

November 27, 1pm: discussion on executive plans to accommodate exam writing; plans for agenda of next Student Affairs/DSU meeting; organization of Member Services Assistant hours for next month; announcement of two new hires: a new graphic designer, Kelsey, and a new Societies and Programming Coordinator, Gina; review of councillor participation and agreement on disciplinary motions; discussion on work-from-home for executives (Jad, Hanna to be WFH); updates on winter orientation from VPSL; update on Health Plan appeal disagreement from a student; discussion on Covid; plan to address student concerns related to Code of Conduct implications for Covid violations – added to next SA/DSU meeting agenda.

Other Meetings/Tasks

November 17, 2pm: Exam tabling with VPSL

November 17, 1pm: Society Event Management Committee Meeting

November 18, 9:30am: Covid-19 communications meeting with Communications Coordinator, Director Research & Outreach, and Director Operations.

November 18, 10am: Council Prep with Policy & Governance Coordinator.

November 18, 11am: Meeting with Director Research & Outreach and Survivor Support Centre Manager to discuss ongoing disclosures related to staff at Dalhousie Medicine, New Brunswick (DMNB).

November 18, 3:15pm: Meeting with VPAE, Director Research & Outreach, and Policy & Governance Coordinator to discuss agenda items (presentation of DSU pass/ill motion) at special meeting of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.

November 18, 5pm: Senate Caucus.

November 19, 6:30pm: DSU Council. Gave UNB Presentation.

November 20, 10am: Graphic Designer candidate review meeting with VPFO and Director Research & Outreach.

November 23, 9am: Touch-base before Senate with VPAE, Director Research & Outreach, and student senators.

November 24, 1:30pm: Meeting with Policy & Governance Coordinator and Director Operations to discuss the part-time staff manual. Changes include: clear description on what employees may also serve on council, outlining of disciplinary and complaints processes.

November 25, 2pm: Council Prep with Policy & Governance Coordinator.

November 25, 3:30pm: Graphic Designer pre-interviews prep meeting.

November 25, 4-6pm: Graphic Designer interviews & post-interview discussion. New graphic designer hired.

November 27, 12:30pm: Senate and BoG prep meeting with Policy & Governance Coordinator, Director Research & Outreach, and VPAE.

University Affairs and Committees

November 17, 11:30am: Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Meeting, notes distributed to executive committee.

November 17, 3:30pm: Meeting with the Chair of Senate to discuss passing another academic amnesty motion.

November 17, 4pm: AUCRETT Stakeholder meeting, regrets sent.

November 18, 12:30pm: Phone call with Vice Provost, Student Affairs to discuss allegations against staff at DMNB.

November 18, 2pm: Presentation to Senate Planning and Governance Committee related to motion to continue to approve academic amnesty.

November 23, 3pm: Senate meeting.

November 24, 3pm: Board of Governors meeting.

November 25, 9am: Board of Governors retreat. Presentation from President on his vision for the University, presentation from Advancement department on giving and donations, general discussion.

November 25, 12pm: Meeting with Student Affairs team. Presentation from Dean of Libraries on Digital Strategy and Student Health Promotion Manage on PEP-AH Framework.

November 26, 4:30pm: Return to Campus executive committee meeting, notes circulated to DSU executive committee.

External and Broader Community

November 18, 2:30pm: Interview with CBC New Brunswick to discuss DSU solidarity with the University of New Brunswick's Student Union.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

November 23, 7pm: BoG Student Caucus. Introduction of new BoG rep, Aparna, and overview of basic strategy and flow of BoG meetings. Review of the agenda, question brainstorming, and speaking assignments.

Upcoming Dates

December 07: Last day of fall classes (last day to withdraw with a 'W').



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Nov. 14th – 27th

Council Date: December 3rd, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Exam Destress Tabling – Nov. Assisted VPSL with tabling for free handouts.
- Unlearn meeting – Nov. 17th.
 - Discussed ways to re-pick up meaningful content production.
- Society Policy – Final reviews done!
 - I've worked a while on some of the edits, especially pertaining how society training should look next year. It has been sent to our Policy and Government coordinator for review. The next step is to discuss the edits with Society Review Committee and send them to Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.
- Adding societies to the website
 - I've been doing this occasionally as I time permits. There are a lot of new societies I added to the website so apart from a few stragglers, this work has been caught up.
 - This took up big chunks of my last two weeks!
- Society COVID Memos
 - Have been diligently keeping up to date with NS Government restrictions and advising societies to change their functioning to fit new COVID-19 guidelines.
- Accessibility Fund Committee – Nov. 19th
 - Continued to issue bursaries from ongoing applications. Brainstorming consistency within our funding amounts.
- Constitution Checks & VPI Ratification
- Winter Society Expo Planning
 - Airtable making and confirming details.
- Society Coordinator Hiring Committee – Nov. 27th

University Affairs and Committees

- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Nov. 19th.
 - Discussed collecting feedback from both current and potential students about accessibility needs to consider.
 - Discussed the new Disabled Faculty and Staff Caucus.
- DSU executive and Student Affairs Admin Bi-weekly meeting – Nov. 25th

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC last met on Nov. 25th. We approved one society: The Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society.
- NSPIRG was deferred to accommodate their Joint Stocks ratification.

Upcoming Dates

- N/A

Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: October 17 – November 28, 2020

Council Date: December 3, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- SUB update – we are currently operating as a service-only building, with the Market, Food Bank, Info Desk and Bookstore open. Until COVID cases go down, there will be no study spaces in the building, so that we can protect our full-time staff, part-time staff, and all members from exposure to the virus.
- Regular Executive Committee and Operations staff meetings.
- Budget revisions have taken up the bulk of my time in the last month! I've been reviewing all departments and creating a summary of changes, which will be circulated Dec. 3 with the revised budget.
- Hiring committee for two full-time staff positions, Graphic Designer and the Societies and Programming Coordinator (new full-time position, created to dedicate more support and consistency of communication with societies).
- Completed elections reimbursements from the by-election.
- DSU Pride Planning: Pride Week is occurring virtually during the last week of January 2021! It will include events like a Human Library, queer and trans yoga, and some advocacy and education work with faculty.
- Offices Steering Committee: part time staff support and oversight of payroll.
- Ongoing participation in Society Review Committee meetings to provide context about society account standings and financial guidelines of society constitutions.
- Treasurer Training: have held twenty sessions so far, with over 100 treasurers participating in total. There are still upcoming sessions taking place on a monthly basis. Updates to treasurer training for constituent societies.
- Creation of a treasurer handbook for faculty society treasurers to be officially implemented next semester.
- Ongoing communications with Dalhousie regarding their enrollment numbers. Finalized numbers and reconciliations have not yet been sent to us.

- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: has issued a total of \$15,450 in bursaries this semester. Have now fully implemented the new timelines and anonymous reviewal system from the new policy. Note that the VPSL has replaced the VPAE on the committee due to scheduling conflicts.

University Affairs and Committees AND External and Broader Community

- Dalhousie is using the DSU Food Bank and Food Security initiatives as their organization for Giving Tuesday, a fundraising initiative. This is a very promising and exciting update, and will allow us to increase food bank capacity

Grants and Sponsorship Committee Updates & Dates

- Grants were allocated in this period to:
 - Dalhousie Bladder Cancer Awareness Society

Budget and Finance Committee Updates

- Investment Review: funds have now been divested as per the Responsible Investment Policy and all of our holdings are being redirected into two new, environmentally responsible funds managers, to ensure our future compliance with the policy. Reviews by the Budget and Finance Committee will continue to occur on a quarterly basis.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: November 17, 2020- December 2, 2020

Council Date: December 3, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- a. Accessibility Fund Committee met on November 20th for a regular ongoing meeting to allocate funds.
- b. Student Senate Caucus met on November 18th and December 2nd to discuss the agendas for the meetings of Senate on November 23rd and December 7th, respectfully.

University Affairs and Committees

1. The Ombudsperson Advisory Committee met on November 24th to discuss the timeline for discussing and implementing changes suggested in the Strople Report and the timeline for hiring a new Ombudsperson.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
 - a. Student-specific consultations were completed since the last meeting of council. We will now begin revising with suggestions made by students and other stakeholders in consideration.
3. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on flagging and avoiding oppressive content in the classroom.
4. Open educational resources (OER) grant discussion meeting with Dal libraries on December 1st as an ongoing part of bringing attention to OER at Dalhousie.
5. Successfully advocated for a PASS/ILL option to be available to students for the 2020/2021 fall and winter semesters.
6. Ongoing discussions with the registrar about using the language used in their admissions portal.
7. Special Senate Learning and Teaching Committee on November 20th to discuss the PASLL/ILL motion the DSU brought forward.

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition

- a. Reassessing how to promote NS Needs Students
- 2. Addressing changes students would like to see to the semester to allow them to be successful.

Upcoming Dates

None to report



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: November 14th – Nov. 27th

Council Date: Dec. 3rd, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Student Life Committee

- a. Nov 18th: Chaired SLC meeting on plan for December and for Winter orientation
- b. Nov 25th: Chaired SLC meeting finalizing plan for December and January.

2. Men's Mental Health Campaign

- a. Nov. 13th, 20th, & 27th: Hosted, filmed, and released 3 videos on different aspects of men's mental health.

3. Mental Health Forum

- a. Nov. 17th: Executed first meeting of the semester

4. International Student Bursary Committee

- a. Nov 27th: Committee met and decided upon recipients

5. Brightspace Mental Health Course Initiative

- a. Nov. 18th: Received access to a Brightspace and began work on building the course
- b. Nov. 20th: Met with Catherine Robertson and DSU events commissioner to continue building course.

6. Housing Crisis Campaigns

- a. Met with Events commissioner to discuss info for campaign

University Affairs and Committees

1. University meetings:

- a. Nov. 17th: Met with Student Affairs Winter Orientation programming committee
- b. Nov 19th: Met with Student affairs and president of Dal libraries to discuss study spaces for students on campus.
- c. Nov 20th: Met with Student Affairs Winter Orientation group
- d. Nov 24th: Met with Student Affairs to discuss Ombudsperson hiring plan
- e. Nov. 24th: Met with Student Affairs to discuss Student Code of Conduct

f. Nov. 25th: Met with DSL Winter Orientation Comms team

External and Broader Community

1. E-MHA Focus Group
 - a. Nov. 17th: Met with a provincial group working on providing electronic mental health resources.
2. Healthy Minds NS Committee
 - a. Nov. 18th: Attended provincial committee meeting.
3. White Ribbon
 - a. Nov. 19th: Met with Humberto Carlo, president of White Ribbon to discuss opportunities to support their efforts with the 16 days of activism.

Upcoming Dates

December 10th at 12:00pm: Exam De-stressor care package give away



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DSU Council Update on Pass/ILL Senate Motion

December 03, 2020

On November 23rd, 2020, the Dalhousie Senate passed a motion (with just over 50% support) to give all students, in all faculties, access to PASS/ILL grading options. This motion is to be administered in the same manner as it was when passed in the Winter 2020 semester. However, due to concerns, Senate indicated that they would allow those faculties who did not want to offer their students a PASS/ILL option to submit a waiver to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) to opt-out of the motion.

Current PASS/ILL

On December 03, 2020, the SPGC met to consider six waivers. The following faculties applied for waivers, some with specific considerations:

1. Faculty of Dentistry: full opt-out
2. Faculty of Law: full opt-out
3. Faculty of Medicine: opt-out applies only to Doctor of Medicine program
4. Faculty of Graduate Studies: opt-out applies to grading outcomes of thesis defences, comprehensive/qualifying examinations, and internship/clinical placement/residency format courses
5. Faculty of Engineering: opt-out of PASS option, will offer ILL
6. Faculty of Management: no opt-out, but alternative administration of motion

When the DSU spoke with students from each of these faculties, there was majority support for the waivers in all faculties except Engineering. Students in Engineering were divided; some felt that risking the program's accreditation wasn't worth it, others felt that the lack of support for students this semester was unacceptable and that the PASS/ILL option is necessary.

The Chair of Senate has committed to meeting with the SPGC student representatives, the Provost and Vice President Academic, and members of the Engineering faculty to work towards a plan for the faculty to speak with the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) in February, at their next meeting. This will allow the faculty to determine definitively whether a PASS/ILL option would pose an insurmountable risk to the faculty's accreditation status. Since the CEAB meeting and the PASS/ILL deadline both occur in February, if the grading scheme can be applied, Engineering students would be able to make the choice to use PASS/ILL at that time.



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The Chair of Senate has also indicated that they are willing to help the DSU communicate with administrators from all faculties that opted out of PASS/ILL to ensure they hear from students about what alternative accommodations they could provide to support students' wellbeing. The DSU has been actively consulting with students from these faculties to hear what would apply best to their faculty's unique circumstances.

The SPGC approved the waivers of all six faculties. Each of these faculties should be communicating with their students shortly, if they have not done so already. The DSU will also put out communications to make students aware of the changes to the motion's administration.

Retroactive PASS/ILL

Since the news of Senate's PASS/ILL motion, there has been discussion amongst Deans and Associate Academic Deans about the Summer 2020 Semester. A handful of students have also come to the DSU with questions about whether PASS/ILL could be back-dated to apply to that semester. The DSU met with the Associate Vice President Academic (AVPA), the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) Chair, Dalhousie Legal, and folks from the Registrar this week to discuss. Based on that discussion, the DSU and AVPA have made plans to bring a motion to Senate regarding this matter in early 2021, most likely through the SLTC.

This motion will be specific, and apply only to certain groups of students in specific programs. Application of this motion will likely apply to students who had a virtual, full-time, mandatory summer course load in Summer 2020 that is not normally offered online. This motion will also likely only be available to students in programs where the PASS/ILL grading option is available in the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 semesters.

There is still consultation and further discussion required on this motion before it materializes and moves forward. Nothing is certain at this time.

**Questions regarding PASS/ILL can be directed to the DSU VP Academic/External
(dsuvpae@dal.ca) or President (dsupres@dal.ca).**



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Content Warning: The following contains discussion of sexualized violence and medical misconduct.

December 2, 2020

The Dalhousie Student Union has recently been made aware of allegations of sexual assault against an associate faculty member teaching at the Dalhousie Medicine campus in St. John, New Brunswick. These disclosures were made online, and communicated to the DSU by our peers at the University of New Brunswick Students' Union (UNBSU).

Dr. M. Bhargava taught Dalhousie students at a Faculty of Medicine satellite program in New Brunswick. The allegations made against him, to date, come from his practice at the UNB/St. Thomas University Student Health Centre in Fredericton, or off-campus medical facilities in New Brunswick. The DSU and Dalhousie University are not aware of any disclosures from Dalhousie students.

On November 17th, 2020, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick suspended Dr. Bhargava's license to practice. His license will remain inactive until an investigation is completed and a determination is made by the College. To the best of the DSU's knowledge, Dr. Bhargava does not have an active license to practice medicine in Nova Scotia. His contact and listing as an associate professor with the Dalhousie Department of Psychiatry has been removed from the Faculty of Medicine's webpage. To hold an active appointment with Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine, a professor must have an active license to practice medicine and privileges at a health authority.

To support survivors, the UNBSU, and all those who are a part of our joint communities, the DSU has committed to addressing these allegations on Dalhousie campuses. Immediately after being notified of the allegations, the DSU updated all appropriate Dalhousie departments. The DSU continues to work with Student Affairs and student leaders on multiple campuses to address the situation.

The DSU stands in support of all survivors and in solidarity with our peers at the University of New Brunswick Students Union. The safety and wellbeing of our members is our top priority. The experiences and feelings of survivors are valid, and they are heard. The resources available through the DSU Survivor Support Centre are currently available to all students at any university impacted by these allegations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact dsupres@dal.ca. If you are looking for support, please contact one of the resources below.

Signed,

Madeleine Stinson, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Stinson', written in a cursive style.



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Resources

Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services

- Crystal Ragush, Sexualized Violence Advisor – crystal.ragush@dal.ca
- [The Purple Folder](#)

Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness

- [Website](#)
- [Good2Talk](#)

The DSU Survivor Support Centre

- survivorsupport@dal.ca
- 902-425-1066

Dalhousie Security

- security@dal.ca
- 902-494-4109 (Halifax)
- 902-893-4190 (Truro)

DSU Election – Winter 2021 Timeline

| Event/Deadline | Date |
|---|-----------------------|
| Elections Period schedule, nomination forms, and VPFO technical questionnaires published | January 18 |
| Deadline for Faculty-Level Societies to opt-in to electing their representative through the general election | January 25 |
| Final date for referenda to be approved by Council | January 28 |
| Elections Period begins; Nominations & Campaign Registrations Open | February 1 |
| Munro Day (University and DSU closed) | February 5 |
| Nominations & Campaign Registrations Close; deadline to submit Nomination Forms, Campaign Information Forms, and VPFO questionnaires | February 9 |
| All Candidates Meeting & Anti-Oppression Training | February 10 |
| Deadline to request an advance for campaign expenditures | February 15 |
| Deadline for campaigns to submit Candidate Questionnaires, posters, and handbills | February 16 |
| Winter Break | February 15 – 19 |
| Campaign Period Begins | February 22 |
| Debates Held | February 22 – March 7 |
| Campaign Period Ends; Deadline for Candidate to Withdraw | March 7 |
| Voting Period | March 8 & 9 |
| Unofficial Results Announced | March 10 |
| Deadline to appeal results of referendum or election; results become official if no appeals are received; end of Elections Period | March 12 |
| Deadline to Submit Itemized List of Campaign Expenses to the VPFO | March 13 |
| Deadline for the Return of Unused Candidate Fees and Deadline to Submit Payment of Fines to the VPFO | March 19 |
| All declarations made by candidates and nominees (Community Rep) and record of vote destroyed | March 30 |



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December 2, 2020

Revised Budget 2020-21: Summary of Changes

Changes by Department:

110: Council Administration

- No significant changes.

112: Service

- This line includes grants and sponsorship
- Reduced member grant allocations. Due to less travel and fewer in-person conferences and events this year there has been low usage and less need from the membership.
- Allocation of \$40,000 for an Emergency Bursary program to be distributed in January and February. All DSU members will be eligible to apply. Will be governed as per the Bursary Policy to be implemented by January.
- Increased the sponsorship line to \$6,500 to allow for opportunities to sponsor local advocacy groups asking for funds this winter. Sponsorship is allocated by the Executive Committee, upon request of Council or committees.

113: Advocacy/Campaigns

- Increased funding for Racial Justice Symposium, taking place virtually this winter in collaboration with the E&A office.

115: Sexton Office

- Decreased funding due to lack of access to Sexton Campus.
- Small allocation of funds to set up a coffee and snack station on select days at Sexton study spaces. This will be organized through Student Life Committee.

120: President's Office.

- Only changes were to create two student positions, each for 10 hours per week, January-March. One is to organize the Racial Justice Symposium with the planning committee. The other is to lead consultation on a Strategic Plan.

130, 140, 150 and 160 – other Executive Departments

- no significant changes.

155: Policy and Governance Coordinator

- Removed funds that had been budgeted to hire a Records and Archives Manager to assist with overhauling DSU archiving practices. This work is now being done through an agreement with the Dalhousie Archive and the support of one of their paid interns at no cost to the DSU.

161: Student Life Programming

- Increased funding for Pride Week, Indigenous Student Programming and African Heritage Month. Programming will be led by students and societies who identify with these groups.
- Mental Health Bursary: \$15,000 allocated for a Mental Health Bursary to assist students to access mental health and wellness supports. Will be governed by the Bursary Policy to be implemented in January.
- Reduction/removal of funding for DalX (as this is being organized by another group), Frost, Technical, and DalFest due to the second wave of COVID-19.

170: Elections

- No significant changes. Reduction in the cost of elections platform has been reflected in the budget.

180: Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service

- Significant increase to part-time wages, as the five part-time staff have been working many unpaid hours to meet the demand for the service. Happy to say that we have allocated approximately twice as much funding to DSAS as we did last fiscal year!

185: Communications

- Increase to part-time staff hours for the Sponsorship Coordinator and the Social Media Coordinator to increase our online presence.
- Slight increase to marketing and promotion so that we can better advertise services, events and advocacy available for students.

190: Contract Income

- Reduction in revenue due to rent relief provided to Ascension Barbershop during the first wave.

195: Graphic Design and Campaigns

- No significant changes.

200: Investment Income

- Changes to our investment holdings reflected a profit to us in October. Otherwise, no significant changes.

220: Food Services

- Increase in revenue due to negotiations of our food contract, in which we were able to negotiate a bonus.
- Some repairs had to be done to equipment over the summer, so there is an increase to expenses due to maintenance costs.

230: Director of Operations

- Salary for the position has remained the same, but there is an increase to this department because 30% of salary costs were formerly budgeted in the Grawood and T-Room departments. Have moved all costs to this department to reflect the service closure.
- New funds allocated to allow us to conduct an external governance review this winter.
- Have budgeted for volunteer appreciation in December and March, for the volunteers with DSAS, the Food Bank, and Survivor Support. Appreciation for part time and full-time staff is also included in this department.

231: Director of Research and Outreach

- No significant changes.

240: Accounting

- No significant changes.

241: Second Floor Admin

- No significant changes.
- This department is largely telephone, armored car service for deposits, and office supplies).

250: Bar Services (Grawood)

- Had budgeted as if we were re-opening in January, but we do not anticipate re-opening this year. Revenue will be zero.
- Increased costs for repairs and maintenance, as several of our fridges required repairs this summer.
- Significant food and alcohol inventory losses will be reflected this year, due to the first wave of COVID-19, which unfortunately happened immediately following a St. Patrick's Day alcohol order. We were unable to return most of the product.

300: Technical; 310: Computer Support; 320: SUB Security

- Reductions in revenue and costs to these departments due to reduced events and reduced building hours.

325: Societies and Programming Coordinator (formerly – Member Services)

- This is now a dedicated position for society support and programming.
- Small increase to the budget for Winter Society Expo so that we can offer incentives for (virtual) participation.

326: Farmers Market

- Revenue and expenses have been reduced, proportionate to the original budget, based on actuals from fall operations.
- Overall – the market is performing better than expected! Thank you to the hardworking staff and volunteers, and all students taking advantage of this service.

327: Food Bank

- Substantial changes to this department. We have received funding from FeedNS as well as Dalhousie's Giving Tuesday, which will be accounted as funding exclusively for this department. As per an upcoming amendment to the financial policy, if this department runs a surplus, excess revenue will carry over to this department for following years. To reflect this, I have budgeted for revenue equal to our expenses so as not to affect the overall budget numbers in this view.

- Increased expenses reflect increased hours for the Food Bank Manager, the creation of two part-time assistant positions to provide stability for the food bank, and grocery expenses to meet the demand for food at the Food Bank.

328: DSU Services (new department)

- New position to be hired in January. This will be a full-time, unionized position to oversee the Market, the Food Bank, Sexton Office, Member Grants and Bursaries, and other DSU services as required. Due to demand from our members to have more support for services and societies, we split the portfolio of the Member Services position into two positions.

330: Reservations

- Changes to this department reflect a reduction in events and room bookings due to COVID-19. We have been accepting reservations from returning clients who are doing long-term bookings and demonstrate that they can carefully follow the COVID-19 protocol, but revenue from bookings has been reduced overall.

340: Future Alterations and Renovations

- No changes to this department.

350: Grawood Programming and Promotions

- Expenses and revenue have been decreased. The only activity in this department is to maintain our SOCAN license for music, but we are expecting a credit at some point in the future.

395: Orientation Week

- Changes reflect increased sponsorship and ticket sales, and also increased expenses. All amounts were from O-Week in September.

410: Tiger Patrol

- No changes to this department. The service has not been operational for three years and one van was donated to Sipekne'katik First Nation as reported in August. The remaining van is used for transportation for the food bank, event equipment, and for some Sexton services.

430: Campus Copy

- Retail revenue and expenses were decreased to reflect the year-long closure of Campus Copy.

440: T-Room

- Revenue and expenses decreased to reflect the year-long closure of the T-Room.
- Increase to the Repairs and Maintenance line so that the T-Room can be painted, as Sexton students have been requesting for a couple of years- the closure can accommodate this operationally.

450: T-Room Programming

- No charges or expenses to this department, with the exception of our SOCAN license fee, which will likely be credited at the end of the year.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, December 17 2020 – 6:30 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

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.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2020-12-17-3.1

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 2020-12-17-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on December 3, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

MOTION 2020-12-17-10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year be adopted.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

11. New Business

MOTION 2020-12-17-11.1

WHEREAS the Revised 2020-21 Budget includes funds set aside to distribute an emergency bursary in January and February of 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the 2021 DSU Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference as circulated, including designating the Grants Committee the authority to review applications for this bursary.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-12-17-11.2

WHEREAS the Revised 2020-21 Budget includes funds set aside for the Union to contract an external body to review the Union's governing documents;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) defining the scope of the planned Governance Review, including the purpose of the review, objectives, and timeline for the project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the RFP will define two phases to the project:

- First, a review of disciplinary and complaint procedures within the DSU with specific focus on defining clear steps to be taken when complaints or allegations are brought forward against a Councillor or Executive Officer. This review should particularly focus on allegations of sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination, and should support the DSU in developing a survivor-centred response process. The goal is to ensure that the DSU has mechanisms to respond to student concerns and hold elected

representatives accountable through a clear process, while ensuring that said process does not create unwanted legal ramifications for the DSU or any party involved.

- Second, a general review of the DSU's governing documents to identify inconsistencies, best practices, and areas for change to better meet the objectives of the organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the draft RFP will be circulated to Council by January 31st, 2021.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations

MOTION 2020-12-17-11.3

WHEREAS Council struck the Response Committee on July 30, 2020 on recommendation of the Judicial Board with the purpose: "to ensure that DSU policies and procedures reflect a survivor-centric framework as well as due process, fairness, and transparency; AND

WHEREAS since that time, preliminary conversations have highlighted both the need for a comprehensive review that has a lasting impact and the importance of seeking expert advice and counsel on this complex and multidimensional issue; AND

WHEREAS to this end, the Executive has proposed contracting an external organization to undertake a complete governance review with a specific focus on clarifying discipline and complaint procedures through a survivor-centric framework; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the mandate of the Response Committee be changed to the following:

- To review the process that took place to address the allegations made against the Vice President, Student Life in 2020;
- To consult Executives, Councillors, and other interested parties on their concerns about and perceptions of said process, and their ideas for the development and revision of disciplinary and complaint procedures;
- To develop a report summarizing their findings and the outcome of their consultations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Response Committee will deliver this report to Council by March 30, 2021

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Response Committee Report will guide the Executive Officers, Bylaw and Policy Review Committee, Council, and any other relevant committees or bodies in the implementation of the recommendations about disciplinary and complaint processes delivered in the governance review.

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 Announcement regarding Council dates for the Winter term

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: November 28-December 11, 2020

Council Date: December 17, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

November 30: Discussion on additions to the December newsletter. Meeting proxy request from the VPAAE for copyright advisory committee. Question about society ratifications in Truro (who do they ratify to?), VPFO to follow up and report back. VPFO gave update on staff appreciation plans. Request for executives to review budget summary document from VPFO.

December 04: Consultation on potential joint communication (Senate, faculty, DSU) regarding academic integrity and Chegg. Inc with executive – approval for President to sign off and include DSAS information. Organization of executive winter content before break. Update from Policy and Governance Coordinator regarding connecting with students in advance of next executive election – execs to encourage students to get involved and run. Plans for performance appraisals for new full time staff. Campus copy discussion follow-up from Council.

December 07: Ongoing project updates from executive. Update on winter break extension advocacy and determination of next steps. Syllabus archival discussion – potentially something that will come up to go to Senate or Registrar for further conversation. Discussion on Society Review Committee next steps regarding complaints received against a society.

December 11: Discussion on potential coordination with Concordia student's union on holiday wishes campaign, executive decided against involvement, will review toolkit once provided. Update from VPAAE on Student Ratings of Course Content planning. Discussion on ASL society advocacy and potential DSU involvement; society has been encouraged to consult with deaf/HOH students before moving forward, DSU will not be getting involved. Update on Frost week activities and society expo planning.

Other Meetings/Tasks

November 30, 11am: meeting with DSU VPAAE to discuss mental health advocacy in Senate and get on the same page regarding current strategic priorities.

November 30, 3pm: meeting with Director, Research & Outreach and Policy and Governance Coordinator to discuss recent Board of Governors meeting and strategies for discussion and advocacy as a team.

December 01, 1pm: meeting with Director Operations and VPFO to discuss liquor license and bar services. DSU is in the process of applying for an independent liquor license to cover the SUB and T-Room. Letter requesting Dalhousie's support in the DSU to seek its own license has been sent to the Vice Provost, Student Affairs and we are awaiting reply.

December 01, 2:30pm: meeting with Director Operations and student regarding retroactive approval of opt-out of Health & Dental plan based on extenuating circumstances.

December 02, 4pm: Council preparation meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator and executives.

December 02, 5pm: Student Senate Caucus meeting. VPAE absent, stepped in as acting Chair. Minutes available through VPAE.

December 03, 6:30pm: DSU Council.

December 04, 1pm: DSU Staff meeting. Introduction of new Graphic Design and Campaigns Coordinator, Kelsey, and Societies and Programming Coordinator, Gina.

December 07, 2pm: Senate preparation meeting with Director, Research and Outreach and VPAE to discuss and format official question to Senate officers regarding additional accommodations to support students in the Winter term.

December 09, 1pm: Touch-base meeting with Director, Research and Outreach regarding SPGC meeting strategy.

December 09, 4pm: Touch-base meeting with Director, Research and Outreach, VPAE, and Policy and Governance Coordinator to prepare for Student Senate Caucus meeting.

December 09, 4:15pm: Meeting with Graphic Designer regarding executive winter socials content design.

December 09, 5pm: Student Senate Caucus meeting. Minutes available through VPAE.

December 11, 12:30pm: Board and Senate preparation meeting with Director, Research and Outreach, VPAE, and Policy and Governance Coordinator.

University Affairs and Committees

November 30, 2pm: meeting with VPAE and Chair of Senate to discuss CHEGG Inc. and potential joint communication between Senate, DSU, and Faculty to students. DSU involvement is dependent on the communication being offered in multiple languages (ideally Mandarin, Hindi,

Spanish, French) and including space for the DSU to promote DSAS – the student advocacy service.

November 30, 4pm: Digital Strategy Discussion Group meeting with Registrar, Dean of Libraries, Vice Provost Student Affairs, VPAE, and VPSL to provide input on student recruitment and the admissions experience and how they could be bettered through the new Digital Strategy. Key points included increased focus on accessibility and equity, methods to increase student engagement, and changes to learning that come with online transition.

December 02, 9am: Meeting with Dal Associate Vice President Academic, Registrar, Senate Officer Pacurar, and Dal legal to discuss retroactive approval of pass/ill grading for 3-term students who were in mandatory courses in summer 2020. Small discussion on holiday break extension. Details presented last Council meeting.

December 03, 11am: Special meeting of Senate Planning and Governance Committee. Approval of 5 faculty opt-outs from pass/ill motion. Discussion on support for Faculty of Engineering students.

December 03, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Executive Committee meeting. Notes circulated to executive committee, available upon request.

December 07, 3pm: Senate meeting.

December 08, 8:30am: Meeting with Senate Chair, Senate Officer Pacurar, Dal Assistant Vice President Academic, Vice Provost Student Affairs, Dal legal, VPAE to discuss question submitted to Senate regarding additional accommodations for Winter term and the reasoning behind Dalhousie's lack of extension to the Winter Break. Working group to be formed between this group to increase communication.

December 08, 11:30am: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences faculty meeting. Notes circulated to executive committee.

December 09, 12pm: DSU executive meeting with Student Affairs Office. Discussion on the Student Affairs 2020-25 Strategic Framework, communications on student supports over the holidays, and Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students finances.

December 09, 2pm: Senate Planning and Governance Committee meeting. Notes circulated to the executive committee.

December 10, 9am: Meeting with Associate VP Academic, Dal legal, Comp Sci ADA, Management ADA, Registrar, VPAE, to discuss retroactive pass/ill. Working group including VPAE currently handling the process of approving retroactive pass/ill – additional updates to be provided when they arise.

December 10, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Executive Committee Meeting. Notes circulated to executive committee, available upon request.

External and Broader Community

- No significant updates.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

December 09, 8:30am: Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting. Presentation given on the DSU Annual Survey results. Notes circulated to the executive committee.

- The BoG Caucus is currently in the process of brainstorming and building terms of reference for a consultation project on university governance and services. More updates to be provided to Council in the New Year.

Upcoming Dates

December 18: DSU offices close.

December 20: Last day of Fall 2020 semester exam period.

December 23: Bookstore closes.

January 04, 2021: SUB reopens for Bookstore access.

January 06, 2021: Winter 2021 semester begins.

January 06, 2021: DSU offices open (virtually).

January 18, 2021: SUB reopens for public access, additional spaces to be opened dependent on Covid-19 cases in Nova Scotia.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Nov. 28th – Dec. 11th

Council Date: Dec. 17th, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Winter Society Expo Planning
 - Setting dates, organizing structure, creating registration forms, doing graphic and communications requests, and consulting on graphics. This took a majority of my working hours.
- Bursary Policy discussion
 - Reviewed and discussed the new overarching Bursary policy.
- Society Policy Review
 - The society policy is under collective review with the VPFO, Society Review Committee, and staff.
- Adding societies to the website.
- Society Mixer Planning
 - This is in very early stages. Most planning was done visualizing the outcome and goals of a mixer or a information session.
- “What is the DSU” Outlining
 - This project entails putting together a collection of important information for members to view about the DSU.
- Accessibility Bursary Committee
 - Met last on Dec. 4th to continue to review and distribute funds.
- Annual Survey Graphics Meeting
 - Dec. 4th I met with our new Graphic Designer to discuss the stages of annual survey graphics for the general membership.
- Society Chats with our new Societies Coordinator
 - Getting them up to speed and being available for conversation about society processes.

University Affairs and Committees

- Anti-Oppression Training Meeting & Review – Dec. 2nd, 2020
 - This meeting entailed working visualizing non-Brightspace platforms for delivery and content review.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- Society Review Committee met last on Dec. 8th, 2020.
 - The committee discussed a number of issues pertaining to the Dalhousie Commerce Society (DCS). There were complaints lodged against DCS in regards to violations of their own Constitution. The committee made the decision to have DCS redo their AGM, with guidance provided by SRC and the DSU and provide us with voting information regarding their most recent By-election for further decisions to be made.

Upcoming Dates

- Final Student Accessibility Fund Committee meeting on Dec. 18th 2020. Will meet again on January 15th, 2021.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: December 2, 2020- December 16, 2020

Council Date: December 17, 2020

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- a. Accessibility Fund Committee met on December 4th for a regular ongoing meeting to allocate funds.
- b. Student Senate Caucus met on December 9th to discuss the agenda for the meeting of Senate on December 14th.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee
2. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on flagging and avoiding oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. The VPSL and I submit our proposal to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for consideration at the agenda meeting.
3. Ongoing work with the Open educational resources (OER) Committee
 - a. We have been awarded \$20 000
 - b. I will now serve on the Grants Decision Committee to help allocate funds.
4. Ongoing consultation regarding student needs and supportive accommodations.

External and Broader Community

1. Ongoing work addressing tuition
 - a. Reassessing how to promote NS Needs Students
2. Addressing changes students would like to see to the semester to allow them to be successful.

Upcoming Dates

None to report



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December 11, 2020

Vice President, Finance and Operations

2021 DSU Emergency Bursary Terms of Reference

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the DSU budget and the financial concerns of our members. On December 3rd, 2020 the Vice President, Finance and Operations presented a revised budget to Council to be voted on at the following meeting on December 17th, 2020. The revised budget included an allocation of funds for the creation of a 2021 Emergency Bursary. This document outlines the terms governing this bursary.

Name of Bursary: 2021 DSU Emergency Bursary

Funds Available: The 2021 DSU Emergency Bursary consists of \$40 000 to be distributed as eighty individual bursaries of \$500. This money has been allocated from the DSU's General Fund.

The first \$20 000, or 40 bursaries, will be allocated in January and the subsequent \$20 000, or 40 bursaries, will be allocated in February.

Authority: Applications will be reviewed and funds will be allocated by the Grants Committee. Normal procedures for approval of spending will apply as per the Financial Policy and Bylaws.

Eligibility: Any Dalhousie student experiencing a one-time financial emergency situation is eligible to apply for funding through this bursary.

Funds may not be used to pay tuition or for other academic expenses.

The status of the applicant's application for other bursaries offered by the DSU or its Offices will not impact eligibility.

Application: Applications will be made using a web form available on the DSU website.

Applications must include:

- The applicant's full name, student number, year of study, and Dalhousie email address;
- Proof of enrollment at Dalhousie University;
- The amount of funding sought through the bursary (a maximum of \$500 may be sought);
- A description of the reason(s) for seeking bursary funding, specifically describing the circumstances causing emergency one-time financial need;
- A void cheque or direct deposit form;
- The amount of the applicant's current financial need;
- The applicant's personal budget and/or living expenses including other sources of income;

The application form will be developed by the Vice President, Finance and Operations and approved by the Grants Committee.

Evaluation: The Grants Committee will review applications in the order they are received. The Vice President, Finance and Operations, will remove identifying information from applications before they are circulated to the committee.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will be rejected.

The Committee will prioritize funding for those applicants whose financial need is most severe and who have the least access to other resources and supports.

Students may apply for more than one bursary through this program, but first-time applicants will be prioritized.

The Grants Committee may award the full amount requested or a part thereof.

Timeline: Applications for the bursary will open on or before January 6, 2021 and will close on February 15, 2021.

The Grants Committee will meet twice to review applications: once in January to review applications submitted on or before January 15, and once in February to review applications submitted on or before February 15.

The Vice President, Finance and Operations (or their designate) will update all applicants on the status of their application within ten (10) business days of the Grants Committee's meeting to review applications.

Funds will be distributed to approved applicants via direct deposit according to the DSU's internal accounting schedules and will be paid out as soon as possible following approval.

Advertisement and Promotion: The 2021 DSU Emergency Bursary will be promoted using all official DSU channels, including the newsletter, website, and social media.

DSU Revised Budget 2020-21

| Sector | Dept | Description | Revenue | Expense | Net (dept) | Net (sector) |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Revenue Dept | 100 | Student Fees (DSU operational) | \$ 1,257,318.00 | | \$ 1,257,318.00 | \$ 1,401,881.99 |
| | 190 | Contract | \$ 118,243.99 | | \$ 118,243.99 | |
| | 200 | Investment | \$ 43,360.00 | \$ 17,040.00 | \$ 26,320.00 | |
| Administration | 110 | Council Administration | | \$ 6,485.00 | -\$ 6,485.00 | -\$ 241,328.92 |
| | 120 | President | | \$ 52,568.90 | -\$ 52,568.90 | |
| | 130 | Vice President Internal | | \$ 41,812.70 | -\$ 41,812.70 | |
| | 140 | Vice President (Finance & Operations) | | \$ 40,237.70 | -\$ 40,237.70 | |
| | 150 | Vice President (Academic & External) | | \$ 41,747.70 | -\$ 41,747.70 | |
| | 160 | Vice President Student life | | \$ 41,812.70 | -\$ 41,812.70 | |
| | 170 | Elections | | \$ 16,664.22 | -\$ 16,664.22 | |
| Services (Non Revenue) | 112 | Services | | \$ 70,550.00 | -\$ 70,550.00 | -\$ 196,989.17 |
| | 325 | Societies Coordinator | | \$ 55,023.00 | -\$ 55,023.00 | |
| | 327 | Food Bank | \$ 24,562.00 | \$ 24,562.50 | -\$ 0.50 | |
| | 328 | Services Coordinator | | \$ 11,806.00 | -\$ 11,806.00 | |
| | 180 | Advocacy Service | | \$ 66,164.00 | -\$ 66,164.00 | |
| | 410 | Tiger Patrol | | \$ 18,007.67 | -\$ 18,007.67 | |
| Services (Revenue) | 330 | Reservations | \$ 49,997.57 | \$ 51,595.50 | -\$ 1,597.93 | -\$ 65,133.08 |
| | 430 | Campus Copy | \$ 2,850.00 | \$ 48,816.65 | -\$ 45,966.65 | |
| | 326 | Farmers Market | \$ 28,600.00 | \$ 46,168.51 | -\$ 17,568.51 | |
| | | | | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Food & Bar Services | 220 | Food Services | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 16,400.00 | \$ 133,600.00 | \$ 10,856.54 |
| | 250 | Grawood Bar | -\$ 26,500.00 | \$ 74,507.46 | -\$ 101,007.46 | |
| | 440 | T Room | -\$ 5,275.00 | \$ 16,461.00 | -\$ 21,736.00 | |
| Programming | 161 | Programming | \$ - | \$ 39,250.00 | -\$ 39,250.00 | -\$ 53,554.20 |
| | 350 | Grawood Programming | \$ - | \$ 1,620.00 | -\$ 1,620.00 | |
| | 395 | Orientation | \$ 18,880.00 | \$ 30,990.00 | -\$ 12,110.00 | |
| | 450 | Sexton Programming | \$ - | \$ 574.20 | -\$ 574.20 | |
| Policy, Campaign, Communications | 155 | Policy | | \$ 47,461.00 | -\$ 47,461.00 | -\$ 175,309.00 |
| | 185 | Communications | | \$ 75,727.00 | -\$ 75,727.00 | |
| | 113 | Advocacy/Campaigns | | \$ 6,000.00 | -\$ 6,000.00 | |
| | 195 | Graphic Design & Campaign | | \$ 46,121.00 | -\$ 46,121.00 | |



| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Operations | 230 Director of Operations | | \$ 143,383.00 | -\$ 143,383.00 | -\$ 653,881.86 |
| | 231 Director of Research | | \$ 71,307.00 | -\$ 71,307.00 | |
| | 240 Accounts | | \$ 201,799.93 | -\$ 201,799.93 | |
| | 241 2nd floor Admin | | \$ 5,323.00 | -\$ 5,323.00 | |
| | 300 Technical | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 72,406.84 | -\$ 70,406.84 | |
| | 310 Computer | | \$ 49,045.00 | -\$ 49,045.00 | |
| | 320 Security | | \$ 102,950.65 | -\$ 102,950.65 | |
| | 115 Sexton Office | | \$ 2,216.44 | -\$ 2,216.44 | |
| | 340 Furniture,Alteration,Renovation | | \$ 7,450.00 | -\$ 7,450.00 | |
| | | \$ 1,664,036.56 | \$ 1,662,056.27 | <u><u>\$ 1,980.30</u></u> | |



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: January 12, 2021; 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using MS Teams

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

MOTION 2021-01-12-1.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vice President, Finance and Operations, serve as acting Chair for this session of Council.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2021-01-12-3.1

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 2021-01-12-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on December 17, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1 Update on Ascension Barber Shop Tenancy Agreement

Presented by the President

Documents to be circulated during meeting.

8.2 Update on International Students Isolation

Presented by the President

Documents attached.

8.3 Presentation of Executive Feedback on the Dalhousie Consultation Framework

Presented by the President

Documents attached.

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

Motion 2021-02-12-11.1

WHEREAS international students and domestic members have raised multiple concerns over the inequitable treatment of international students returning to Nova Scotia to pursue a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS these students are calling for action from Dalhousie and the government; and

WHEREAS the University and government have failed to create meaningful, universally accessible supports for all international students returning to Nova Scotia;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached press release is endorsed by the DSU Council and published.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any updates on the situation be provided to Council in future executive reports of the President.

Documents attached.

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

The following motion will appear on the agenda for the council meeting on January 26, 2020.

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Senate Student Caucus for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by Vice President Academic and External

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Society Review Committee for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the Vice President Internal

14. Announcements

The DSU Vice President, Internal and President are exploring how the DSU can support students who are a part of equity-deserving groups through policy. If you are a member who identifies with one of these groups and are interested in developing an Issues Policy under the DSU to advocate for the rights of your peers, please contact dsuvpi@dal.ca.

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: December 12, 2020 – January 08, 2021

Council Date: January 12, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

December 14: Discussion on society expo/winter frost scheduling conflict. Request for executives to provide content for Dal After Dark post. Frost week update from VPSL. VPAE held consultation on draft Senate statement regarding circumstance of Fall 2020 semester. VPFO request policy edit to address procedural issue regarding elections reimbursement process.

December 18: VPFO provided clarification on Foodbank services and discussion was held on the specifics of recent Giving Tuesday donation. Discussion on requesting university financial support to match DSU Mental Health bursary. VPI update on recent Society Review Committee decisions. VPI indicates that new Loaded Ladle space on Sexton Campus will not be in the T-Room. VPI update on informational project. Director Operations provided update regarding appreciation for Food Bank Volunteers, to be provided in the new year. Follow-up on items discussion in the Research & Outreach meeting. VPAE provided update regarding Student Rating of Course Content proposal.

January 06: Welcome backs, catch-ups. Discussion on a request to support local student-run start up. Reminder about new council document deadlines. Update from Director of Operations on Ascension tenancy, discussion on options. Discussion on messaging regarding international student isolation and next steps. VPAE asks question regarding senate caucus appointments. VPFO to send letter of thanks to Murphy Foundation, company who matched Giving Tuesday donation. VPFO to organize meeting with Association of Graduate Students to discuss joint stocks registration and plan for ensuring graduate student support.

January 08: Consultation with executive team on Dalhousie Consultation Framework and Student Affairs Strategic Framework. Director Research and Outreach update on Policy and Governance Coordinator. Request for additional notes from executive on feedback on the 2020-21 Budget Advisory Committee report. VPFO update on concerns regarding recent society

communications to them and society concerns on funding – to go to Society Review Committee.

Other Meetings/Tasks

December 15, 2pm: Meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator, VPFO, to discuss new governance review positions as approved in recent Budget.

December 17, 2pm: Research and Outreach meeting.

December 17, 4pm: Council preparation meeting with executives, Policy and Governance Coordinator.

December 17, 6:30pm: DSU Council.

December 18, 12:30pm: Senate and Board preparation meeting.

January 06, 4pm: Meeting with VP AE, DSAS advocates to discuss response to international student isolation concerns and questions.

January 07, 11am: Meeting with Policy and Governance Coordinator, Director of Research & Outreach to discuss expectations for CFS President's Forum.

January 08, 10am: Staff meeting.

January 08, 11:30am: Council preparation meeting with executives, Policy and Governance Coordinator.

January 08, 12:30pm: Senate and Board preparation meeting.

January 08, 2:30pm: Meeting with DSAS advocates to discuss student case.

University Affairs and Committees

December 14, 10:30am: meeting with Director Operations and Jennifer Clarke-Hines regarding locating a copy of the DSU/Dalhousie MOU for our spaces on Sexton Campus.

December 16, 4pm: meeting with Provost, Jennifer Murray, VP AE, to discuss faculty and administration response to pass/ill advocacy.

December 22, 2:30pm: Residence Eviction Appeals Committee Meeting.

January 05, 2pm: Residence Eviction Appeals Committee Meeting.

January 06, 12pm: Executive team meeting with Student Affairs to discuss international student isolation, request for letter regarding liquor license, update on DFA/Dal labour conciliation, Student Affairs strategic framework, Dalhousie consultation framework.

External and Broader Community

December 15, 10:30am: Government-Student Roundtable with new Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, the Honourable Lena Metlege-Diab. Notes circulated to executive committee & available upon request.

December 18, 1pm: Nova Scotian Students' Unions meet with Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Strang for updates and Q&A period. Notes circulated to executive committee & available upon request.

December 18: Interview with Chronicle Herald on isolation rules for international students.

December 31: Follow-up interview with Chronicle Herald.

January 07, 5pm: CFS President's Forum. First meeting of its kind - was for all student union presidents, discussion focus was on how unions have addressed Covid-19, student concerns, administration. Notes circulated to executive committee & available upon request.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No updates to provide.

Upcoming Dates

January 11, 25: Senate.

January 14, 21: Return to Campus Executive Committee meeting.

January 26: Next meeting of DSU Council.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Dec. 12th – Jan. 8th

Council Date: January 12th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Continued work with ratifications, societies, bursaries, and daily tasks.
- Update for Exec Goals:
 - Summer and Fall goals were mostly completed. Two Fall goals remain in the works: Loaded Ladle Sexton Service Discussions and What is the DSU information packet.
 - Winter goals have begun with the planning/discussion on the feasibility of a Society Mixer pending COVID restrictions.
 - Annual Survey work will begin next week with the creation and will be followed by extensive remodeling and reviewing. Release of both the Annual and Society survey will be sometime in February.

University Affairs and Committees

- N/A

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC last met on January 6th, 2021. We discussed the pending societies and updates. We also discussed next steps for DCS and what we can provide them in terms of their new AGM. No new societies were ratified as we are now waiting on a constitution check. SRC will conduct an email vote once the constitution check is complete so as to not delay the ratification.

Upcoming Dates

- N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: December 12, 2020- January 8, 2021

Council Date: January 12, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee

- a. This semester meetings will be held monthly instead of bimonthly to accommodate the time needed to follow up on discussion items and councillor schedules.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.

- a. The Senate Learning and Teaching (SLTC) Agenda Committee rejected our request to include the proposal in January's meeting. They asked that we re-consult several faculty and staff members to ensure that they are still supportive of the most current revision of the document.
- b. We will hold these consultations and re-submit the proposal for consideration at the February SLTC meeting.

2. This semester I will continue my work on the several university committees with the following goals:

- a. Code of Student Conduct Review Committee: ensure student input from consultations and townhalls held last semester are taken into consideration and suitable changes are made
- b. Ombudsperson Advisory Committee: ensure that students remain involved in the hiring process
- c. Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee: In the Fall semester we were awarded \$20 000 by SIF to create OER awards for professors interested in developing free academic resources to replace expensive textbooks in their classes. This winter I will sit on the Grants Decision Committee and we will distribute the funds. Proposals for large classes that intend to hire students through the resource's development will be prioritized.

Student Senate Caucus (SSC) Updates

- a. Last semester
 - i. (SSC) started developing a *Guide for Student Senators*. This document is meant to ease the transition of incoming student senators in the future
 - ii. Our work was very reactive to student issues as they arose.
- b. This semester:
 - i. SSC is taking a more pro-active stance to student issues by bringing forward our own agenda items to Senate. Some issues SSC has identified include: mental health, equity, academic accommodations, and proper student consultation.

Upcoming Dates

1. February 8th 2020: Open Educational Resources presentation in Senate



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dalhousie Student Union calling out Dalhousie and provincial government's inequitable treatment of international students in isolation

January 12, 2021: In response to concern from international students and our community, the Dalhousie Student Union calls on Dalhousie University, the government of Nova Scotia, and the Federal government to acknowledge and rectify the inequitable treatment of international students travelling to Canada to obtain a Post-Secondary Education.

The government requirements currently placed on international students in Nova Scotia are unethical and directly target incoming and first year students. Imposing harsher requirements, such as strict supervision, on international students that differ from those placed on domestic students creates an inequality among peers. Many domestic students have travelled from regions with similar or higher numbers of COVID-19 cases than the home countries of international students. The government's current treatment of international students endorses many of the xenophobic sentiments around contracting and tracing the spread of COVID-19.

Nova Scotia has chosen to interpret federal policy in a manner that does not align with other Atlantic provinces and is inconsistent with efforts made earlier this year to welcome domestic students back to the province. The continued exploitation of international students is unjustifiable, especially as Nova Scotia relies on the income they bring to our area. These students are a valued part of our community but have not been treated accordingly.

Dalhousie University created their plan to comply with provincial policy without consulting international students, which perpetuates Nova Scotia's inequitable application of isolation requirements. Dalhousie University continues to take millions of dollars in tuition fees from international students while refusing to support them. International students have been required to pay up to \$1,627.36 CA for isolation accommodations. Their domestic peers do not incur this cost, as the same requirements for supervision have not been applied. The accommodations cost is subsidized only for first-time entries into the province. First-time entries that demonstrate need are also eligible to apply for up to \$425.00 CA in additional financial aid from Dalhousie. This leaves students who have previously entered the province and who have already applied for financial aid with Dalhousie without support.

Some international students say that they have reached out to Dalhousie with questions and concerns about their quarantine period only to be ignored or turned away. While Dalhousie is required to comply with government regulations to keep its status as a Designated Learning Institute, the failure to ensure international students are informed, supported, and treated equitably is inexcusable. Reports from international students who are currently staying at or have completed their 14-day isolation at the Westin Nova Scotian described conditions



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including lack of adequate food, heating, or internet connection. Students also state that Westin staff have ignored and avoided them while eagerly assisting other guests.

International students are a meaningful and vibrant part of our local community and inequitable treatment is unacceptable. Nova Scotia, Dalhousie University, and the Westin Nova Scotia cannot continue to gain from the presence of international students while simultaneously punishing them for returning. International students have been taken advantage of by all parties involved. These issues must be acknowledged and rectified immediately.

Communicated on behalf of the DSU executive and Council.

The Dalhousie Student Union is the collective voice for over 19,000 undergraduate and graduate students on Dalhousie campuses. The DSU advocates for students' rights, community, and student supports and services.

For Inquiries:

Holly Edmonds, DSU Communications Coordinator: dsucomms@dal.ca

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President: dsupres@dal.ca / (226)-377-3703



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January 08, 2021

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

Updated Information on International Student Isolation Requirements

As of November 03, 2020, Dalhousie was given status as a Designated Learning Institute. This meant that international students could again be accommodated by the school after DLI status was revoked earlier in the year in response to Covid-19,

In Canada, education is a joint responsibility of both the Federal and Provincial governments. The regulation of international students is primarily carried out by the Federal government. The current isolation requirements are a result of federal policy that was interpreted by the Provincial government and facilitated by Dalhousie University. Dalhousie University has confirmed that they continue to meet with representatives of the NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education to discuss international student isolation.

To receive DLI status, Dalhousie had to create a plan to comply with the Nova Scotian International Student Institutional Readiness: Public Health Requirements. These requirements include strict supervision and differ from the isolation requirements that domestic students must follow. To meet the Nova Scotian requirements, Dalhousie determined that international students would be required to isolate in hotels. The cost of this isolation is \$1,627.36 CA per student and/or co-arriving family member. Students who are first-time entries into the province are eligible to receive a subsidy to cover 50% of this cost. This subsidy will be applied upfront to the cost of accommodations and payment is not required until the end of the 14-day isolation. Students who are first-time entries who also demonstrate need are eligible to apply for up to \$425.00 CA in additional bursary funds from Dalhousie. Students who previously entered the province after November 03, 2020, have left, and are required to isolate for a second time, are not eligible for either of these supports. Students who have previously entered the province but have not yet applied for traditional financial aid from Dalhousie, may apply for [traditional financial aid](#) and [Covid-19 specific aid](#) but must demonstrate need.

According to the Student Affairs Office at Dalhousie, the International Centre is responsible for ensuring that international students have adequate care and resources during their quarantine. International Student Advisors have been assigned to each student in isolation. International students are also to receive calls from International Centre student supporters daily. These calls are tracked and any issues raised are to be referred to the Manager of the International Centre, to be addressed by the appropriate University unit.

For questions, concerns, or to report an issue during your isolation, contact the International Centre at 902-494-1566 or email international.centre@dal.ca.

If your concerns are not addressed through the International Centre, please contact the DSU at 226-377-3703 or dsupres@dal.ca.

The Student Consultation Framework at Dalhousie

Student consultation, participation and engagement in matters involving the student experience at Dalhousie is a fundamental philosophy and approach which is embedded across Dalhousie University. The University recognizes and values the importance of student feedback to inform policies and practices, services for students, student life, in and out of the classroom.

Principles:

A range of opportunities and approaches are in place for student input on key policy, procedures or initiatives that impact the study body;

The University's Student Union has participation on key governance committees and has regular interactions with senior executive;

Consultation effectively captures student input and outcomes of that consultation is then provided back;


Consultation reflects meaningful engagement aimed to provide positive impacts for student experience inside and outside the classroom.

Framework of Engagement/Consultations:


The following categories of student consultation form a framework of engagement approaches to ensure the student voice has meaningful impact on policy, initiatives and other matters that intersect with student's experience at Dalhousie University.

| TYPE OF STUDENT CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT | EXAMPLES |
|---|---|
| Policy Directed Student Consultation | <p>Student consultation is required as part of Dalhousie's annual budget setting process as led by the University's Budget Advisory Committee upon which two students are represented. Consultation timelines are shared online and the university hosts information sessions and solicits input from students annually (https://www.dal.ca/dept/financial-services/budget/budget-process-timetable.html).</p> <p>The budget process explicitly requires consultation with students on proposed changes to student auxiliary fees.</p> <p>Development and regular review of Dalhousie's stand-alone sexualized violence policy. The policy is reviewed every two years. That review includes student consultation.</p> |
| Student membership on Governance and Academic Committees | <p>Dalhousie University Board of Governors Senate Senate Committees including the Senate Planning & Governance Committee University Budget Advisory Committee University Classroom Planning Committee University Accessibility and Advisory Committee</p> |

**TYPE OF STUDENT
CONSULTATION /
ENGAGEMENT**
EXAMPLES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Student Surveys As a component of obtaining student feedback, Dalhousie regularly participates in surveys on topics including student engagement, health and wellness, campus climate at Dalhousie, and what our students experience while attending the university related to services, supports, and the learning environment</p> |  <p>NATIONAL COLLEGE HEALTH ASSESSMENT (NCHA) SURVEY</p> <p>CANADIAN UNIVERSITY SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC) To obtain data to help improve the Dalhousie student experience, first year students are invited to participate in CUSC survey</p> <p>NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE), Administered by the Indiana University Centre for Post-Secondary Research NSSE measures the level of students' engagement with the university. The survey asks how students spend their time, what they have gained from classes, interaction with faculty and other students, and the value placed on other activities across the university.</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BAROMETER (ISB) compares decision-making, expectations, perceptions, and intentions of international students from application to graduation. The feedback from ISB helps shape programming, services, resources to enhance the experience of international students studying at Dalhousie.</p> <p>DALHOUSIE CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY examines the perceptions and experiences of Dalhousie students with respect to campus climate with focus on sexual violence.</p> <p>One of surveys such as the Dalhousie student survey administered at the end of the Winter, 2020 term to assess the student experience in the rapid change to on-line/remote academic delivery given the COVID 10 pandemic.</p> |
| <p>Routine Meetings with Senior Leadership</p> | <p>President & Vice-Chancellor (with Student Union Executive members) Provost and Vice-President Academic (with Student Union Executive members) Vice-Provost, Student Affairs (the vice-provost meets every second week with the Dalhousie Student Union Executive)</p> |
| <p>Representation on student related policy working groups</p> | <p>Sexualized Violence Policy Code of Conduct Policy Alcohol Policy Student Residence Life (input on the Student Residence Community Living Guide)</p> |

**TYPE OF STUDENT
CONSULTATION /
ENGAGEMENT**
EXAMPLES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Dalhousie Student Union | <p>Consultation, close partnership with the Dalhousie Student Union provides an important mechanism for student involvement and input. The DSU advocates for student rights, helps build community for students through the events it organizes and through the support to over 250 student societies.</p> |
| Student Leadership Academy | <p>Intended to provide another opportunity for inclusive representation of the student body on university issues that impact students and also to provide experiential insights to leadership and management in the complexities of Universities.</p> |
| Special Working Groups | <p>Rapid Task Force on International Student Needs chaired by the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs</p> |
| DAL Mobile |  <p>A newly introduced campus community app that provides a more informal way to gather student input and questions.</p> |



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DSU Executive Feedback: Dalhousie Consultation Framework

January 08, 2020

Student consultation, participation and engagement in matters involving the student experience at Dalhousie is a fundamental philosophy and approach which is embedded across Dalhousie University. The University recognizes and values the importance of student feedback to inform policies and practices, services for students, student life, in and out of the classroom.

Principles:

- A range of opportunities and approaches are in place for student input on **key policies**, procedures or initiatives that impact the study body;
- The University's Student Union has participation on **key governance committees** and has regular interactions with senior executive;
- Consultation effectively captures student input and outcomes of that consultation is then provided back;
- Consultation reflects meaningful engagement aimed to provide positive impacts for student experience inside and outside the classroom;
- **Consultation must occur in an equitable and ethical manner. As such:**
 - **Consultation with students who identify as part of an equity-deserving group must be compensated when being consulted about policies, procedures, or initiatives that primarily impact their designated group** (ex. Black students must be compensated for consulting on new initiatives for Black students). **Students must also be compensated for consultation on policies, procedures, or initiatives that target social issues when the consultation is reliant on a student sharing lived experiences or their mental/emotional labour** (ex. students who are consulted on their experience with Dalhousie's S.V policy must be compensated). **This applies to all students, including students already employed by the University. Students who are appointed to the Board of Governors or Senate must be compensated for consultation that occurs outside of the official business of those bodies. Executive Officers of the University's Student Union are an exception to this principle.**

Commented [DE1]: Should be all policies

Commented [DE2]: Should be all governance committees. For example, the Budget Advisory Committee has students on it not appointed by the DSU. Students on university committees, working groups, or task forces should be appointed by the DSU so that they have access to the necessary supports.

Framework of Engagement/Consultations:

The following categories of student consultation form a framework of engagement approaches to ensure the student voice has meaningful impact on policy, initiatives and other matters that intersect with student's experience at Dalhousie University.

Policy Directed Student Consultation

Student consultation is required as part of Dalhousie's **annual budget setting process** as led by the University's Budget Advisory Committee upon which two students are represented. Consultation timelines are shared online and the university hosts information sessions and solicits input from students annually (<https://www.dal.ca/dept/financial-services/budget/budget-process-timetable.html>).

The budget process explicitly requires consultation with students on proposed changes to student auxiliary fees.

Development and regular review of Dalhousie's stand-alone sexualized violence policy. The policy is reviewed every two years. That review includes student consultation.

Student membership on Governance and Academic Committees

Dalhousie University Board of Governors

Senate

Senate Committees including the Senate Planning & Governance Committee University Budget Advisory Committee

University Classroom Planning Committee

University Accessibility and Advisory Committee

Student Surveys

As a component of obtaining student feedback, Dalhousie regularly participates in surveys on topics including student engagement, health and wellness, campus climate at Dalhousie, and what our students experience while attending the university related to services, supports, and the learning environment.

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC) To obtain data to help improve the Dalhousie student experience, first year students are invited to participate in CUSC survey

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE), Administered by the Indiana University Centre for Post-Secondary Research NSSE measures the level of students' engagement with the university. The survey asks how students spend their time, what they have gained from classes, interaction with faculty and other students, and the value placed on other activities across the university.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BAROMETER (ISB) compares decision-making, expectations, perceptions, and intentions of international students from application to graduation. The feedback from ISB helps shape programming, services, resources to enhance the experience of international students studying at Dalhousie.

DALHOUSIE CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY examines the perceptions and experiences of Dalhousie students with respect to campus climate with focus on sexual violence.

Commented [DE3]: Should also be required for Tuition Fees & Residence/Food Service Fees. Consultation must occur for changes to both academic and non-academic auxiliary fees.

Commented [DE4]: It should be specifically stated that there must be student representation on any ad-hoc committees created to address unexpected impacts to students (ex. Covid - RTC).

Commented [DE5]: If not already, this survey should include race-based data collection and disaggregated results open to the public.

One of surveys such as the Dalhousie student survey administered at the end of the Winter, 2020 term to assess the student experience in the rapid change to on-line/remote academic delivery given the COVID 10 pandemic.

Routine Meetings with Senior Leadership

President & Vice-Chancellor (with Student Union Executive members)

Provost and Vice-President Academic (with Student Union Executive members)

Vice-Provost, Student Affairs (the vice-provost meets every second week with the Dalhousie Student Union Executive)

Commented [DE6]: Expectation should be set that administration is responsible for ensuring that these meetings occur.

Representation on student related policy working groups

Sexualized Violence Policy

Code of Conduct Policy

Alcohol Policy

Student Residence Life (input on the Student Residence Community Living Guide)

Commented [DE7]: Expectation should be set that there is student representation on all student related policy working groups and that administration is required to ensure this happens.

Dalhousie Student Union

Consultation, close partnership with the Dalhousie Student Union provides an important mechanism for student involvement and input. The DSU advocates for student rights, helps build community for students through the events it organizes and through the support to over 250 student societies.

Student Leadership Academy

Intended to provide another opportunity for inclusive representation of the student body on university issues that impact students and also to provide experiential insights to leadership and management in the complexities of Universities.

Commented [DE8]: I've never heard of this, seen promo, or known a student who was involved.

Special Working Groups

Rapid Task Force on International Student Needs chaired by the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs

Commented [DE9]: It should be specifically stated that there must be student representation on all special committees whose work impacts students.

DAL Mobile

A newly introduced campus community app that provides a more informal way to gather student input and questions.

Commented [DE10]: Consultation cannot occur on this app that would otherwise be required to be compensated.



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue
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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: January 28, 2021; 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using MS Teams

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 2021-01-12-3.1

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 2021-01-28-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on January 12, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

6.1 The President sends their regrets and is currently assisting with the DSU Pride Week Pronoun Competency Workshop.

6.2 The Vice President, Finance and Operations sends their regrets and is currently leading the DSU Pride Week Pronoun Competency Workshop.

7. Appointments by Council

MOTION 2021-01-28 7.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Senate Student Caucus for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by Vice President Academic and External

MOTION 2021-01-28 7.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ____ be appointed to the Society Review Committee for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved by the Vice President Internal

8. Presentations

8.1 For Information: Update on Ascension Barber Shop Tenancy Agreement

Presented by the Vice President, Academic & External

8.2 Dalhousie Digital Strategy Initiative, as part of Dalhousie's Strategic Plan78

Presented by Members of the Digital Strategy Steering Committee

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-01-28 11.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Financial Policy, as circulated and approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee be approved.

Moved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Documents attached.

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 is hiring an Indigenous artist, or team of artists, to create a mural for the Student Union Building. The Request for Proposal is available on the website and information was shared via social media and email on the 27th. Please feel free to share with your constituents, proposals are due to the Selection Committee by February 16th, 2021.

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: January 09 – 22, 2021

Council Date: January 28, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

January 15: Update on Covid-related operational changes. Review of quote for automated printer. Decision in Impact Awards involvement. Discussion on provincial funding announcement. Built agenda for upcoming senior admin meeting.

January 18: Confirmation on Loaded Ladle equipment. Agreement on criteria for staff working from home and taking sick days. Confirmation of hours and wage for part time Foodbank staff. Discussion on what jobs to apply for the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

January 22: Discussion on Annual Survey prizes. Approval of \$5000.00 capital projects allocation to Mural. Agreement on the scope of the Mental Health Bursary. Notes given to RTC regarding hybrid learning. Updates on council procedure. VPSL, Director Research & Outreach update on Valentine's Day cards.

Other Meetings/Tasks

January 12, 7pm: DSU Council.

January 14, 10:30am: Health and Dental Meeting with Student VIP and staff. Review of last year's reports.

January 15, 12:30: Senate and Board preparation meeting with VP AE, Policy & Governance Coordinator, Director Research & Outreach.

January 18, 2:45pm: Meeting with Director Operations, Director Research & Outreach, Ascension management regarding resumption of services and rent payments. Agreement made for Ascension to provide a proposed rent amount by Friday, January 22 and tentative agreement for Ascension to offer services as of Feb 22, 2021. DSU agreed to provide promotional services and communicated Council's awareness of negotiations.

January 20, 10am: Meeting with Selection Committee for DSU Mural acquisition, developed request for proposal criteria.

January 21, 1:30pm: Meeting with Societies Coordinator, Policy & Governance Coordinator, VPI, Director Research & Outreach to discuss amendments to the Society Policy.

January 21, 5:30pm: Student Senate Caucus meeting cancelled; meeting with Student Senator to discuss issues in Faculty of Engineering.

January 22, 10:30am: Meeting with Director Research & Outreach, Policy & Governance Coordinator to discuss request for proposal for Governance Review.

University Affairs and Committees

January 11, 1:30pm: Meeting with HRES, Director Research & Outreach, DSU Equity & Accessibility Office regarding African Heritage Month planning.

January 11, 3pm: Senate Meeting.

January 12, 9am: First monthly meeting with Deep Saini, Dalhousie President. Discussion on partnership between university and DSU, key student issues.

January 13, 10am: Meeting with Dalhousie Analytics, Institutional Analyst, faculty, staff, regarding Dalhousie census reporting and analysis on intersectional identities. Recommendation made that data reporting needs to identify key findings and responding action items to address issues.

January 14, 3:30pm: Meeting with Dalhousie Budget Advisory Committee to provide feedback on current report. Recommendations on student engagement and communication, budget priorities.

January 14, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Committee meeting. No substantial notes.

January 15, 3pm: Meeting with VP&E, Registrar's staff, Vivian Howard, Verity Turpin, regarding inter-university communication on academic-related policy and Senate items.

January 20, 9am: Meeting with senior admin to discuss international students, mental health services, and allocation of \$9.5 million in public funding. Administration communicated that the public funding had been allocated to the reserve budget to make up for funds pulled to cover budget shortfall.

January 20, 12pm: DSU/Student Affairs meeting to discuss residence living guide, consultation framework, student affairs framework.

January 20, 1:30pm: Meeting with Leanne French to request DSU feedback on Accessibility Plan. Details to come to Council once document are provided by Dal.

January 20, 2pm: Senate Planning and Governance Committee meeting.

January 21, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Committee meeting. Notes circulated to Executive Committee, available upon request.

January 22, 3:30: Meeting with Verity Turpin, Heather Sutherland, Leanne French, Emily Huner to discuss terms of University's liquor license, purview over societies, and DSU's independent liquor license.

External and Broader Community

January 09: Statement for Chronicle Herald on DFA negotiations.

January 12, 10am: Interview with student for RBC Sustainability Leadership Certificate.

January 13, 2pm: Courage 2 Act workshop.

January 15, 11am: Interview with Dalhousie Gazette regarding international student isolation.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No significant updates.

Upcoming Dates

- January 27, Request for Proposal for Mural goes out
- February 16, Request for Proposal for Mural deadline
- February 09, Board of Governors Meeting



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: January 9, 2020- January 25, 2021

Council Date: January 28, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. External Committee (EC)

a. EC met on January 12th and discussed updates on the awards and accommodations issued raised at an earlier meeting. EC members were concerned because students with accommodations registered with the government have a full course load of 4 courses compared to the standard 5 courses. These students are not automatically being considered for the same awards that require you to be taking a full course load with 5 courses. Our Vice-President Internal followed up with these offices.

2. Accessibility Fund Committee

a. Met on January 15th to review applications.

3. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.

a. Consulted with Dr. Laura Neals on January 12th. No concerns were raised.

b. Reached out to the Dalhousie's Black Faculty and Staff Caucus for consultation. They will circulate out proposal and let us know about any feedback they receive.

c. Reached out the (dis)Ability Caucus for Faculty and Staff. Currently waiting a response

2. I was a panel member on a Senate Discipline Committee hearing held January 12th.

3. January 13th, I attended a Winter Assessment Planning meeting with Associate Deans of Academics from the Faculties of Arts and Social Science, Science, Engineering, and Management to discuss their plans for assessing academic accommodation needs this semester and implementing these accommodations. Faculties are currently focused on assessing the effect of the PASS/ILL and departmental recommendations before they begin implementing other changes.

a. I will be added to further Academic Quality Taskforce meetings

b. January 18th, I attended the Senate e-Learning Committee. Meetings are confidential.

Upcoming Dates

1. February 8th 2020: Open Educational Resources presentation in Senate



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Jan. 9th -22nd,

Council Date: January 28th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Society Support
 - I worked with the Dalhousie Commerce Society, assisting them as they prepared for their AGM.
- Society Expo & Event Planning
 - Met with our Societies & Programming Coordinator to ensure we have a succinct plan for our Society Expo and opened the discussion for more society engagement opportunities.
- Society-wide Email
 - Sent the January society-wide email
- Bursary Policy Review
 - Continued to review the Bursary Policy before finalizing the draft with Council
- Annual Survey & Society Survey Planning
 - Most of the reporting period was spent drafting, reviewing, and completing survey questions. Next is to transfer these to the appropriate platform and discuss incentives.
- Emergency Bursary Committee Meeting – Jan 15th, 2021
 - This newly formed bursary committee met to discuss and approve incoming applications.
- Accessibility Fund Committee – Jan 15th, 2021
 - The committee met to continue to approve and issue the bursaries. The committee has since submitted a proposal request for extra funding so that we can continue to approve and issue bursaries for the remainder of the semester.
- Offices Steering Committee – Jan. 18th, 2021
 - The committee met to hear updates from our Office Directors and to provide support where needed.

- Society Policy Review – January 21st, 2021
 - Relevant executives and staff met to discuss the overhaul of the policy and next steps.

University Affairs and Committees

- DSU/Senior Administration Meeting – January 20th, 2021
 - The executives met with Dalhousie Administration to discuss pertinent student issues.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC last met on January 13th, 2021. We did not ratify any new societies but discussed some uprising issues from societies to keep our eye on.

Upcoming Dates

- Society & Volunteer Expo – February 1st -5th!

Financial Policy

Oversight Body: Budget and Finance Committee

Date Passed by Council: March 25, 2020

Date of Next Review: March 2022

Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: Bylaw 5, 6, 7, Society Policy

Definitions:

Direct Levy: A levy passed by the Membership in a referendum with a restricted purpose.

Fiscal Year: The period beginning on April 1 of a given calendar year and ending on March 31 of the following calendar year.

Officer: An executive officer of the Union

Signing Officer: An Executive or designated full-time staff member vested with the authority to sign official documents or orders, particularly in respect to payments, purchases, and contracts.

Society Membership Fee: A fee paid by Members of a specific faculty, collected by the Union and then remitted to the appropriate society.

Union: The Dalhousie Student Union

Scope:

The following terms apply to all individuals in the Union having access to funds but particularly to Executive Officers and staff overseeing fiscal management.

Purpose:

This policy ensures the proper stewardship of Union funds by providing guidelines for the transparent, legal, and effective management of said funds.

Statement:

1. Signing Authority and Guidelines

1.1 The signing officers of the Union are (in order of authority):

1.1.1 Vice-President, Finance and Operations;

1.1.2 President;

1.1.3 Vice-President, Internal; and

1.1.4 Full-time staff designate selected by the Officers.

1.2 A signing officer will be considered absent if:

1.2.1 The signing officer travels outside the Halifax area for a period of greater than one (1) business day;

1.2.2 The signing officer is away from work for reason of vacation leave, sick leave, or any other leave of absence for a period of greater than one (1) business day;

1.2.3 The signing officer communicates to the Vice-President, Finance and Operations, in writing, that they will be absent as a signing officer and specifies the length of the absence; or

1.2.4 The signing officer becomes unable to sign due to death, medical reasons or other reasons not specified in this provision.

1.3 In the event that a signing officer is absent, responsibility for signing shall lie with the remaining signing officers.

1.4 Signing officers shall have the authority to extend signing authority to other Officers or full time staff on temporary bases in the event of a prolonged absence or other operational need, where appropriate. Such designations and their durations shall be stated in writing to the Vice President, Finance and Operations, and may include restrictions on which types of documents may be signed or other relevant guidelines at the determination of the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Designations made under this provision are not to exceed one (1) year.

1.5 In the absence of the Vice President, Finance and Operations, their unique duties and responsibilities as laid out in this policy shall fall to either the President or the Vice President, Internal.

2. Authorization

2.1 Every cheque must bear the signature of two signing officers.

2.2 All cheques must be signed by the Vice-President, Finance and Operations with the exception of cheques made out to the Vice-President, Finance and Operations. In the absence of the Vice President, Finance and Operations, all cheques must be signed by either the President or the Vice President, Internal

2.3 Signing officers shall not sign any cheque made out to their own personal accounts, accounts of their subsidiaries or properties, or any cheque made out to a Union credit card for the reimbursement of purchases made by said signing officer.

2.4 All purchases over \$1000 require a purchase order.

2.5 Purchase orders for amounts between \$1000 and \$3000 shall be requested, in writing, by the appropriate department head and then authorized by the Vice-President, Finance and Operations.

2.6 Purchase orders for amounts between \$3000 and \$10 000 shall be approved by a committee composed of the Vice President, Finance and Operations, Director of Operations, Director of Research and Outreach, and the Controller who shall serve as a non-voting advisory member.

2.7 Purchase orders for amounts over \$10,000 shall be approved by Council.

2.8 Any purchase falling outside of predetermined budget allocations shall be authorized in writing by the appropriate body.

2.8.1 For purchases under \$3000.00, authorization shall be provided by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

2.8.2 For purchases between \$3000.00 and \$10 000.00, authorization shall be provided by a committee composed of the Vice President, Finance and Operations, Director of Operations, Director of Research and Outreach, and the Controller who shall serve as a non-voting advisory member.

2.8.3 For purchases above \$10 000.00, authorization may only be provided by an ordinary resolution passed by Council.

3. Petty Cash

3.1 The Union shall maintain two petty cash funds with the following regulations:

3.1.1 Up to, and no more than, \$1000.00 to be held in the General Petty Cash Fund.

This fund shall be controlled by the Director of Operations and shall only be accessed in the event of an unexpected expense requiring an immediate purchase or to pay an Indigenous elder.

3.1.2 Up to, and no more than, \$500.00 to be held in The Grawood Kitchen Petty Cash Fund. This fund shall be controlled by the Grawood Kitchen Manager or Director of Operations, who shall have joint discretion over its use.

3.2 The Director of Operations shall keep detailed record of all spending from the Petty Cash Funds.

4. Budget

4.1 Budget templates shall be circulated to department heads a minimum of two (2) months prior to the Council meeting at which the budget is to be debated, and must be completed and returned to the controller within two (2) weeks.

4.2 The Controller will gather submitted departmental budgets into one operating budget for the Vice-President, Finance and Operations to review.

4.3 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations must submit a budget to Council before the beginning of each fiscal year.

4.4 The Budget and Finance committee must have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed budget before the Vice-President, Finance and Operations submits the budget to Council.

4.5 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations must ensure the budget is submitted to members of Council a minimum of two (2) weeks before it is debated.

5. General Financial Management

5.1 Every cheque request or request for reimbursement must be accompanied by a corresponding receipt, contract or invoice for the same amount.

5.2 The Union will have a cheque run at least every two (2) weeks during regular operations. The cheque run schedule may be altered to accommodate university closures, holidays, or other exceptional circumstances. The Controller shall oversee the scheduling of cheque runs.

5.3 Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend an independent external

auditor for a term of up to five (5) years to Council.

5.4 Council shall appoint an independent external auditor for a term of up to five (5) years before March 30 of the final year of the current auditor's term.

5.5 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations must publish the audited financial statements online before October 31, of each year.

5.6 The Budget and Finance Committee may review the Union's month-end statements and may, at its discretion, review copies of any individual cheques or transactions.

5.7 The Union does not refund student fees under any circumstances unless the error is committed by the University, which they acknowledge in writing to the Vice-President, Finance and Operations. In such a case, only fees not appropriated to external groups will be returned.

5.8 To ensure the accuracy of staff record keeping the Vice-President, Finance and Operations may perform a monthly review of balance sheet figures to ensure that these figures agree with the supporting sub ledgers or detail listings. Any unusual items are to be discussed with staff and if they are not rectified must be reported to the Budget and Finance Committee.

5.9 The Budget and Finance Committee shall be empowered to investigate violations of the Financial Policy. Infractions with serious impacts shall be reported to Council.

5.10 The Controller will schedule monthly meetings with each department head for a review of the previous month's expenses and revenues.

5.10.1 Any overages for that month will require an authorizing signature from the controller, appropriate director or Executive Officer with accompanying explanation.

5.11 The Controller will schedule at least one monthly meeting with the Vice-President, Finance and Operations, to review departmental financials.

6. Contracts

6.1 Three Signing Officers' signatures are required when entering into or renewing a contractual agreement.

6.2 If the Signing Officers cannot reach a consensus decision on a particular

contract, the decision to enter into or to renew the contract shall be put before council as an ordinary resolution accompanied by a report from the Budget and Finance Committee.

6.3 Any project, including ongoing services, undertaken by the Union must be detailed in a contract between the Union and supplier.

6.4 Any contract with a value over \$10,000 is required to have:

6.4.1 A minimum of three bids;

6.4.2 A recorded ordinary resolution of the Executive Committee indicating which contract was successful and an accompanying statement on the reasoning for such a determination.

6.5 Any contract with a value over \$50,000 is required to have:

6.5.1 A minimum of three bids;

6.5.2 A recorded ordinary resolution of Council indicating which contract was successful and an accompanying statement on the reasoning for such a determination.

6.6 The Union shall not enter into a contract for a period longer than five years. This provision may be superseded by a special resolution passed by Council.

6.6.1 Contracts may include renewal terms for an additional period not to exceed the length of the original contract.

7. University Restricted Account

7.1 All transactions involving the university account must be copied in writing to the VP (Finance and Operations) and accompanied by the appropriate paperwork.

7.2 Any expenditure involving the university restricted account that is for an amount over \$10,000 and is not a part of regular operations must be approved by the Budget and Finance Committee.

7.3 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations shall sign off on the Controller's monthly reconciliation of the University Restricted Account.

8. Investments

8.1 The Union may from time to time make investments for the sole purpose of the

long- term growth and viability of the Union when the balance in the investment cash account so permits, in accordance with existing policies and bylaws.

8.2 All new investments shall be subject to an internal approval process requiring the signatures of three (3) signing officers.

8.3 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations shall review the Union's portfolio quarterly, and shall report any significant loss or profit activity in the investment fund to Council and the Budget and Finance Committee.

8.4 The Officers are prohibited from direct trading in individual stocks and other holdings.

9. Credit Cards

9.1 The Union will have three (3) corporate credit cards associated with the operating fund. Two (2) of these cards shall be designated for general use and shall have balances not to exceed \$5000.00. One (1) card shall be designated for use by the Director of Operations and shall have a balance not too exceed \$15 000.00.

9.2 The general use credit cards will be held by the Controller, who will track and document their use.

9.3 Under no circumstances will personal purchases be made on the corporate credit cards. All transactions are limited to business related activities

9.3.1 Violations of this provision will be assessed by the Vice President, Finance and Operations, and may result in the loss of the ability to use union-owned credit cards at the discretion of the Vice-President, Finance and Operations.

9.3.2 The Budget and Finance Committee shall have the authority to reinstate card use privileges.

9.4 All purchases made with a Union credit card require a receipt. All appropriate paperwork including the receipt must be properly coded and-submitted to the accounting department within five (5) business days of purchase. If receipts are not received within this time then the purchase will be added to the staff or executive officer's accounts receivable. If the purchase is made outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality the receipts must be submitted within five (5) days of the staff or executive officer's return to the Halifax Regional Municipality.

10. Pay Advances

10.1 The Union will not issue pay advances to any full-time or part-time staff.

10.2 Members of the Executive may only receive a pay advance during their first month in office.

10.3 Executive pay advances shall not exceed \$500.00 and will only be issued upon receipt of a post-dated cheque for the same amount dated the first date of pay.

11. Reimbursement for Expenses Incurred

11.1 Any employee or representative of the Union acting on behalf of the Union at a conference or on external business is entitled to an advanced daily per-diem. The per diem is to be used to defray the costs of meals and incidentals.

11.1.1 Upon return, the employee or representative of the Union will provide the Controller with all receipts and an expense report for which the per-diem advance was used. Any remainder unaccounted for will be returned to the Union, and the employee or representative with the outstanding balance shall be ineligible for per diems until such time as said funds are returned.

11.1.2 The per diem rate is \$15.00 for breakfast, \$15.00 for lunch, \$25.00 for dinner, and \$15.00 for incidentals. If any meals are provided by the conference or another outside body, the per-diem will be reduced based on the aforementioned figures.

11.1.3 Per diem funds may not be used for the purchase of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any illegal goods or substances.

11.2 While using their own vehicle for Union business, an employee or representative is entitled to a reimbursement of \$0.58 per kilometer up to the first 5,000 km, after which the rate will be \$0.52 per kilometer.

11.2.1 An employee or representative of the Union must demonstrate the use of their own vehicle was necessary and pre-approved by their supervisor for the purposes of claiming a reimbursement.

11.3 The per diem and kilometre reimbursement rates shall be reviewed and revised on an annual basis to ensure that rates reflect changes in the market conditions.

11.4 Reimbursements, not including mileage, must be accompanied by corresponding receipts. Receipts must be submitted to the Controller within five (5) business days of the claimant returning to the Halifax Regional Municipality.

12. Event Specific Cash Floats

12.1 Cash floats must be authorized by the Vice-President, Finance and Operations. In the absence of the Vice-President, Finance and Operations the signing order precedence outlined in section 1.1 of this policy will apply.

12.2 Cash floats will only be made available to Union, or Union-sponsored, events.

12.3 Cash floats must be signed out in writing from the Controller. For events taking place in the evening, the float may be signed out from a Night Manager.

12.4 Two (2) days notice is required to request a cash float for an event.

12.5 The person requesting and receiving the float is responsible for the safety and the return of all monies to the Controller or Night Manager.

12.6 It is not the responsibility of the Controller or Night Manager to replace stolen monies or refill shortages but that of the person who signed the funds out.

13.-Full-Time Salary Adjustment (Non-Unionized)

13.1 All Full-Time staff are entitled to a salary increase of 3.5% per fiscal year within approved salary ranges. Upon reaching the top bound of the salary range, full-time staff are entitled to an annual increase of 2% for cost-of-living.

13.2 Any Full-time Staff salary increase in excess of the ranges defined above or bonus must be approved by the Executive Officers.

14. Honoraria and Benefits

14.1 All honoraria amounts will be accounted for in the annual budget.

14.2 For the 2019-20 fiscal year, executives of the Union shall each receive \$33,666.07 as honoraria, paid out in twelve (12) equal monthly instalments. If the term is not completed, remaining instalments are forfeited.

14.2.1 Executive honoraria shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by Statistics Canada for the Halifax Regional Municipality for the most recent calendar year using 2019-20 as a base year. If the CPI is negative, the honoraria shall remain the same.

14.3 All approved honoraria amounts must be outlined in a written agreement between the Union and the person receiving the honorarium, including members

of the Executive.

14.3.1 The date the individual can expect to receive their honorarium must be noted in the contract.

14.4 Each Executive Officer shall be entitled to be reimbursed for the cost of a Dalhousie parking pass or monthly municipal bus pass up to the equivalent cost of a Dalhousie parking pass.

15. Direct Levies

15.1 When a direct levy is enacted by a referendum, the purpose and spirit of the levy may not change without another referendum.

15.2 The Vice-President, Finance and Operations shall review all levies annually with the Executive Committee and make recommendations to Council on whether or not a levy should be sent back to referendum.

16. Societies Receiving Direct Levies

16.1 The Union shall issue the direct levy or society membership fees in instalments as received by Dalhousie University and in accordance with Society Policy requirements.

16.1.1 In the case of direct levies, the first instalment will be issued on or before December 15, and the second instalment on or before April 15, of each fiscal year.

16.2 All societies collecting a direct levy or society membership fee must submit their financial records to the Vice-President, Finance and Operations at regular intervals as laid out below. Such records include but are not limited to: receipts, ledger, cancelled cheques, and bank statements. The Vice-President, Finance and Operations or their designate will then audit the accounts of every society receiving a direct levy or society membership fee before issuing the instalment cheque.

16.2.1 At the outset of the fiscal year the Vice President, Finance and Operations shall set and announce the guidelines for the submission of financial records.

16.2.1.1 Societies collecting a direct levy shall submit records in the fall and winter semesters, while societies collecting society membership fees shall submit records in the fall, winter, and summer semesters.

16.2.1 The Vice President, Finance and Operations shall complete society audits within thirty (30) days of the submission of financial records, providing records

are submitted before the deadlines outlined above.

16.2.2 No society is entitled to the release of any portion of its levy funds or society membership fees, or any benefits associated with said release, until such time as its society audit has been approved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations.

16.3 If there are any significant accounting discrepancies with a society, the problem shall be brought to the attention of Council and the funds for the term related to the failed audit shall be withheld from said society.

17. Donations

17.1 If review from donations to the Food Bank Fund led to a surplus in that fund for a given fiscal year, all surplus monies will be carried over as revenue for the Food Bank Fund for the following fiscal year.



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: February 11, 2021 at 7:00pm Atlantic time

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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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 2021-02-11-3.1

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 2021-02-11-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on January 28, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

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 has been asked to consult on Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan. All councillors were emailed on February 8th with an invitation to join the initial working for this project. This working group will meet on February 16th at 2pm to determine initial feedback on the plan. On February 25th, this feedback will be presented to Council for approval before it is sent back to Dalhousie. Additional steps to this process will be communicated to Council through President's Reports to Council when and if they occur. If you are not already, but would like to be involved in this task please email dsupres@dal.ca.

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson (she/her)

Reporting Period: January 23 - February 5

Council Date: February 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

January 25: President updated executives on expected consultation ask regarding Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan. VPFO discussed a funding ask from a student group and presented options for January's sponsorship funding. Approval given for capital projects funds to be used to install a safety system (enabling staff to call Security unnoticed) at the Info desk. Discussion on ask from Public Health to host a testing site for a few days (denied due to lack of notice). Discussed society ratifications and Covid-19 restriction updates.

January 29: Approval of capital projects funds to be used to commission a mural (increase in approved amount from \$2500 to \$5000). Update from Director Research & Outreach regarding African Heritage Month funding (to be used as grants) and DISC funding (to be used as community grants). Council Debrief. VPAAE update on Ombudsperson.

February 01: Update from Director Operations regarding dogs in the office and website posting for Munro Day. VPI update regarding society event approvals and society contacts. VPAAE update regarding document translation project with DSAS.

February 04: Short meeting to approve hiring of Wickwire Holm to conduct governance review.

February 05: Muro Day!! Shoutout to George 😊

Other Meetings/Tasks

- Ongoing work as hiring lead for new Policy & Governance Coordinator.
- Ongoing negotiations with Ascension Barbershop management regarding lease and operational return.
- Ongoing conversations with Student Affairs regarding Liquor Licensing, Mental Health Bursaries (in coordination with VPFO), and student issues.

January 26, 7pm: Engineering Student Council meeting. Proposal of potential action item to address systemic issues on Sexton Campus.

January 27, 3pm: Winter Pride Queer Health and Wellness Workshop – attendance as a moderator.

January 27, 5pm: Council preparation meeting with executives and Director Research & Outreach.

January 28, 1pm: Meeting with VPSL, VPAAE to prepare for upcoming meeting regarding Money Matters website and access to financial aid.

January 28, 7pm: Winter Pride Pronoun Competency Workshop – attendance as breakout room facilitator.

January 28, 8:30pm: DSU Council.

January 29, 12:30pm: Senate and Board preparation meeting with Director Research & Outreach & VPAAE.

February 03, 1:30pm: Meeting with Wickwire Holm to hear proposal for governance review.

University Affairs and Committees

January 26, 10am: Meeting with Heather Doyle to discuss upcoming RTC presentation regarding student survey data and key areas for actionable response.

January 27, 2pm: Meeting with the Employment Systems Review, Employment Equity Committee Subcommittee. Inclusion to provide student perspective on behalf of student-employees.

January 28, 4:30pm: RTC Executive Committee meeting. Notes circulated to executive, available upon request.

January 29, 11am: Employment Equity Council meeting.

February 01, 12pm: Financial Aid & Money Matters meeting with VPAAE, VPSL, Student Accounts, and Registrar's Office.

February 03, 12pm: DSU Executive/Student Affairs meeting. Discussion on Orientation branding and partnerships. Update on Alcohol Advisory Committee membership.

February 04, 4:30pm: RTC Executive Committee meeting. Notes circulated to executive, available upon request.

External and Broader Community

- No updates.

Board of Governor's Caucus Updates

- No updates.

Upcoming Dates

- Senate Meeting: February 08
- Board of Governor's Meeting: February 09
- Board Academic & Student Affairs Meeting: February 10
- Courage 2 Act Workshop: February 10



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: January 26, 2020- February 8, 2021

Council Date: February 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Accessibility Fund Committee

a. Met on January 29th to review applications.

2. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity

a. Translator job openings have officially been posted. We are looking for four translators to translate Dalhousie's Policy on Intellectual Honesty, the Faculty Discipline Procedures, and the Faculty Disciplines procedure flowchart. A \$500 honorarium will be awarded for the work.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.

a. Consulted with Dr. Vivian Howard, Dr. Brad Wuetherick, Dr. David Westwood, and Dr. Tara Perrot January 29th. All consultations went well and have said they will support the project moving through Senate.

2. January 27th, I attended an Academic Quality Taskforce meeting. We discussed the options for returning to school in the fall. I asked for more information regarding campus accessibility and how freely students will be able to move and interact with peers on Dalhousie campuses. They did not have an answer but will look into it.

3. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct. We are discussing how to make the language and limitations of the code clearer.

4. February 1st, I attended an AUCRETT meeting. We discussed how to improve the feasibility of the pathway for an independent instructor advocating for a revision to an academic unit's structure.

5. February 8th, I gave a presentation to Senate about Open Education Resources and the grant opportunities created by the Centre for Learning and Teaching and Dal Libraries.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Jan. 25th – Feb. 5th, 2021

Council Date: February 11th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Annual Survey
 - Devoted a lot of time to finalizing the annual survey, exploring incentives, and collecting feedback on the questions.
- Society Expo
 - Finalized calendars, checked in with Communications and Societies Coordinator to ensure smooth running.
- Ratification and Training for next ratification year
 - Brainstorming how to incorporate trainings and ratification next year to ensure easy ratifications.
- Due to storm warnings, the SUB was closed on Feb 2nd and 8th.
- Grants Committee – Jan. 28th, 2021
- Accessibility Fund Committee – Jan. 29th, 2021
 - Continued to approve and issue bursaries.

University Affairs and Committees

- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Jan. 27th, 2021

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC last met on Jan. 27th, 2021

- We discussed from issues regarding Dalhousie Art and Social Science Society, Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society, and concluded on issues regarding Dalhousie Commerce Society. No notable decisions at this time.

Upcoming Dates

- Annual Survey Release – February 15th, 2021.

Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: January 26, 2021- February 8, 2021

Council Date: Feb. 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Student Life Committee
 - a. Jan. 27th: Chaired SLC meeting on plan for Winter Semester
2. SRCC Proposal
 - a. Jan. 29th: Met with VP Vivian Howard and Dave Wuetherick regarding a consultation regarding the updated proposal.
 - b. Jan 29th: Met with DFA President David Westwood and Tara Perrot for further consultations regarding the updated proposal.
3. Last Class Bash
 - a. Jan. 29th: Began building event proposal for an in person and virtual event for Last Class Bash in April.
4. Society Support
 - a. Met with Exec of health science society to aid in the planning of fundraising for IWK
5. Residence Community Guide
 - a. Began work on reviewing Community Guide

University Affairs and Committees

1. Digital Strategy Committee
 - a. Jan. 29th: Attended DS Steering Committee meeting
2. Residence Appeals
 - a. Jan. 29th: Met with Appeals committee to discuss an appeal of 2 residence students
3. Financial Aid Consultation
 - a. Feb. 1st: Various exec met with registrar team to discuss digital strategy for Money Matter's website
4. DSU promotional integration
 - a. Met with Dal Mobile team to discuss how the DSU can best utilize the platform. Received access to allow more access/ promotion on the app.
5. Dalhousie Athletics

- a. Met with Tim Maloney regarding intramurals and physical health promotion programming.

External and Broader Community

1. Jan. 25th: Met with SMUSA event coordinator to discuss proposal for a coop Last Class Bash event. SMUSA agreed to cooperate in the facilitation of the event.
2. Jan. 27th: Attended Healthy Minds NS Committee meeting.
3. Feb 1st: Met with start-up, KAYR, to offer feedback on application of program for Dalhousie student community

Upcoming Dates

Nothing to report



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: February 25, 2021

Location: Teams Meeting

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 2021-02-25-3.1

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 2021-02-25-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on February 11, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-02-25-11.1

WHEREAS in 2009 the membership of the Dalhousie Student Union voted in favour of the following referendum question:

“Do you support stabilizing the DSU Health and Dental plans by allowing yearly adjustments in premium only when necessary based on inflationary costs and prior claims experience? Any other adjustments not related to inflationary costs or claims experience must be approved by a referendum”, and;

WHEREAS Health and Dental claims paid currently exceed the premiums collected by members; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Domestic Health Plan single student fee be increased from \$464 to \$468.64 per year for full-time students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Domestic Health Plan family fee be increased from \$928 to \$937.28 per year for full time students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the International Health Plan single student fee be increased from \$728 to \$740.74 per year for full-time international students, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the International Health Plan family fee be increased from \$1104 to \$1123.32 per year for full-time international students, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the increase will take effect September 2021.

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: February 06-19

Council Date: February 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

**multiple holidays in mid-February resulted in fewer ECM meetings than usual*

February 12: Director Research & Outreach asked executives to take part in staff evaluations. President provided an update on incidents in the last Board of Governors meeting. Director Operations provided information on budgets and updates to the T-Room (painting). VPFO held discussion on society banking.

February 19: Staff request for a credit card was denied, due to conflict with the Financial Policy. VPI provided update on discussion around Loaded Ladle site on Sexton Campus. VPI gave update on Annual Survey – response number is good, booking meeting for March to assess results for action items. Director R&O received approval collaboration on International Women’s Day with HRES.

Other Meetings/Tasks

February 9, 10am: Board of Governors student caucus meeting.

February 9, 12pm: Meeting with VPFO, Director Operations, DAGS, to discussion joint stocks issue and planning financials until September 2022, when DAGS will be able to register with joint stocks.

February 10, 11am: Meeting with VPSL, DR&O to discuss Last Class Bash.

February 10, 3:30pm: Society events approval meeting.

February 11, 11:30am: Meeting with Provost, Dalhousie legal, and student to discuss individual student concern.

February 11, 1pm: Interviews for new Policy and Governance Coordinator.

February 11, 7pm: DSU Council.

February 12, 8:30am: Trip to T-Room with Director Operations and Director R&O to discuss painting.

February 12, 10am: Interviews for new Policy and Governance Coordinator. Followed by hiring discussion with VP&E and Director R&O.

February 12, 12pm: Meeting with VPSL, Director R&O, and SMUSA Events Director to discuss Last Class Bash.

February 12, 2pm: Meeting with Ascension barbershop to discuss new lease agreement. Ascension to provide proposal for discussion.

February 15: Nova Scotia Heritage Day

February 16, 1pm: Meeting with VPSL, Director R&O to discuss next year's O-Week budget line.

February 17, 3:30pm: Society events approval meeting.

February 18, 1pm: Meeting with DUES President to discuss Loaded Ladle, Last Class Bash, end-of-year events, and catch up.

February 18, 4pm: Meeting with members of the mural Selection Committee. Decision to extend the deadline for the RFP in hopes of seeing local proposals.

February 19, 4:30pm: Student Senate Caucus.

University Affairs and Committees

February 8, 3pm: Senate meeting.

February 9, 9am: Meeting with Dalhousie President. Discussion on international expansion and concerns over opportunistic endeavors. Further discussion on partnership and addressing student's needs.

February 9, 3pm: Dalhousie Board of Governor's Meeting. Note that during the meeting, the DSU President's report contained discussion on Dalhousie's response to sexualized violence. Conduct from senior administrators was deeply upsetting, and impacted the ability of student representatives to take part in the meeting meaningfully. The issue is being addressed both in and out of the Board.

February 10, 9am: Dalhousie Board Academic and Student Affairs meeting. Again, conduct from senior administrators was an issue in this meeting while addressing concerns of racism in processes. This issue is being addressed by the involved parties (not DSU).

February 17, 12pm: DSU executive & Student Affairs Bi-weekly meeting. Discussion on student affairs reporting, Loaded Ladle, DSU Mental health fund.

External and Broader Community

February 10, 2pm: Courage 2 Act conference.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

Minutes and Caucus report for the 2020-21 academic year will be provided at the final meeting of Council.

Upcoming Dates

February 22: Dalhousie Senate

February 24: Meeting of the President's Advisory group on sexualized violence.

February 26: Meeting of the Accessibility Plan working group.

March 04: Return to Campus Executive Committee meeting.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: February 8, 2021- February 19, 2021

Council Date: February 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Policy and Governance Hiring Committee
 - a. Met on February 11th and 12th.
2. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
 - a. I chaired the hiring committee.
 - b. Met with successful applicants on February 15th to discuss the project
 - c. Translations will tentatively be completed by March 15th
3. Student Senate Caucus (SSC) met on February 19th to discuss Senate's agenda for the February 22nd meeting. Senate is having a thinktank session on academic integrity. SSC members felt that Dalhousie can address the issue of academic integrity by being more proactive with their educational resources and revising existing resources to make them more concise and engaging.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. There is ongoing discussion about holding a special meeting of SLTC in March to discuss the proposal.
2. February 8th, I gave a presentation to Senate about Open Educational Resources (OERs) and the open application for funding through the Centre for Learning and Teaching and the Dal Libraries.
3. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. We are discussing how to make the language and limitations of the code clearer.
4. February 11th, I attended a discussion including the ASL Society, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Health to discuss the possibility of introducing an ASL class at Dalhousie. The conversation centred on the necessity of consultation.
5. February 16th, I attended an Exam Regulations Working Group meeting. This was the group's first meeting and we focused on clarifying the group's scope.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Feb. 6th – 19th.

Council Date: February 25th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Kept societies up to date on events approval changes.
 - Mass emails.
- Re-ratification Forms
 - Spending a *large majority* of my time reconfiguring re-ratification to be more efficient and incorporate necessary trainings.
- Society Events Approval Meetings – Feb. 17th, 2021
 - Meeting bi-weekly to approve society event submissions.
- Society Survey & Annual Survey
 - Both surveys were launched and am incorporating suggestions as submissions roll in.
- International Student Emergency Bursary – Feb. 12th, 2021
 - Approved and Issued bursaries.
- Accessibility Fund Bursary Committee – Feb. 12th, 2021
 - Met to continue to approve and issue bursaries.
- Staff appraisals feedback for new hires.
- Member Services Assistant Hiring Committee
 - Conducted interviews over two days to hire a new PT staff.

University Affairs and Committees

- Dal Reads Committee – Feb. 10th, 2021
 - Discussed the upcoming title submissions for 2021/22
- DSU/Student Affairs Bi-weekly Meeting – Feb. 17th, 2021
 - Discussed a majority of how to boost the results and action items from the Dalhousie survey in first semester.

External and Broader Community

- This section of your report should highlight work you have been doing with community organizations, other student union partners, or in relation to any level of government. Examples may include student-government roundtables, or collaborating with a levied society or community organization on an event.

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC – Feb. 11th, 2021
 - SRC last met to discuss relevant society issues and society policy draft review.

Upcoming Dates

- Annual Survey Closing – March 15th, 2021
- Society Survey Closing – March 19th, 2021



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: January 6, 2021- February 19, 2021

Council Date: Feb. 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Last Class Bash
 - a. Feb. 17th: Continued work on event and sponsorship possibilities
2. Residence Community Guide
 - a. Continued work on reviewing Community Guide
3. International Student Bursary
 - a. Feb. 12th: Committee met to review applications and distribute funds
4. 2021-2022 Budget Planning
 - a. Completed budgeting expectations for VPSL position in the upcoming year

University Affairs and Committees

1. Digital Strategy Committee
 - a. Feb. 12th: Attended DS Steering Committee meeting
2. Residence Appeals
 - a. Feb. 19th: Met with Appeals committee to discuss an appeal of 4 residence students
3. Impact Awards
 - a. Feb. 10th: The Impact Awards committee met to discuss production of the impact awards
4. DSU promotional integration ctn.
 - a. Feb. 11th: Finalized promotional integration with Dal Mobile App
5. Sexualized Violence Prevention Resource Group
 - a. Feb. 16th: Committee met to discuss upcoming initiatives and share resources.
6. Hiring Review Committee
 - a. Feb 18th: Committee met to review candidates for the Residence Life, Director position.
7. 2021-22 Orientation
 - a. Met with Rigel Biscione to discuss what next year's orientation will look like

External and Broader Community

1. Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee
 - a. Feb. 11th: Committee met to discuss updates, survey result data, and upcoming programming/ initiatives.

2. Last Class Bash
 - a. Feb. 12th: Met with SMUSA Event Coordinator to pitch proposal for LCB
3. Healthy Minds NS Sub-Committee
 - a. Committee met to discuss further action regarding survey and next steps to raise awareness on the survey results

Upcoming Dates

Nothing to report



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: March 11th, 2021 – 7:00pm Atlantic time

Location: Virtual Meeting using Microsoft Teams

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 2021-03-11-3.1

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 2021-03-11-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on February 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1. Anti-Oppression Training for 2021-22 Societies

Presented by the Vice President Internal, for feedback.

Documents attached.

8.2. Update on Dalhousie Accessibility Plan Feedback

Presented by the President, for feedback.

Documents attached.

8.3. Update on BAC Feedback to Dalhousie & DSU Action

Presented by the VPAAE, for information.

Documents attached.

8.4. Draft 2021-22 Budget

Presented by the VPFO, for feedback.

Documents attached.

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-03-11-11.1

WHEREAS the Dalhousie Student Union mitigated the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic by keeping expenses low while maintaining or improving the majority of student supports and services, and;

WHEREAS responsible financial planning and spending has prevented the DSU from incurring significant deficits for the 2020-21 fiscal year, and;

WHEREAS the DSU's year-end financial review identified that it is highly likely the DSU budget will have a significant surplus at the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year, and;

WHEREAS it is important that revenue is used effectively and efficiently, and that projects identified by the membership are undertaken rather than put to the side or extended over many years, and;

WHEREAS capital projects such as the purchase of furniture for the T-Room, updating SUB signage to include Mi'kmaq language, adding study space, and ensuring the SUB fulfills the Accessibility Act of Nova Scotia have all been requested by the membership, and;

WHEREAS upwards of \$100,000.00 in additional funds have recently been allocated to the Mental Health Fund, Student Emergency Fun, and Student Accessibility Bursary;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that any and all remaining budget surplus monies from the 2020-21 fiscal year be moved to the capital projects line instead of retained earnings to allow for projects to be undertaken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds in the capital projects line at the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year be moved to retained earnings, as per usual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any projects undertaken with a budget of over \$10,000.00 be approved by Council before the project begins, as per policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that councillors and members at large are encouraged to contact the DSU executive with ideas for capital projects in DSU spaces that could be undertaken.

Moved by the President

MOTION 2021-03-11-11.2

WHEREAS there is currently \$204,082.00 in the Accessibility Bursary Reserve Fund, and;

WHEREAS the Accessibility Bursary Committee has exhausted all funds collected in the 2020-21 fiscal year, including previous amounts approved for use from the reserve fund, and;

WHEREAS the Fund was created to establish a source of funding for students with accessibility needs, and the COVID-19 pandemic and online learning has created exceptional strain, including financial distress, for many disabled students and students with accessibility needs, and;

WHEREAS the Student Accessibility Fund Committee has requested additional funding totaling \$30,000, in order to fulfill all urgent bursary requests received by the committee, and;

WHEREAS \$35,675 is estimated to be collected for this fund in the 2021-22 fiscal year, allowing the proposed amount to be replenished relatively quickly if necessary;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$30,000 from the Accessibility Reserve Fund be approved for use by the Accessibility Bursary Committee, at a rate of approximately \$10,000 per month for the months of March 2021, April 2021, and May 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if \$10,000 per month is not required to meet demand, the committee may use the remaining amounts in summer 2021.

Moved by Vice-President Finance and Operations

MOTION 2021-03-11-11.3

WHEREAS the DSU Council has already passed a motion to task Faculty Representatives on Council to compile a report on student issues faced within their respective Faculties, and;

WHEREAS students have expressed frustration with 2021-22 academic year tuition and fee increases proposed by the Budget Advisory Committee, and;

WHEREAS it is important all students' voices are heard and listened to regarding fee increases, and;

WHEREAS fee increases impact students in different ways depending on many factors, including the Faculty they study in, and;

WHEREAS Faculty representatives and societies have the unique ability to connect on a deeper level with students in the Faculty they represent;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Faculty Representatives on the DSU Council are to consult with their Faculty Society and as many students as possible to determine the unique impact of tuition and fee increases on students in their Faculty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT consultation is encouraged to include data collection on the following topics:

- Specific impact of International Student Fees
- Access to scholarships, bursaries, and grants within your Faculty
- Access and ability to find and hold employment, co-ops, and/or work-study programs
- Average course load & length of degree
- Additional Faculty-specific costs required of students
- Reliance on and ability to seek financial assistance from family
- Expected average salary upon graduation

- Food security
- Housing security
- Additional Faculty-specific issues exacerbated by increases in fees

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this consultation may occur in whatever format the Faculty Representative deems most feasible for their Faculty Society and constituents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the results of these consultations be sent to the DSU President no later than April 11th, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Faculty Representatives requiring aid in meeting this deadline reach out to the DSU President for support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU President must deliver a comprehensive report identifying aggregate and disaggregate results of these consultations no later than the last meeting of the DSU Council, and that the data also be included in communications to the Board of Governors.

Moved by the Board of Governors Representative #2

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

13.1. A motion to approve the 2021-22 budget will be raised at the next meeting of Council, in accordance with the budget process, approved by the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) and as presented today by the VPFO.

13.2. A motion to approve amendments to the Bursary Policy, as approved by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee (BPRC), will be raised at the next meeting of Council.

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

Council Date: March 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

February 26: Motion passed to approve \$11 purchase made on the Visa. Motion passed to allocate an additional \$30,000.00 to the Mental Health Fund and \$80,000.00 to the Student Emergency Fund. VPFO and VPI to propose motion to council to allocate an additional \$30,000.00 to the Accessibility Fund. Discussion and agreement that Ascension's tenancy cannot continue on a month-to-month basis as they proposed due to DSU's budget structure – proposal made to Ascension for a one-year lease term. Director Research and Outreach provided information on the Health and Dental Plan and identified urgency in bringing motion back to Council. VPSL gave update on hiring of new Residence Director and plans for 2021 fall orientation. Director Research and Outreach gave update on laptop record keeping. Motion passed to allocate capital projects funds to conduct any necessary construction for the temporary repurposing of Campus Copy (this project won't continue without Council approval, but the motion saves the funds from moving to retained earnings in case we do need them). VPFO asked question about the Mental Health Fund.

March 01: Discussion on the tuition fee increase and potential responses. Director Operations provided information of the Health and Dental Plan and the proposed fee increases. VPFO raised questions about the new part time staff payroll system and the Member Services assistant hiring.

March 05: Director Operations announced purchase of 24 barstools for the T-Room. VPSL gave update on end of year programming and Impact Awards. VPI asked question about gambling event approval and provided an update on ongoing conversations with the Loaded Ladle, DUES, and Dalhousie about addressing food insecurity on Sexton Campus. Discussion on potential Council motion to allocate budget surplus to capital projects so it doesn't go to retained earnings. Discussion on how to temporarily repurpose the Campus Copy space while consultation occurs to determine whether printing services are desired by the membership.

Consultation on the DAL Accessibility Plan. Director Operations gave update on T-Room info and Tiger Patrol insurance. Director Research and Outreach provided an update on International Women's Day programming and asked about creating an independent email for questions related to bursaries. VPFO asked question about DSAS budget for 2021/22. VPI asked about status of Council motion related to additional funds for the Accessibility Fund – VPFO to report directly.

Other Meetings/Tasks

February 24, 1pm: Time Entry Training to understand new pay system for part time DSU employees. Attended because part time staff are included in the President's Office budget.

February 24, 3:30: Society Event Approvals meeting.

February 24, 5pm: Council prep meeting.

February 25, 7pm: DSU Council <3

February 26, 10am: Meeting with new Policy and Governance Coordinator to do introductions and discuss perspectives on current policy initiatives, places for improvement, and strengths of the position.

February 26, 2pm: Meeting of the Working Group giving feedback on Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan.

March 05, 10am: DSU Staff meeting.

March 05, 3:15pm: Meeting with DSU Council BoG Rep #2 to discuss motion related to tuition fee increase.

University Affairs and Committees

February 23, 4pm: Meeting of the Governor's Awards Selection Committee.

February 24, 9am: DSU Exec/Senior admin meeting. DSU President discussed Fall student assessment data on mental health and asked for an update on actions taken to holistically address mental health on campus. Dalhousie admin says an email has been sent to faculty and staff to tell them to take care of their health and well-being. DSU President iterates that we have to build holistic measures so faculty and students can limit conflicting priorities for addressing health and wellbeing issues. Dalhousie admin gave an update on the Budget Advisory Committee Report and DSU executive pointed out lack of student centricity and issues with fee increases. Dalhousie admin gave an update on winter term student assessments.

February 24, 10am: Meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Sexualized Violence. Updates from several staff regarding the annual Sexualized Violence report, data collection, and ongoing and new initiatives. DSU President made comments on the lack of actionable items mentioned in the SV Report – there is no evidence that Dalhousie is committed to addressing

the issue beyond data collection. The lack of actionable items makes the report feel like a 'box-checked' rather than meaningful action in support of survivors and community.

February 25, 10am: Meeting with Dalhousie Return to Campus Steering Committee representative to discuss complex society event request.

February 25, 1pm: Meeting with Advancement Office to discuss partnership on connecting DSU society leaders and volunteers who are graduating with the Alumni Network.

February 25, 1:30pm: Meeting with President Saini, Provost Harvey, and Assistant Vice-President (AVP) Human Resources to discuss issues that occurred in the Board of Governors, including offensive actions and the use of time dedicated to student representatives to critique the student perspective on the University's response to sexualized violence.

February 25, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Executive Committee meeting. Notes circulated to the DSU executive. Summary available upon request.

March 02, 12pm: DSU Exec/ Student Affairs Office Meeting. Fall 2021 priority-setting discussion with the Registrar and Assistant Vice-President (AVP) Academic – points included addressing the impact of tuition fees (including the need for better identification of where student's fees go, how they are used, and why they rise), Senior Administration (SA) and DSU membership on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), and clarity of Taskforce responsibilities. VP Student Affairs to provide written comment on DSU feedback on the SA Strategic Framework and Dalhousie's Consultation Policy. Check-in on a few residence related discussions.

External and Broader Community

February 25, 11:30am: Interview with Dalhousie Gazette to discuss the allocation of ~\$9.5 million in public funding from Nova Scotia to Dalhousie.

March 04, 5pm: Interview with the Nova Scotia Advocate regarding tuition fee increase.

March 04, 7:30pm: Interview with CTV Atlantic regarding tuition fee increase.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

N/A

Upcoming Dates

March 16: DSU/DAL President's meeting

March 17: DSU/SA Office meeting / Return to Campus (RTC) Exec Committee meeting

Week of March 22: Candidate Interviews for the Provost & VP Academic

March 25: RTC Exec Committee meeting



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: Feb. 20th- March 5th.

Council Date: March 11th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Member Services Assistant (MSA) Hiring Committee
 - MSA's have been hired and begun working.
- Society Events Approval Meeting – Feb. 25th
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee – Feb. 26th
- Student Accessibility Bursary Fund Meeting
 - Approvals and issuing bursaries.
- Emergency Bursary Committee – Feb. 26th
 - Lots of bursaries issued! A very full bursary week.
- Society re-ratification!
 - Creating the society ratification forms for next year and figuring out the logistics of society training days has taken a large majority of my time recently in order to prepare for the new season come May 1st.
- Unlearn Meeting – March 2nd
 - We discussed new content and next steps for the Unlearn project that the DSU Equity and Accessibility Office and DSU Communications team have been working on.
- Anti-O Meeting – March 2nd
 - Finalizing content & delivery of Anti-Oppression Workshop for societies. Working on final feedback collection and working on submitting requests for website changes.
- Staff Appraisal – March 4th
- Loaded Ladle at Sexton Conversations
 - Next steps have been established. Consultation process beginning.

University Affairs and Committees

- N/A

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC has not yet met in this time frame.

Upcoming Dates

- Annual Survey Closes March 15th.
- Society Survey Closes March 18th.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Isa Wright

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

Council Date: March 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Regular Executive Committee and staff meetings.
- Preparation of the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.
- Adjusted the elections reimbursements process with the CRO for more efficient candidate reimbursements.
- Met with societies regarding society audits, banking information, bank account options, and signing authority transitions.
- Arranged for a continuation of Pride Week with another round of massages for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, which occurred on February 21.
- Support for the Mental Health Bursary Committee.
- Support for implementing anonymous bursary review processes in the Accessibility Fund Committee.
- Support of new payroll and time tracking system for part time staff.
- Budget and Finance Committee has recommended the adoption of the 2021-22 DSU Budget.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: issued a total of \$4,150.00 in this reporting period, for a total of \$9,150.00 this year.
- DSU Student Emergency Bursary Committee: issued a total of \$78,500 in Emergency Bursaries in this reporting period, for a total of \$90,500 this semester.
- Society Grants were issued to the following societies at the last Grants Committee meeting:
 - Dalhousie Hygiene Equity Society
 - Atlantic Lighthouse Society
 - Dalhousie American Sign Language (ASL) Society
 - Cryptocurrency Research & Investment Society
 - Dalhousie Birding Society
 - Dalhousie Students Supporting Nepalese Children
 - Rotaract Club of Halifax
 - Dalhousie Black Law Students' Association

University Affairs and Committees

- Attended the first Name Changes in Dalhousie Systems Committee meeting to discuss need for improved access to name change options in Microsoft Suite, Brightspace, and Dal Online. Beginning consultation with affected students and student groups in the coming weeks.

External and Broader Community

- Arranging sponsorship of the following organizations:
 - Avalon Sexual Assault Centre
 - Delmore 'Buddy' Daye Learning Institute
 - Treaty Truck House against Alton Gas
 - Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre
 - No One is Illegal Halifax

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

Council Date: March 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
 - a. Two of four translations are now complete.
2. Student Senate Caucus (SSC) met on March 5th to discuss Senate's agenda for the March 8th meeting.
 - a. We appointed students to Faculty Award Selection Committees
 - b. We discussed ways to make Senate more accessible to the greater student body
 - c. We were consulted by the University about an online exam toolkit
3. The Accessibility Fund Committee met on February 26th to review applications.
4. On March 3rd we began developing our campaign strategy to respond to Dalhousie's draft budget, which shows another increase in tuition.
 - a. We are trying to develop a unique plan considering previous actions have been unsuccessful.
5. Ongoing work on my transition report for the incoming VPAAE.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. A special meeting of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee is scheduled for March 18th. We will vote on the SRCCs and other amendments to the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) policy.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. We are discussing how to make the language and limitations of the code clearer.
3. On March 2nd I attended an Academic Quality Taskforce meeting and encouraged the group to increase communications with students so students can know about the conversations that are taking place.
4. On March 3rd I attended an Exam Regulations Working Group meeting to discuss long term changes to exam policies.

5. On March 4th I attended one of the final meetings of the Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer and Termination (AuCRET) Taskforce. Policy was finalized and will be brought to Senate.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: February 20 – March 05, 2021

Council Date: March 11, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Black Student Grant Committee
 - a. Feb. 22nd: Reviewed grant applications and aided in the distribution of funds.
2. International Student Emergency Bursary Committee
 - a. Feb. 25th: Reviewed applications and aided in the distribution of funds.
3. Student Life Committee
 - a. Feb. 24th: SLC met to discuss various jobs, possible event opportunities, and volunteer plans.
 - b. March 3rd: SLC met to discuss details for upcoming events/ initiatives.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Impact Awards
 - a. Feb. 24th: Aided in the committee's planning of this year's Impact awards.
 - b. March 3rd: Various key members of the committee met to discuss the script for the videos.
2. Residence Life Director, Search Committee
 - a. Feb. 25th: The first round of interviews was conducted with 3 of the 4 candidates.
 - b. Feb 26th: The 4th candidate was interviewed. Committee decided on 2 candidates to move forward to a second round of interviews.
 - c. March 2nd: The second round of interviews was conducted with the finalists.
 - d. March 3rd: The committee met to debrief and determine a plan of action.
3. 2021 Orientation
 - a. Feb 26th: Met with Dalhousie Student Engagement Coordinator to discuss volunteer needs for the upcoming orientation.
 - b. March 4th: Met with Dalhousie Orientation Committee to discuss possible action plans for the upcoming year.

External and Broader Community

1. Nothing to report

Upcoming Dates

1. Mental Health Fund
 - a. Deadline to apply is March 14th and any student can apply to offer holistic aid in a time of mental health adversity.



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E-MOTION 03-04-2021-1

WHEREAS in 2009 the membership of the Dalhousie Student Union voted in favour of the following referendum question: “Do you support stabilizing the DSU Health and Dental plans by allowing yearly adjustments in premiums only when necessary based on inflationary costs and prior claims experience? Any other adjustments not related to inflationary costs or claims experience must be approved by a referendum,” and:

WHEREAS Health and Dental claims paid currently exceed the premiums collected from the members, and:

WHEREAS in the past the DSU Council has approved sudden and steep increases to the Health and Dental plan that were not sustainable for students, in order to compensate for years of poor Health plan management, and:

WHEREAS this situation is best mitigated by year-to-year fee adjustments of several dollars at a time that prevent unsustainable plan costs for students, and:

WHEREAS a fee adjustment of several dollars per student effectively spreads the cost of student medical care among our many members, subsidizing the cost of care for those who need it most, and:

WHEREAS this fee adjustment would enable the DSU to continue to support its most vulnerable members during the Covid-19 pandemic by continuing to provide physical and mental health coverage to those that rely on it, and:

WHEREAS all students are required to have health insurance coverage in order to attend Dalhousie; and

WHEREAS international students in particular rely on this insurance because they are not eligible for Medical Service Insurance (MSI) in the province of Nova Scotia unless or until they have lived in Nova Scotia for 12 consecutive months, and:

WHEREAS since the DSU assumed responsibility for the international student Health Plan in 2012, we have been able to negotiate better benefits at lower rates, and have been able to continually make improvements to the plan including increasing the policy maximum and mental health benefits and removing policy language around the exclusion of benefits under circumstances such as self-harm or suicide, injury due to alcohol consumption, and existing conditions, and:

WHEREAS maintaining and building on these improvements in the international student Health Plan is important to ensuring the best possible coverage for these students, especially those who may be chronically disabled, chronically ill, and/or mentally ill, and:

WHEREAS comprehensive and inclusive health coverage for students is contingent on the financial stability of the Health Plan;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Domestic Health Plan single student fee be increased from \$464 to \$468.64, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Domestic Health Plan family fee be increased from \$464 to \$468.64, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the international Health Plan single student fee be increased from \$728 to \$740.74 per year for full-time international students, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the international Health Plan family fee be increased from \$1104 to \$1123.32 per year for full-time international students, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVES THAT the increases will take effect September 2021.

PLEASE COMMUNICATE YOUR VOTE (YAY, NAY, ABSTAIN) TO THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL (DSUCHAIR@DAL.CA) WITHIN 48 BUSINESS HOURS – NO LATER THAN 4PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2021. Council will be notified of the results of the vote after quorum is reached or the deadline to vote is met, whichever occurs first.

MOTION MOTIVATION

The following shows comparison of the current and proposed Health Plan Fees:

| Plan Type | Current Fee | Proposed Fee | \$ Increase | % Increase |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Domestic Single | \$464.00 | \$468.64 | \$4.64 | 1% |
| Domestic Family | \$464.00* | \$468.64* | \$4.64 | 1% |
| International Single | \$728.00 | \$740.74 | \$12.74 | 1.75% |
| International Family | \$1104.00* | \$1123.32* | \$19.32 | 1.75% |

*Domestic and International family fees are **in addition to** single student fees.

DSU Operations and Finances are not separate from student concerns: comprehensive and inclusive coverage for students is contingent upon the financial stability of the plan, and thus the financial stability of the DSU.

In the past, fee adjustments to the plan have gone up as much as \$360.00 year over year, these kinds of steep, sudden increases to the plan are what we want to avoid. Slower, smaller increases allow students to more comfortably absorb the added costs, rather than have their finances shocked by hundred-dollar increases.

The proposed Health Plan fee adjustments protects disabled, chronically ill, and mentally ill students by enabling us to continue providing insurance coverage plans for students. Many students rely on this plan for physical and mental health coverage, and the proposed fee adjustment allows us to continue to support them.

Unfortunately, if the fee adjustment is not approved, we risk a position where we may have to reduce our coverage, which jeopardized the health and wellness of students that rely on the plan – these students that rely on the plan are among our most vulnerable. The proposed fee adjustment spreads the cost of student medical care among all our members, supporting the students who need it the most.

Students who have alternative coverage, international or domestic, can still opt-out of the plan.

It is the duty of Council to make financial decision that are sustainable and in the best interests of the DSU's financial health – that is our fiduciary duty. Council must also make financial decision that are compassionate and inclusive of our memberships – this is our moral duty. The proposed fee adjustment seeks to protect the longevity of the Health Plan, for the collective benefit of the DSU as a not-for-profit organization, and our members.

Anti-Oppression Workshop

For DSU Societies

Outline:

- Session 1: Understanding Oppression:
Foundation, Concepts, and Introductory Themes
- Session 2: Current and Local Contexts:
Oppression in Canada, Nova Scotia, and Dalhousie University
- Session 3: Decolonization and Liberation:
Applying an Anti-Oppressive Lens to Society Affairs

Goals:

- Recognizing concepts, terms, and themes related to equity, social justice, and anti-oppression
- Acknowledging current impacts, legacies, and manifestations of oppression
- Understanding the local implications and manifestations of oppression
- Applying learning in a continuous manner with humility and self-education at the core
- Relating this knowledge to your roles as club and society leaders

Note:

This workshop comes with accompanying workbook. In the workbook you will find the necessary exercises, quizzes and reflections for you to complete the workshop. The purpose of the workbook is to ensure active participation and engagement with the workshop material. Your responses in the workbook will not be evaluated, shared or distributed without your consent.

Session 1: Understanding Oppression

Foundations, Concepts, and Introductory Themes

Introduction

Why are you in an anti-oppression workshop?

The purpose of this anti-oppression training is to provide you, as clubs & society leaders, with the knowledge, skills and capacity to contribute to a positive, inclusive, and discrimination-free environment at Dalhousie University. In order to achieve this, it is critical that you be educated on issues surrounding anti-oppression. As you journey through these positions of leadership, it's important to reflect on and commit to using your position in responsible, ethical, and equitable ways. You have the capacity to contribute to the existence of inclusive and accepting communities at Dalhousie, and the goal of this anti-oppression training is to provide you with the knowledge and skills to achieve this.

Setting goals:

What you take away from this workshop is what you put into it. Participation is critical, especially since you will be learning online at your own pace. We encourage you to be open and willing to engage with difficult topics and ideas through a reflective, critical, and mindful lens. Some of these topics can be challenging and difficult, especially for those with personal experiences with oppression. Please be mindful to take the time and space you need to process this workshop and reach out for support when needed. [\[LINK TO ON CAMPUS RESOURCES/SUPPORTS LIST\]](#)

***Exercise 1.1:** Briefly write down what you hope to take away from this workshop. Do you feel that you already have a strong understanding of anti-oppression, or is this your first time coming across the concept? Are there any specific topics that you would like to learn about? Hold on to these reflections and compare it to your reflections on what you have learned at the end.*

What is Oppression? (audio recording)

***Exercise 1.2:** What images come to mind you think of oppression? Have you encountered the concept before?*

Definition: Oppression

Oppression is the act of one social group using power or privilege for its own benefit while disempowering, marginalizing, and subordinating another group. There are often said to be three kinds of oppression: systemic/institutional, individual/interpersonal, and internalized/epistemological. We will go through basic definitions of each of these forms of oppression.

Systemic/Institutional Oppression:

Systemic oppression describes a network of institutions, policies, and practices that create

advantages and benefits for some while perpetuating discrimination, oppression, and disadvantages for others. Institutions are organized bodies such as companies, governments, prisons, police, schools, courts, health-care systems, and other non-governmental organizations. Oppression occurs when institutional policies, practices, and rules function to disempower some while benefitting others. It is critical to recognize that systemic oppression is historical, where forms of oppression have persisted over time and have been embedded in social structures. A person's experience with systemic oppression, as we will see, is shaped by their multiple and intersecting identities.

Interpersonal/Individual Oppression:

Interpersonal oppression occurs when individuals engage in oppressive behavior against another person or a group of people. This form of oppression includes acts such as direct violence and attacks, insults, harassment, discrimination, or more subtle micro-aggressions and microinsults. This form of oppression is often easiest to recognize and is what many people imagine oppression to be.

Epistemological/Internalized Oppression:

Epistemology is the theory and study of knowledge. In an institutional context, it looks like the existence of dominant forms of knowledge, which functions to erase and devalue the knowledge produced by marginalized people. A prominent example would be eurocentrism. Furthermore, dominant power and knowledge makes it so that social oppression is internally accepted as normal and justified for those who perpetrate oppression (and sometimes even for folks who experience oppression as well). We may also describe oppression as 'internalized' to describe the fact that many people may hold oppressive beliefs or values in which they do not necessarily recognize as being harmful or oppressive.

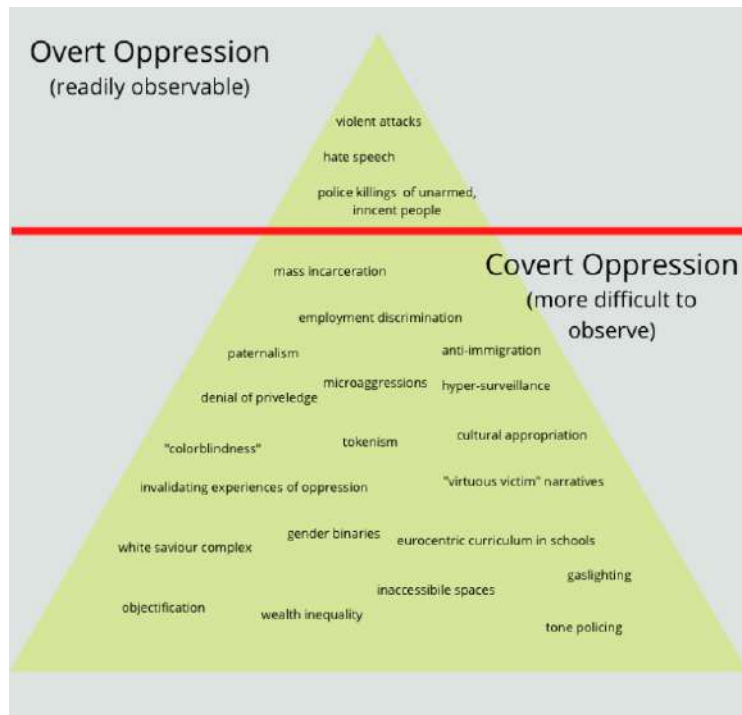
Overt and Covert types of Oppression

Overt oppression:

Overt oppression consists of intentional and obviously harmful actions/comments towards marginalized people. They are said to be 'overt' because they are the easiest forms of oppression to recognize. They are what many people believe oppression is. Overt oppression tends to be regarded as socially illegitimate, meaning that many people can easily condemn it and tend to see themselves to be good people as a result.

Covert oppression:

Covert oppression is oppression that is often concealed and more subtle. It includes acts that restrict and deny marginalized people the same equality as those who are privileged. Covert oppression can take on a number of different forms. Covert oppression is described as more socially legitimate than overt oppression, exactly because people do not see it as oppression. Prominent examples include micro-aggressions, 'colourblind' ideologies, cultural appropriation, and tokenism.



Exercise 1.3: *How have you navigated overt and covert types of oppression in the past? What forms of overt and covert types of oppression have you witnessed, participated in, or were on the receiving end of? What do you think are some overt and covert types of oppression that show up in your club/society functions?*

Microaggressions

Microaggressions are defined as brief and commonplace verbal, behavioral or environmental indignities that function to communicate hostile, derogatory, and negative slights towards historically marginalized groups. Often, they manifest as more subtle, indirect, or unintentional forms of discrimination, which is why we describe them as being 'micro', despite the fact that for the people experiencing them, they are aggressive. In general, microaggressions are comments or attitudes that communicate that a marginalized person is different, does not belong, or is inferior by virtue of their identity.

Power, Privilege, and Positionality

Exercise 1.4: *We pose, as a very broad question – why is there oppression? Why is it that certain groups are oppressed, while others are not? In thinking about why oppression exists, can you identify some historical events or ideas that are at the root of oppression? What are some current impacts, legacies, and manifestations of oppression?*

History of Oppression (Audio recording #2)

The answer to the question of “why is there oppression” is complicated. It cannot be easily reduced to a short description or definition. It requires a great deal of historical context and involves a number of complicated concepts. Since we cannot adequately provide this in a short workshop, this section on the history of oppression should be supplemented by external learning and research. A link to our [resource guide](#) will be provided, and we encourage you to take additional time to educate yourselves.

An essential idea for you to recognize is that oppression *is* historical. That is, there is a reason why things are the way they are. Generally speaking, much of the oppression that exists today emerged in the ‘modern period’ (1550’s-1850’s) in Europe. And while some forms of oppression pre-dated this time, we can say that they certainly began to take on a more organized systemic character. That said, forms of oppression vary over the globe. We focus specifically on the roots of oppression in North America, with a particular emphasis on Canada, Nova Scotia, and Dalhousie University.

For thousands of years, various Indigenous nations inhabited the territory of North America, which they called “Turtle Island”. The formal period of European colonization is generally thought to have begun in 1492 with the arrival of Christopher Columbus, lasting into the early 1900’s when European empires colonized the continent of Africa. Canada and the United States were established through European colonialization and imperialism, which involved genocide and erasure of Indigenous peoples for the purpose of extracting wealth for European nations.

The system of settler-colonialism operated in tandem with the system of chattel slavery, in which enslaved African people were forcibly brought to North America to labour in colonial economies through the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Underpinning the genocide of Indigenous people and the enslavement of African people was the phenomenon of white supremacy. White supremacy is a complex structural feature. Put simply, it is an ideology of hierarchy in which whiteness is positioned as superior, and where racialization is equated to inferiority.

Modern white supremacy – as a set of ideas and power relationships – emerged alongside the economic system of capitalism. The conditions produced by the intersection of white supremacy and capitalism is called racial capitalism. The connections between racism and economic exploitation is clear: underpinning the colonization of Indigenous land and the enslavement of Black bodies was the motive of profit. Racial capitalism depends on the ongoing accumulation of profit, and can only do so by reproducing relations of racial inequality.

Through settler-colonialism, European familial structures, power dynamics, and gender norms such as patriarchy, heterosexism, and cissexism (among others) were imposed upon colonized peoples. That is not to say that certain power dynamics did not exist prior to European colonization. Patriarchy, for example, is not a distinctly European idea. However, the particular forms of the European gender norms familiar structures imposed through colonization were

distinct. In settler-colonial societies such as Canada, the legacies of these oppressive structures have lasted into the present, and are at the root of present-day violence against 2SLGBTQ+ peoples.

The purpose of this is to highlight the functional and historical relationship between forms of oppression such as white supremacy, settler colonialism, slavery, and capitalism. These structures have continued to exist into the present. While their local manifestations may be different, their basic principles remain the same. The legacy of these power dynamics persists, which is why we say that oppression is historical.

Power

Exercise 1.5: *Who do you think holds power – and who do you think doesn't? When you think of something as being powerful, what kinds of images come to mind? What embodies power? Conversely, what embodies powerlessness?*

This history of oppression demonstrates the existence and interconnectedness of power relationships. Going forward, it is important to provide a clear definition of power, in order to contribute to our anti-oppression framework. Power, in a most fundamental way, a relationship of hierarchy and subordination. The idea of “dominant power” describes a specific social group who possesses the ability to control land, resources, labour and to dictate social norms for their own benefit. Consequently, oppression can be described as the unjust conditions produced by dominant power. Power is something that is fought over and contested: those social groups who hold ‘dominant power’ do not have it by virtue of entitlement or right, but because specific historical circumstances have allowed them to consolidate control over it. Therefore, power can and should actively be challenged.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a theory that originates in Black Feminist scholarship, which posits that we need to fundamentally account for the intersecting and interconnected features of oppression. Intersectionality argues that social categorizations such as race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability, create interdependent systems of social discrimination and disadvantage. A person’s identity in relation to these intersecting factors will subsequently shape their lived experiences with oppression. Intersectionality should not be secondary or an afterthought; rather, it must be fundamentally constitutive to the way we think and the way that we relate to one another. In other words, this means that an intersectional lens and framework needs to shape how we see the world in a foundational way.

Exercise 1.6: *Intersectionality word association exercise: Using an intersectional framework, match each term with their appropriate definition.*

Positionality and Social Location

Definition: Positionality

Positionality is the multiple social identities that a person holds. Any given person may hold multiple privileged and marginalized identities according to their race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and other social categories. Positionality is the social space that we occupy in relation to other people, which is why it is also commonly referred to as your social location.

Positionality is not just an idea but something that we practice. It means identifying and reflecting on our own social positions, and thinking about the ways that they may differ from those of other people. By being more conscious of the space we occupy in society, we can be more responsive to the needs and experiences of folks from marginalized communities.

Positionality is necessarily connected to the idea of privilege. Due to the historical legacy of oppression, certain social groups are systematically marginalized. Just as oppressed people don't choose to be marginalized, people don't necessarily choose to be privileged, but benefit from this privilege nonetheless. A critical step when working to be anti-oppressive is identifying your social locations that are privileged, and reflecting on how they have influenced your life, your experiences, and your identity. You cannot change your privileged social locations, but you can change the way that you use them.

***Exercise 1.7:** The following is a series of questions which asks you to identify the various social locations that you occupy. This list is not exhaustive but offers a starting point for reflection. You may find the questions in the workbook.*

***Exercise 1.8:** What are questions that made you reflect in ways you may not have before? What questions resonated with you? What questions should be added to this list?*

What is Anti-Oppression?

Anti-oppression means actively identifying and challenging all forms of oppression. While the next two sessions will go into greater detail about how you, as club and society leaders, can practice anti-oppression, it is important to begin with a basic definition.

SESSION 1 QUIZ

1. The three (intersecting) forms of oppression are:
 - a. Systemic, interpersonal, intersectional
 - b. Social, physical, cognitive
 - c. Systemic, interpersonal, epistemological

d. Environmental, physical, social

2. Provide a definition of intersectionality, and briefly describe its importance:

3. Name two systemic phenomena at the root of present-day oppression:

Answers: white supremacy, settler colonialism, patriarchy, cis-genderism, heterosexism or heteronormativity, ableism, classism, fatphobia

4. Positionality is the idea that various people occupy different 'social locations' according to their race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic background, citizenship status, religion, and ability.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

5. Anti-oppression is the practice of:

- a. Learning about oppression
- b. Challenging oppression when you see it
- c. Identifying and challenging all forms of oppression
- d. Not believing that oppression exists

Session 2: Current and Local Contexts Oppression in Canada, Nova Scotia, and Dalhousie University

History of Oppression

Exercise 2.1: *Have you learnt about the history of oppression in so-called Canada and Nova Scotia? Where did you learn it? What did you learn? How was it taught? Do you think that this teaching was adequate?*

Exercise 2.2: *Shade or check each circle to identify whether you previously have encountered a historical fact or concept related to Canada, Nova Scotia's and Dalhousie's history of oppression. Don't worry if you haven't heard of something before – this exercise is for you to learn and self-reflect, not to be evaluated on.*

Anti-Black Racism

- Did you know that many of early-eighteenth century Halifax's leading families and social and political leaders were pro-slavery, Confederacy supporters?
- Did you know that the man who founded Dalhousie University, of George Ramsay the 9th Earl of Dalhousie, was racist toward Africans and their descendants?
- Did you know that Dalhousie College and other Nova Scotia's provincial institutions and infrastructure were created, in part, with revenue from slavery-based economies?
- Did you know that some enslaved Black people actually escaped pre-Confederation Canada to seek freedom in the Northern American states in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, in a migration that has been called the "reverse underground railroad"?
- Did you know that the Ku Klux Klan and other white nationalists were active forces in Canada? By 1922, there were Klan members in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Québec, with as many as 25,000 KKK members in the country.
- Did you know that the last racially segregated school in Canada closed in 1983?
- Did you know that in the city of Halifax, Black people were six times more likely to be stopped and questioned, or "carded" by police than white people? (Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Check Report, March 2019)

Anti-Indigeneity

- Did you know that the French, who were the first European nation to colonize parts of Canada (called New France), enslaved Indigenous people?
- Did you know that after his re-election in 1878, Prime Minister John A. Macdonald orchestrated a state-sanctioned famine for Indigenous communities in the Canadian Prairies, in order to force relocation onto reserves and to facilitate colonization by white settlers?

- Did you know that there were enforced segregation policies that restricted Indigenous peoples' movements from 1885 to the mid 1950's under a "pass system", in which they had to have special permission to leave reserves?
- Did you know that the last residential school didn't close until 1996?
- Did you know that at any given time, some 100 First Nations communities are under boil water advisories?
- Did you know that Indigenous children (aged 0-14) account for approximately 7.7% of Canada's population, but represent 52.2% of children in foster care?
- Did you know that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be to be missing or murdered than any other women in Canada?

Anti-2SLGBTQ+

- Did you know that in 1841, the Canadian Criminal Code began to impose the death penalty for all persons engaging in same-sex sexual relationships?
- Did you know that in the 1950's and 1960's, the RCMP began to keep a list of all known homosexual people in some Canadian cities, with the purpose of forcing them out of government jobs, denying them promotions, and to track people who crossed the US border?
- Did you know that the criminalization of homosexuality in Canada did not end until 1969?
- Did you know that while it is prohibited in some provinces and municipalities, conversion therapy is not yet fully prohibited across Canadian law?

State Violence (Audio Recording #3)

Exercise 2.3: *Have you heard the term 'state violence' before? Why is state violence important to identify in the context of anti-oppression? What is the state?*

State violence is a form of systemic oppression. The state is defined as a network of institutions, such as federal, provincial and municipal government, the judicial system (including the country's laws, courts, prison's), education and social-welfare systems, the police, and any other state-influenced institution. The Canadian state is a combination of all these institutions.

State agencies, such as education systems, social-welfare agencies, and healthcare institutions, also have the power to oppress that is generally only thought to belong to the police. These institutions police too: they surveil, confine, control and punish — the behavior of marginalized people. State violence, especially in its more covert forms, is often not regarded as violence.

The power dynamics of the Canadian state has direct impacts on who is the victim of state violence. Since the emergence of the Canadian state, the people who have been the victims of

state violence have been determined by race/ethnicity, immigration status, economic background, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion. Those considered to be in 'dominant power' are rarely, if ever, the victims of state violence.

Examples of state violence are numerous in Canadian history. The history of residential schools, which were overseen by churches and education systems, are an example of state violence against Indigenous people. The fact that Indigenous children are disproportionately in child welfare services is another example of state violence that persists in the present. On a more local level, the removal and displacement of the community of Africville in Halifax is another example of state violence.

Why is it important? When people think of oppression and violence, they often only think in terms of the most obvious, overt forms of oppression. Since state power is often seen as legitimate, people may not always recognize the states actions as violent. It is critical to shed light on these phenomena, as we go about building our anti-oppressive knowledge and frameworks.

Systemic Oppression at Dalhousie University

Dalhousie has a long history of systemic oppression. The oppression that has occurred at the school is a product of global systems of oppression such as white supremacy, settler colonialism, and patriarchy. In turn, these global systems have had specific local consequences in Nova Scotia and at Dalhousie.

The University was established on unceded and unsurrendered Mi'kmaq territory, and contributed to the colonization and displacement of Indigenous people. From historical documents, we know that the University's Founder, Lord Dalhousie, held deeply racist beliefs and attitudes. There were very few, if any, women admitted into the university for more than a century, nor was it a welcoming or safe place for 2SLGBTQ+ people.

This history of oppression continues to exist in the present, although in different forms. Oppression has not gone away, it has merely changed. That said, things have gotten better: there is much more inclusion, acceptance, and diversity at the University. However, we must recognize that there is still a long way to go, and that we can collectively play a role in combatting oppression in our communities.

Discrimination at Dal

Discrimination at Dal (@discriminationatdal) is an Instagram page dedicated to shining a spotlight on the various manifestations of discrimination at Dalhousie University. The page allows for anonymous submissions of instances of discrimination and narrates them in a powerful first voice. The following Discrimination at Dalhousie Instagram posts provide

examples of the ongoing presence of oppression at the school. They demonstrate the intersecting features of oppression, and the way in which structural oppression creates the parameters for individual oppression to occur.

I'm a Muslim Arab. So one time I was at a group project meeting for Engineering and when I told my group members that I can take care of the things we needed to have done (for the day) by myself, one (white) member (whom I didn't know personally before being group members, nor do we actually speak or hang out etc) said: "We won't leave you alone because it will lead to an explosive situation" and smirked. When no one laughed at his racist and insensitive joke (the joke indicating that I'd go suicide bombing), he said: "Relax guys I was joking!"

I am a disabled individual that has experienced a ton of ableism and inaccessibility issues at Dalhousie. Many professors have not respected my accommodations plan, and have made it increasingly more difficult for me to complete my degree. I have had to escalate so many of these situations to multiple resources on campus (i.e., HRES). However, no change seem to ever occur and the professors do not face consequences after discriminating against disabled students. If you are experiencing these issues too, know that you're not alone and that all you can do is keep going.



I had a professor that used the word "schizophrenic" to describe a country's foreign policy because it was "all over the place". Using mental disorders as metaphors is dehumanizing and stigmatizing for those who have experienced the disorder.


I was a black student in the Commerce program at Dal. The amount of racism I faced in the program was sickening. I remember being treated horribly by professors that didn't like the fact that there were black students in their class. Especially my fourth year Finance class. Students would often talk down to poc students and completely exclude us from social gatherings. It was the most isolating 4 years as a black student.

Commerce

I am a non binary person who has been at Dal for a year now. I have been open about my gender for years, but still get actively get misgendered by professors and staff who are perfectly aware of my pronouns. It's one thing for some to misgender someone and then immediately correct themselves as part of the learning process, and another for a professor to not try and actively create a hostile environment.

How can I expect my fellow students and those I teach to use my pronouns if a professor won't? The discrimination turns from one person being an asshole to tens of people actively making my life more difficult, which I dont think enough people appreciate.

Management, 2021



Other Examples of Oppression

Given the multitude of experiences, there are many examples of oppression. The following non-exhaustive list provides examples to illustrate the many ways that oppression manifests in our campuses.

- The limited availability of courses on Black/Indigenous studies*
- Eurocentrism in curriculum*
- The limited number of BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+ represented among professors (and administration)*
- A culture of sexism, homophobia, misogyny, transphobia, and sexualized violence in some communities that is enabled by structural oppression*
- A lack of accessibility for those with differing-abilities*
- Discrimination against 2SLGBTQ+ people, particularly transgender, non-binary, two-spirit, and other gender non-conforming individuals. On an individual level, this may manifest in lack of respect for a person's pronouns, transphobic comments or gestures, and the use of gender binaries in a way that discounts the experience and identity of transgender, non-binary, two spirit, and gender non-conforming people.*

Exercise 2.4: *Have you heard of, witnessed, participated in, or experienced oppression at Dalhousie? How did it impact you and others in the situation? How did you address the situation? What supports did you utilize? How can you proactively address similar issues when in your position of leadership?*

Exercise 2.5: *Have you heard of, witnessed, participated in, or experienced oppression at Dalhousie? How did it impact you and others in the situation? How did you address the situation? What supports did you utilize? How can you proactively address similar issues when in your position of leadership?*

SESSION 2 QUIZ:

1. A commonly-held belief is that forms of oppression in Canada (both in the past and in the present) are not “as bad” as they are in the United States. Given what you have learned, do you think that this is true?
 - A. True
 - B. False

2. State violence and overt oppression are the same thing.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Provide one brief example of oppression that occurs at Dalhousie University. If you have personally experienced oppression at the school and feel comfortable sharing your

experiences, you may do so.

4. Is your chosen example fall into covert or overt oppression? Why?

5. Can you briefly identify the individual, systemic, and epistemological aspects of this example?

Session 3: Decolonization and Liberation

Applying an Anti-Opressive Lens to Club & Society Affairs

What is Decolonization?

Learning about and contributing to decolonization must be a necessary part of our anti-oppression framework. Decolonization is defined by the practice of identifying and deconstructing the way that settler-colonialism persists in our society, institutions, and in our minds. Decolonization requires us to dismantle structures of oppression and unequal power dynamics which contributes to violence against Indigenous people.

What does decolonization look like? For one, it involves valuing and revitalizing Indigenous knowledge and approaches. This is especially critical in the University context, where colonial education systems have privilege western european thought while marginalizing Indigenous experiences and ways of knowing.

Decolonization is an ongoing process that requires all of us to be collectively involved and responsible. Decolonizing our institutions means we create spaces that are inclusive, respectful, and which honour Indigenous Peoples and our relational obligations as treaty people.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions offers concrete direction for institutions, including academic institutions, to practice reconciliation and move towards decolonization. Take the time to read through these calls to action and reflect on the ways in which you as an individual, and in your role as a club & society leader, can contribute to decolonization.

http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Exercise 3.1: Can you identify the ways in which you club or society might exhibit features of settler-colonialism? How might you contribute to decolonization at Dalhousie (and in Canadian society broadly) through your role as a club and society leader?

What is Liberation? (Audio Recording)

Exercise 3.2: *Write down words that you associate with the term 'liberation'. Can you reflect on what liberation means, and why it's important in the context of anti-oppression?*

Liberation is freedom from oppression. If dominant power is the ability to control land, labor, resources and knowledge, liberation is when people fight so that power is distributed more equally and justly. Liberation is not about giving oppressed people power at the expense of another group, reproducing oppression. Instead, liberation is about envisioning a society that is not governed by hierarchy, inequality, and by unequal power relationships. Liberation is authentic freedom.

Since we know that oppression occurs in a systemic, interpersonal, and epistemological way which are often intersecting, then liberation needs to occur in systemically, interpersonally, and epistemologically. In other words, we need to recognize and challenge all forms of oppression, not just some. This is why an intersectional framework is so important; it allows us to identify the intersecting and interconnected features of oppression.

How do we begin? Liberation, in many ways, begins in people's minds. It is about challenging and reflecting critically on our deepest, most internalized beliefs. This learning occurs socially; we learn by forming relationships with other people, by being willing to learn, and by being open to making mistakes and being corrected.

If liberation begins in our minds, it must take concrete form in our interpersonal relationships. By building relationships based out of kindness, equality and non-hierarchy, we contribute towards liberation. This interpersonal impact then has broader community-based, or social consequences.

Liberation shifts from the interpersonal to the societal. As individuals, we must work in communities to build people's power, challenging all forms of oppression. By building

community networks, we attempt to rebuild institutions in a way that is free from oppression. By working building healthier, more equal communities which are not governed by the influence of oppression, we are doing the work of challenging systemic oppression as individuals within communities.

Practicing Anti-Oppression as Individuals

As individuals, there are things that you can do to practice anti-oppression on a daily basis. The following is a non-exhaustive of strategies, tips and important elements of practicing anti-oppression.

General tips:

- Reflect on your assumptions, attitudes, behaviors, and biases.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, but be mindful of how they might come across
- Be conscious of the space that you are taking up
- Learn to see outside your own experiences and perspectives
- Learn skills for self-reflection and interpersonal accountability
- Challenge those who marginalize and harm others
- Be open and willing to change when you are corrected
- Be kind, compassionate and supportive of others
- Educate yourself on the history of oppression
- Integrate this knowledge into your work
- Provide informed support for those who have or are experiencing oppression

Anti-Oppression and Dalhousie Societies

Establishing safer spaces:

Exercise 3.3: *What do people think of when they hear the word safe space? What are safer spaces, and why are they important in the context of a club and society? What kinds of attitudes and behaviors contribute to the existence of safer spaces? How might you make your club and society a safer space?*

Definition: Safer Spaces

Safer spaces are environments, whether in a classroom, a club & society, or in a group of friends, where people feel comfortable, supported, and respected. A safer space is where people feel that they can be authentically themselves, and don't fear judgement, criticism, or rejection. A safer space is something that is made and maintained by people in a social setting. It occurs by listening to other people, being open, compassionate, not interrupting or not speaking on behalf of other people, not generalizing your own experiences, thinking critically about the way your behaviors affect others, and being open to making changes if someone ever

corrects you. As leaders of a club and society, it is important for you to ensure that the environment you are fostering is an inclusive, accepting and safe place for all people.

Exercise 3.4: *Can you identify specific examples of what oppression might look like in the context of your club & society? In the context of your club & society, how might you go about addressing and challenging this oppression?*

A non-exhaustive list of examples includes:

- Targeting a person, whether through harmful remarks, gossip, or by ignoring or excluding, due to a feature of their identity (racial, gender/sexual, other)
- Discounting the knowledge, experience and contributions of marginalized people. Only listening to those who conform to a narrow set of experiences
- A lack of diversity in terms of who is on executives, despite having had many diverse candidates
- People who abuse their power, perpetrating various forms of oppression while not being held accountable for their actions
- A toxic culture in which people do not challenge the problematic behavior of others
- and more

Practice Challenging Oppression in the Context of a Club and Society

The following section provides a set of potential scenarios in a club & society where participants must respond to an oppressive incident using an anti-oppression framework. (Recording)

Scenario: You are at a social event for all members of your club and society. The subject of the conversation turns to recent political events in Canada and the United States. The majority of members are being respectful, speaking in turn, and are sharing the common sentiment that policy brutality and anti-black racism are endemic problems in our society. One of the more recent members of the society interjects, cutting someone off, and abruptly makes a comment many interpret to be racist. There are several BIPOC folks present in the room who heard the comment, and who seem hurt and shocked. The room falls into an awkward silence. As leaders of the club and society, what do you think would be an appropriate response?

It's important to recognize that every situation is different. There isn't necessarily a fixed model to use to respond; rather, you must use your best judgement, and follow general anti-oppression principles to guide your actions. In this moment, it is important to condemn the person's comment. By allowing this comment to go unaddressed, ie. by being silent, you are tacitly endorsing it. A good response in the moment might be "Please keep comments like those to yourself", or "Hate like that isn't welcome here". Being anti-oppressive is about fostering a

social environment that is free from oppression, and it is done by statements which clearly establish boundaries in terms of equality and inclusion.

Following the event, you should have a conversation with the individual who made the comments. While it is not necessarily your responsibility to change their political beliefs, you absolutely need to convey to them the importance of being considerate and respectful in social spaces. You should tell them that they should keep their beliefs to themselves, since they have resulted in people being harmed. They should be warned that if something similar were to happen again, that they could be removed from the group - or, depending on the nature of the comment, more serious sanctions may be necessary. You should also have a conversation with those BIPOC individuals. The most important thing to do in this situation is to listen to what they want to do, to their experiences and perspectives. Don't act without their approval, and don't speak on behalf of them, especially if you are not BIPOC. If they would like a formal apology from the individual, you should try to have that person apologize. All of this would be made easier if your club or society had established policies and procedures which provide a framework when addressing incidents of oppression.

Fostering Anti-Oppressive Clubs and Societies: Inclusive Events

There are many things to take into consideration when organizing an event. The planning decisions you make have a direct impact on the inclusivity of an event, and so it is critical to reflect on the implications of these decisions. While this inclusive event planning guide provides a starting point for these discussions, it's important to recognize that inclusion should not be reduced to a simple checklist. Rather, it is essential important to recognize the unique challenges and barriers that your community may face, and to work to mitigate them on an ongoing basis.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

- Ensure advertising and promotion is reflective of diverse experiences
- Connect with community groups and units to help promote your event to groups you may not necessarily be reaching
- [Include Disability Access Symbols] in flyers and promotional materials

FOOD

- Give participants the opportunity to identify dietary needs ahead of time
- Provide culturally appropriate food options including Halal and Kosher options
- Provide vegetarian and vegan options
- Avoid, or provide alternatives to, food containing common allergens (peanuts, dairy, shellfish, gluten, etc.)
- Provide sugar-free options for individuals with health concerns such as diabetes

- Ensure assistance is available for individuals with visual or physical disabilities if food will be served buffet style
- Provide full ingredient lists for meals and food options

LOCATION

- Ensure the location is accessible via transit
- Ensure adequate airflow and lighting for the amount of people attending and consider the potential impacts of noise, body heat, chemical sensitivity triggers, etc.
- Ensure that signage is clear and posted in a way that is easily visible to everyone

MATERIALS

- Provide materials in a variety of formats including hard copies, digital files, video and/or audio files whenever possible.

STRUCTURE

- Establish mechanisms for navigating incidences of discrimination and harassment (ex: policies,)
- Clearly identify leaders and support people

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Identify the Indigenous territory where the event is taking place and ensure it is properly acknowledged
- Arrange to have an Indigenous Elder from the territory to provide a welcome or blessing at the beginning of the event (Ensure an appropriate gift of thanks is offered – see [Protocol](#))

RACE AND ETHNICITY

- Avoid tokenistic representation of racialized people and ethnic groups
- Avoid planning events on dates that coincide with important religious holidays or cultural times
- Translate materials into multiple languages commonly spoken in the community
- Provide interpretation services if required

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

- Use gender inclusive language (Ex: avoid binaries such as “ladies and gentlemen” and instead use terms such as “esteemed guests”)
- Ensure that there are gender inclusive washrooms available and that participants have been advised of its location
- Allow participants to self-identify their name and pronouns
- Identify and respect pronoun usage

- Eliminate activities that separate people into gendered categories

ACCESSIBILITY

- Visit the space before booking an event and ensure that it is physically accessible
- Ensure that there is a wheelchair accessible washroom available (including a door that swings outwards, a grab bar, and adequate space for mobility devices), and that participants have been advised of its location
- Ensure adequate accessible parking spots are available close to the entrance of the building
- Ensure there is adequate barrier-free pathways for navigation by wheelchairs, assistance animals, or other mobility-related devices
- Include captioning on any film or video materials
- Provide a sign language interpreter if required
- Ensure spaces without chairs are available for individuals using wheelchairs or scooters but avoid designating a space specifically for wheelchair use, as this segregates participants and limits the opportunity for wheelchair users to sit with friends.
- Affordability can be a barrier to access and should be considered

Closing Reflections

Exercise 3.5: Return to your responses to the question “What do you hope to take away from this workshop?” Having completed this workshop, is there anything that you have learned that you didn’t know before? Do you feel like this training was valuable? Do you feel that, with this knowledge, you will be able to execute the duties of your club and society using an anti-oppression framework?

Feedback

The following section is for you to provide feedback on this anti-oppression training. At Human Rights and Equity Services, we are constantly working to ensure that our educational work is the most effective and up-to-date as possible. Therefore, we appreciate any feedback on how to improve this anti-oppression programming.

SESSION 3 QUIZ:

1. Briefly describe decolonization, and speak to its importance:

2. Liberation involves envisioning a society that is not governed by hierarchy, inequality, and by unequal power relationship:
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

3. Safer spaces are:
 - a. A place where people feel like they can be authentically themselves
 - b. A space where people are compassionate, non-judgmental and supportive
 - c. When someone listens to another person's perspective without interrupting or talking over them
 - d. All of the above

4. Which of the following is *not* a way to practice anti-oppression in your daily life?
 - A. Learn skills for self-reflection and interpersonal accountability
 - B. Learn to see outside your own experiences and perspectives
 - C. Always put yourself first
 - D. Educate yourself on the history of oppression

5. Provide one example of something that your club & society currently does to make events inclusive, and another example of something that you could do differently.

Anti-Oppression Workbook For DSU Societies

Purpose:

This workbook includes the necessary exercises, quizzes and reflections for you to complete the anti-oppression workshop. The purpose of the workbook is to ensure active participation with the workshop material. Your responses in the workbook will not be evaluated, shared or distributed without your consent. Not all responses need to be detailed or lengthy, so long as you demonstrate your engagement with the workshop content.

Definitions for various terms are woven throughout the material. A glossary of definitions is appended to the end of this workbook. Feel free to flip to it and add to it as needed.

Session 1: Understanding Oppression Foundation, Concepts, and Introductory Themes

***Exercise 1.1:** Briefly write down what you hope to take away from this workshop. Do you feel that you already have a strong understanding of anti-oppression, or is this your first time coming across the concept? Are there any specific topics that you would like to learn more about? Hold on to these reflections and compare it to your reflections on what you have learned at the end.*

***Exercise 1.2:** What images or thoughts come to mind you think of oppression? Have you encountered the concept before?*

Exercise 1.3: *How have you navigated overt and covert types of oppression in the past? What forms of overt and covert types of oppression have you witnessed, participated in, or were on the receiving end of? What do you think are some overt and covert types of oppression that show up in your club/society functions?*

Exercise 1.4: *We pose, as a very broad question – why is there oppression? In thinking about why oppression exists, can you identify some historical events or ideas that are at the root of oppression? What are some current impacts, legacies, and manifestations of oppression?*

Exercise 1.5: *Who do you think holds power – and who do you think doesn't? When you think of something as being powerful, what kinds of images come to mind? What embodies power? Conversely, what embodies powerlessness?*

Exercise 1.6: *Intersectionality word association exercise: Using an intersectional framework, match each term with their appropriate definition by drawing a line.*

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Ableism | Oppression whose primary attribute is domination over women |
| Classism | Oppression of people who do not identify with their assigned sex at birth |
| Racism | Oppression of those who do not conform to heterosexual norms, who are same-sex loving |
| Patriarchy | Oppression of those who identify as Black, Indigenous or racialized |
| Cisgenderism | Oppression of those without economic means, privileging those with wealth |
| Homophobia | Privilege of those who are able-bodied |

Exercise 1.7: *The following is a series of questions which asks you to identify the various social locations that you occupy. This list is not exhaustive, and offers a starting point for reflection.*

1. I attend a post-secondary institution.
2. My parents have an university education.
3. English is my first language.
4. I can find band-aids at most stores that match my skin tone.
5. Public transportation is not my only form of transportation.

6. I have no problem finding foundation/beauty products that work with my skin tone.
7. I can access healthy and culturally-appropriate food at most grocery stores.
8. I feel as though my identity (race, skin colour, language, religion) is well-represented in the institution.
9. I can fit into most clothing stores' generic size range.
10. I consider myself to be able-bodied.
11. I consider myself to be neurotypical.
12. I have never been asked if I am "from here".
13. I have access to a community that I feel represented in. (Cultural, religious, etc.)
14. I feel comfortable showing romantic affection towards my partner in public without fear of ridicule, repercussion or violence.
15. I feel comfortable wearing my hair naturally.
16. I do not have an invisible illness or disability.
17. I feel comfortable calling the police if I am in trouble
18. I have accepted something (i.e. scholarship, job, school) based on my association with a friend or family member. (Access to opportunity based on connection).
19. I feel comfortable making mistakes without folks attributing them to my identity (i.e. race, gender, religion, etc.)
20. I always feel comfortable walking home alone at night.
21. I have studied the culture of my ancestors in elementary school and feel as though it was an accurate representation of our history.
22. I have never been made fun of or bullied for something that was beyond my control/ could not change.
23. I have never missed a bill payment due to insufficient funds
24. I have never been cat-called.
25. I see people who look like me in TV and movies
26. I have never been stopped by the police for being 'suspicious'
27. I have never been denied a promotion or a job for no apparent reason
28. My ancestors willingly settled in Canada
29. I feel safe when going downtown to bars and club
30. I have never experienced family rejection because of my gender/sexual identity
31. I do not have to work part time to make ends meet
32. I have never not been able to attend an event because it was inaccessible

Exercise 1.8: *What are questions that made you reflect in ways you may not have before? What questions resonated with you? What questions should be added to this list?*

SESSION 1 QUIZ

1. The three (intersecting) forms of oppression are:
 - a. Systemic, interpersonal, intersectional
 - b. Social, physical, cognitive
 - c. Systemic, interpersonal, epistemological
 - d. Environmental, physical, social
2. Provide a definition of intersectionality, and briefly describe its importance:

3. Name two systemic phenomena at the root of present-day oppression:

Answers: white supremacy, settler colonialism, patriarchy, cis-genderism, heterosexism or heteronormativity, ableism, classism, fatphobia

4. Positionality is the idea that various people occupy different 'social locations' according to their race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic background, citizenship status, religion, and ability.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
5. Anti-oppression is the practice of:
 - a. Learning about oppression
 - b. Challenging oppression when you see it
 - c. Identifying and challenging all forms of oppression
 - d. Not believing that oppression exists
 - e. Answers a, b, and c.

Session 2: Current and Local Contexts

Oppression in Canada, Nova Scotia, and Dalhousie University

Exercise 2.1: *Have you learnt about the history of oppression in so-called Canada and Nova Scotia? What did you learn? How was it taught? Do you think that this teaching was adequate?*

Exercise 2.2: *Shade or check each circle to identify whether you previously have encountered a historical fact or concept related to Canada, Nova Scotia's and Dalhousie's history of oppression. Don't worry if you haven't heard of something before – this exercise is for you to learn and self-reflect, not to be evaluated on.*

Anti-Black Racism

- Did you know that many of early-eighteenth century Halifax's leading families and social and political leaders were pro-slavery, Confederacy supporters?
- Did you know that the man who founded Dalhousie University, of George Ramsay the 9th Earl of Dalhousie, was racist toward Africans and their descendants?
- Did you know that Dalhousie College and other Nova Scotia's provincial institutions and infrastructure were created, in part, with revenue from slavery-based economies?
- Did you know that some enslaved Black people actually escaped pre-Confederation Canada to seek freedom in the Northern American states in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, in a migration that has been called the "reverse underground railroad"?
- Did you know that the Ku Klux Klan and other white nationalists were active forces in Canada? By 1922, there were Klan members in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Québec, with as many as 25,000 KKK members in the country.
- Did you know that the last segregated school in Canada closed in 1983?
- Did you know that in the city of Halifax, Black people were six times more likely to be stopped and questioned, or "carded" by police than white people? (Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Check Report, March 2019)

Anti-Indigeneity

- Did you know that the French, who were the first European nation to colonize parts of Canada (called New France), enslaved Indigenous people?
- Did you know that after his re-election in 1878, Prime Minister John A. Macdonald orchestrated a state-sanctioned famine for Indigenous communities in the Canadian Prairies, in order to force relocation onto reserves and to facilitate colonization by white settlers?
- Did you know that there were enforced segregation policies that restricted Indigenous peoples' movements from 1885 to the mid 1950's under a "pass system", in which they had to have special permission to leave reserves?
- Did you know that the last residential school didn't close until 1996?
- Did you know that at any given time, some 100 First Nations communities are under boil water advisories?
- Did you know that Indigenous children (aged 0-14) account for approximately 7.7% of Canada's population, but represent 52.2% of children in foster care?
- Did you know that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be missing or murdered than any other women in Canada?

Anti-2SLGBTQ+

- Did you know that in 1841, the Canadian Criminal Code began to impose the death penalty for all persons engaging in same-sex sexual relationships?
- Did you know that in the 1950's and 1960's, the RCMP began to keep a list of all known homosexual people in some Canadian cities? They did this with the purpose of forcing them out of government jobs, denying them promotions, and to track people who crossed the US border.
- Did you know that the criminalization of homosexuality in Canada did not end until 1969?
- Did you know that while it is prohibited in some provinces and municipalities, conversion therapy is not yet fully prohibited across Canadian law?

Exercise 2.3: *Have you heard the term 'state violence' before? Why is state violence important to identify in the context of anti-oppression? What is the state?*

Exercise 2.4: *How have you navigated overt and covert types of oppression in the past? What forms of overt and covert types of oppression have you witnessed, participated in, or were on the receiving end of? What do you think are some overt and covert types of oppression that show up in your club/society functions?*

Exercise 2.5: *Have you heard of, witnessed, participated in, or experienced oppression at Dalhousie? How did it impact you and others in the situation? How did you address the situation? What supports did you utilize? How can you proactively address similar issues when in your position of leadership?*

SESSION 2 QUIZ:

1. A commonly-held belief is that forms of oppression in Canada (both in the past and in the present) are not “as bad” as they are in the United States. Given what you have learned, do you think that this is true?
A. True
B. False

2. State violence and overt oppression are the same thing.
A. True
B. False

3. Provide one brief example of oppression that occurs at Dalhousie University. If you have personally experienced oppression at the school and feel comfortable sharing your experiences, you may do so.

4. Does your chosen example fall into covert or overt oppression? Why?

5. Can you identify the individual, systemic, and epistemological aspects of this example?

Session 3: Decolonization and Liberation

Applying an Anti-Oppressive Lens to Club & Society Affairs

Exercise 3.1: Can you identify the ways in which your club or society might exhibit features of settler-colonialism? How might you contribute to decolonization at Dalhousie (and in Canadian society broadly) through your role as a club and society leader?

Exercise 3.2: *Exercise 3.2: Write down words that you associate with the term 'liberation'. Can you reflect on what liberation means, and why it's important in the context of anti-oppression?*

Exercise 3.3: *What do you think of when they hear the word safe space? What are safer spaces, and why are they important in the context of a club and society? What kinds of attitudes and behaviors contribute to the existence of safer spaces? How might you make your club and society a safer space?*

Exercise 3.4: *Can you identify specific examples of what oppression might look like in the context of your club & society? In the context of your club & society, how might you go about addressing and challenging this oppression?*

Exercise 3.5: Return to your responses to the question “What do you hope to take away from this workshop?” Having completed this workshop, is there anything that you have learned that you didn’t know before? Do you feel like this training was valuable? Do you feel that, with this knowledge, you will be able to execute the duties of your club and society using an anti-oppression framework?

SESSION 3 QUIZ:

1. Briefly describe decolonization, and speak to its importance:

2. Liberation involves envisioning a society that is not governed by hierarchy, inequality, and by unequal power relationship:

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

- 3. Safer spaces are:
 - a. A place where people feel like they can be authentically themselves
 - b. A space where people are compassionate, non-judgmental and supportive
 - c. When someone listens to another person's perspective without interrupting or talking over them
 - d. All of the above

- 4. Which of the following is NOT a way to practice anti-oppression in your daily life?
 - A. Learn skills for self-reflection and interpersonal accountability
 - B. Learn to see outside your own experiences and perspectives
 - C. Always put yourself first
 - D. Educate yourself on the history of oppression

- 5. Provide one example of something that your club & society currently does to make events inclusive, and another example of something that you could do differently.

Feedback:

The following section is for you to provide feedback on this anti-oppression training. At Human Rights and Equity Services, we are constantly working to ensure that our educational work is the most effective and up-to-date as possible. Therefore, we appreciate any feedback on how to improve this anti-oppression programming.

Definitions

Oppression:

Oppression is the act of one social group using power or privilege for its own benefit while disempowering, marginalizing, and subordinating another group. There are often said to be three kinds of oppression: systemic/institutional, individual/interpersonal, and internalized/epistemological. Oppression may also be overt or covert.

Systemic/Institutional Oppression:

Systemic oppression describes a network of institutions, policies, and practices that create advantages and benefits for some while perpetuating discrimination, oppression, and disadvantages for others. Systemic oppression is rooted in 'systems' exclusion that have persisted across space and time.

Interpersonal/Individual Oppression:

Interpersonal oppression occurs when individuals engage in oppressive behavior against another person or a group of people. This form of oppression includes acts such as direct violence and attacks, insults, harassment, discrimination, or more subtle micro-aggressions and microinsults.

Epistemological/Internalized Oppression:

Epistemology is the theory and study of knowledge production. As a form of oppression, it describes how dominant forms of knowledge functions to erase and devalue the knowledge

produced by marginalized people. We may also describe oppression as 'internalized' to describe the fact that many people may hold oppressive beliefs or values in which they do not necessarily recognize as being harmful or oppressive.

Anti-Oppression

Anti-oppression means actively identifying and challenging all forms of oppression. Anti-oppression is both an idea and a practice. Being anti-oppressive requires understanding the various manifestations of oppression, and challenging them in your life, relationships and actions.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a theory that originates in radical Black Feminist scholarship, which posits that we need to fundamentally account for the intersecting and interconnected features of oppression. Intersectionality argues that social categorizations such as race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability create interdependent systems of social discrimination and disadvantage. A person's identity in relation to these intersecting factors will subsequently shape their lived experiences with oppression.

Positionality

Positionality is the multiple social identities that a person holds. Any given person may hold multiple privileged and marginalized identities according to their race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and other social categories. Positionality is the social space that we occupy in relation to other people, which is why it is also commonly referred to as your social location.

Safer Spaces

Safer spaces are environments, whether in a classroom, a club & society, or in a group of friends, where people feel comfortable, supported, and respected. A safer space is where people feel that they can be authentically themselves, and don't fear judgement, criticism, or rejection. A safer space is something that is made and maintained by people in a social setting.

Liberation

Liberation is freedom from oppression. At its core, liberation is about envisioning a society that is not governed by hierarchy, inequality, and by unequal power relationships.

Decolonization

Decolonization requires recognizing the historical legacy of settler-colonialism, and actively working to challenge its present-day manifestations of violence against Indigenous people. Decolonization also requires centering Indigenous voices, perspectives and experiences.

More definitions can be found in the [Social Justice Terms Glossary](#).



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Feedback on Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan



Working Group Feedback

Meeting Time: 02-26-2021, 2pm

Present: DSU President (Chair), KSU VP External, DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep, KSU VP Communications elect, Cece (King's Member at Large), Ben (Student Senator), DSU Council Students with Disabilities Representative.

Absent: DSU Council BoG Rep #2, DSU Council Residence Students Representative (regrets).

Minutes

The DSU President began with a land acknowledgement and equity statement then opened the floor for introductions and discussion on priorities, key issues, or other ideas that should be considered in the Dalhousie Accessibility Plan.

DSU Students with Disabilities Rep:

- What does accessibility on campus look like in a post-Covid context?
 - o Ex. Students with hearing or visual impairments are especially impacted by certain health protection measures (ex. partitions, masks).
- How do we address the needs of students who are still recovering from feelings of isolation and mental health issues?

Cece:

- We also need to consider the issues in online learning, many e-textbooks don't have text-to-speech options.
- Online learning also results in lost sense of community, we can't be together on campus. Lost study spaces also impact student community and cause access issues for students without sufficient alternatives for study space.

Ben:

- We should remember that the final draft of this plan won't come out until 2022, so we also need to think about how 'normal' circumstances impact access.
- Carleton University is a Canadian and world leader in access and founded the Canadian Accessibility Network; Dalhousie is not a collaborator.

King's SU VP External:

- The Accessibility Center on campus could be impacted by Covid-19 and the return to campus.
 - o How do we prioritize between all the potential access requests when we come back? People who are uncomfortable returning, people who are at risk, those with new accessibility needs?

- Is/could there be a process for triaging accommodation requests? Are we differentiating between foundational and acute issues? The KSU has brought up these questions/ideas before and hasn't had a response.
- Another issue is that the onus falls on students to reapply for academic accommodations every year. Why can't we keep these on record?

DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep:

- The University once told students who had access issues related to being on campus that distance learning options were too complicated, we now know this isn't true.
- Would it be possible to have attendance requirements modified since we now have so much evidence that mandating attendance isn't a great practice? Especially since there may be an increase of valid concerns about re-entry to university life and campus after Covid-19.

Cece:

- Could we have advocates for students that come to the Accessibility Office with them? Advocating for yourself can be difficult.
- The Accessibility Office isn't welcoming and the processes aren't accessible. There need to be multiple ways to achieve one goal or have flexibility in each process, so everyone has access.
- The Hammond Building feels cold and is reminiscent of a mental institution.
- The Accessibility Office doesn't always take medical records seriously – they've denied accommodations recommended by medical specialists and refuse to have conversations about their decisions.

King's SU VP Elect:

- Students often must get angry to get the help they need.
- Volunteer student note takers for classes where there's a student with accommodations aren't a guarantee - those accommodations are based off a hope that someone will volunteer and provide good quality notes.
 - These students don't get paid properly.
 - Would it be possible for professors to annotate their slides?

DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep:

- Is there an advocacy group on campus that can work with students who need support getting their accommodations?
- Dalhousie also needs to begin recognizing self-diagnoses – they're accepted and respected in communities built by and for people with disabilities and not all students can afford the very expensive testing to get a formal diagnosis.

Ben:

- Carleton's center for student accommodations only requires one registration from students
- Dalhousie would need to undergo a significant cultural shift, the current culture is quite adversarial to students who need accommodations, and these students make up a significant portion of the student population

Cece:

- The ability to self-advocate is one that comes from, and with privilege
- There needs to be better organization around exam accommodations, the Accessibility Office and staff make students feel like a burden
- Proctors need better training on how to deal with student needs and any issues that arise
- The spaces where students with accommodations write their exams also have to be accessible.

DSU Students with Disabilities Rep:

- Could there be/is there a society on campus that already advocates for students with disabilities or educates on accessibility?

King's SU VP Elect:

- Students often have to go to accommodations meetings together, so they are listened to
- Some students don't remember having to re-register for their accommodations this year – are there differences in how students are being treated?

DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep:

- The website is so bad, pages for separate units need to be standardized because they are so hard to navigate

Ben:

- Even students without access needs think the website is bad; the Carleton website is an example of a good website.

DSU President:

Is there anything we *like* about what Dalhousie has done to support students with access needs?

- The contrast on the webpages and Dalhousie logo is good (Black- dark yellow- white)

DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep:

- A few years ago Dalhousie started putting more gender neutral, accessible washrooms around campus – not sure if they're making more but those are nice

Cece:

- The placement of the Accessibility Office in the Killam is good – it's in a central space on campus
- The Hammond Building is a good idea, it's nice to have a dedicated building, it was just poorly designed
- Professors at Dalhousie are generally understanding
- The Life Sciences Center sucks

King's SU VP External:

- Compared to King's which has a lot of stairs and tight spaces, Dalhousie is more physically accessible

- Dalhousie could do something similar to what King's is doing in identifying 'accessible pathways' through signage around buildings that aren't as accessible,

DSU Equity & Accessibility Office Rep:

- Students learning online has showed how important technology can be for learning, but some professors have a 'no laptops policy' in their classes, we should get rid of that

Cece:

- There's nowhere to give continuous, anonymous, safe feedback about the Accessibility Office
- Brightspace is also bad, it would be nice to have a calendar feature that shows all the deadlines for all my classes in one place.

Members collectively agreed that this was a productive, positive meeting and suggested that the group continue to meet.

DRAFT

Executive Committee Feedback

Meeting Time: 03-05-2021, 1pm / 03-08-2021, 1pm

Present: DSU President (Chair), DSU VPI, DSU VPFO, DSU VPAAE, DSU VPSL, Director of Operations, Director of Research & Outreach

Minutes for Meeting #1

These feedback sessions occurred during meetings of the Executive Committee of the DSU.

VPAE:

- International students face a lot of issues around academic integrity because they can feel uncomfortable or uncertain reaching out to their professors to see if something is OK due to cultural differences and fear of negative interactions
- There is a disconnect between the Awards Office and Accessibility Office – students who have an accommodation recognized by the province can take fewer courses and still be recognized as a full-time student (so they are eligible for awards) but this communication often doesn't happen, so they aren't considered.

Minutes for Meeting #2

VPSL:

- There needs to be more consideration of screen fatigue and the impact of always learning online, especially for students with ADHD and other learning disabilities.
 - o Exam accommodations for these students should be made to account for how much harder it can be for these students to write in an online environment.

Director R&O:

- Issues re: screen could be mitigated if professors all recorded their classes.

VPI:

- More time for online exams would help too.
- The ongoing discussion about 'no backsies' on online tests doesn't make sense – students should be able to skip, go back, and review all of their work.

VPAE:

- There aren't enough speech-text technologies available for students. The options to loan out this tech also aren't available to students who aren't in the area. Dalhousie should look at investing in software for all students or options that are accessible regardless of location.

VPI:

- Professors should extend the same leniencies that they have due to Covid all of the time, they need to care about their students all the time.
- Accommodations should always be available.

VPAE:

- Acute issues requiring accommodations aren't covered by the Accessibility Office (ex. concussions), which leaves serious short-term illnesses without support, unless they can convince their professors to accommodate them.

VPSL:

- There should be more options to support students with anxiety, stress, and sensory needs, especially in crowds and social situations – campus is a very busy place.
 - o We could advocate for low-sensory accommodations (Ex. letting students come 5 minutes late to class to avoid the busy waiting spaces) or low-sensory sessions in certain buildings or stores – like the bookstore?

VPFO:

- Ensuring there are low-sensory study and workspaces would be great. There are a few designated quiet spaces on campus, but the lights are always too high, and the scent-free campus isn't a guarantee.

VPAE:

- Some syllabi are too strict and aren't accessible – ex. no late entry to class, no laptops in the classroom, some profs even dock points from your overall grade if you ask for an extension on an assignment.
- Another example is graduate students. You can't take a sabbatical from your research without extremely extenuating circumstances.
- There's also an ongoing rhetoric that university policies shouldn't be translated because students have to be English proficient to attend Dal.
- The academic integrity process has some procedural bumps.

President:

- The translation comment doesn't acknowledge that just because you speak English in school doesn't mean you want to/should be forced to all the time, and especially not to understand important policies and complex procedures
- There's also a valid fear of professors marking you down if you ask for accommodations, extensions, or point out unfair treatment.
- Getting profs to change their syllabi and practices is hard because of academic freedom rules, but NS Legislature trumps academic freedom – profs will have to change to comply.

Feedback Summary: Key Priorities, Themes & Recommendations

Physical Campuses

- Dalhousie's Studley campus has accommodated most (but not all) of the basic physical access needs but significantly lacks in accessibility for disabilities outside of the physical.
 - o Carleton, Sexton, Truro, and Yarmouth are less-updated campuses that may need more renovations to comply with physical access requirements.
 - o **More gender neutral, age-inclusive (changing tables), accessible washrooms should be built on campus.**
 - o **More low-sensory dedicated study and workspaces should be created, on all campuses.**

The Accessibility Center & Hammond Building

- The Accessibility Center is in a good location, but doesn't have accessible processes, staff, and doesn't serve all students.
 - o It feels like the Office does not want to give accommodations and are untrusting of students, which is demoralizing and ableist.
 - o They do not recognize all disabilities, or the impact of those disabilities on an individual's experience as a student, as worthy of accommodations – just the ones they are comfortable with.
 - o **The Accessibility Center and staff should frequently partake in implicit bias, anti-oppression, harm-reduction training, other professional development training, and evaluations.**
 - o **The Accessibility Center needs to formally review its policies and procedures and ensure that each resource is accessible to all those who need it.**
 - o **The Accessibility Center should determine policy and processes for formally addressing acute accommodation needs.**
 - o **The Accessibility Center needs to have a method for accepting anonymous feedback on resources, staff, and impact.**
 - o **The Hammond Building should be re-designed to be more welcoming.**
 - o **Students should only have to register their accommodations once, with the ability to make updates if/when needed.**
 - o **The Accessibility Center should pre-determine a process for dealing with an influx of accommodations requests before Fall 2021.**
 - o **Students should be given access to resources, including advocates, to educate them on all their options and support them in securing accommodations.**

Website & Brightspace

- Dalhousie's website poses many issues – mainly in navigation
 - o **The website should have standardized page formatting among different units, faculties, and departments.**
- Brightspace is similarly difficult to navigate.
 - o **Brightspace should include a calendar feature for each student that syncs all deadlines for all classes to one spot.**

Online Learning

- Online learning has revealed that many accommodation requests for distance learning options that were once deemed 'too difficult to coordinate' no longer have justification.
 - o **Students should be given access to the full offerings of the academic timetable from off-campus, if needed.**
- There are specific issues with online learning for students with disabilities, especially those who are hearing or visually impaired and those with learning disabilities.
 - o **Professors should be asked to annotate slides or record their classes with closed captioning, and ensure they are available on Brightspace for students who have difficulty accessing live lectures.**
 - o **Dalhousie should invest in text-to-speech and speech-to-text software, available for free download to students.**
- Exam regulations aren't standardized or formalized.
 - o **Students should have access to the same advantages they had during in-person test taking (ex. the ability to skip forward, go back, and review tests).**
 - o **Students should have the standard exam time to complete online exams.**

Teaching & Syllabi

- Many classroom restrictions placed by professors are ableist, demoralizing, and impose inappropriate paternalistic rules on students:
 - o No laptop / phone / tablet restrictions
 - o Late to class policies
 - o Late assignment policies
 - o Mandatory/graded participation or attendance
 - o No sick days / medical certificates or declarations of absence not accepted
 - o No sabbatical policies
- Professors are generally accommodating, but not all are. Many professors can independently decide whether they will give accommodations which allows them to take advantage of an imbalanced power dynamic between professor and student.
 - o Many professors won't give accommodations without medical certificate or extensive documentation, requiring students to disclose private, sensitive medical information to be treated equitably.
 - o Many students hold fear or uncertainty because of cultural differences, in approaching their professors for accommodations. They worry that they'll be marked poorly for asking for accommodations or that their professor will be upset with them.
 - This is especially impactful for students who identify as part of an equity-deserving group, who already face implicit bias and oppression in the classroom.
- Some students require a notetaker for their classes – these note takers are not paid fairly and aren't guaranteed. **Dalhousie should hire a reasonable number of paid students each year to take notes to ensure this accommodation is available.**
- There is an obvious conflict between professor's negotiated rights to academic freedom, and accessibility for all students. However, academic freedom is not absolute and does not trump the requirements of the Accessibility Act of Nova Scotia. **Senate regulation should be passed mandating what is and is not the purview and ability of Faculty, based on the Act.**



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March 9, 2021

To: BAC Chair, acting Provost Frank Harvey, and Vice President Finance & Admin Gitta Kulczycki,

On behalf of over 19,000 students studying at Dalhousie University, we are sharing our concerns regarding Dalhousie University's proposed 2021/22 budget. At the beginning of the summer 2020 semester, the DSU and its members voiced concerns about the 3% tuition increase instated this past Fall, and the additional \$1473 increase for International students. Since then, the DSU has continued to advocate for adequate support for students whose finances and wellbeing have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and increased university fees. The DSU is recommending that Dalhousie do the following:

- Remove all tuition increases and freeze tuition for both domestic and international students.
- Develop a sustainable budget that moves towards universally accessible education.
- Lobby the provincial and federal government to increase funding for post-secondary institutions.

Remove all tuition increases and freeze tuition for both domestic and international students.

Students on campus continue to voice concerns about the rising cost of tuition and financial barriers attached to accessing post-secondary education. When quarantine restrictions were implemented across the globe last March, the precarious nature of students' financial realities only heightened. Many students faced and continue to face loss of employment, food insecurity and increasing anxiety given the global uncertainty.

International students in Nova Scotia continue to pay upwards of \$19,000 and climbing each year, which is more than double the amount of tuition that their domestic peers pay. Moreover, they have significantly less health care coverage, more barriers preventing them from accessing CERB and other financial assistance programs, and this year alone the both the province and the university has already required them to pay up to \$1600 in hotel costs to return to Halifax, which was not required by students entering the province from other regions of Canada or Canadian students who were returning from an international trip. Dalhousie prides itself on claiming to create a fair, diverse, and accessible community. Raising international student fees exorbitantly and defending the decision by comparing these fees to others in the country directly contradicts these claims. If Dalhousie wants to create a fair and accessible community on campus and online for the international community, they must prioritize the wellbeing of their current students who cannot continue to pay these rising fees.



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As our one-year anniversary of the pandemic quickly approaches, a promising solution that caters to the immediate needs of students has yet to be presented. Imposing increases in tuition fees during a pandemic shows that Dalhousie University has not taken the necessary steps to address the financial concerns faced by all students. Moreover, the lack of engagement with students about this issue and possible solutions is creating an environment of distrust between students and Dalhousie's administration. Dalhousie can begin to amend the divide by removing all proposed tuition increases for the 2021/2022 academic year and freezing tuition.

Develop a sustainable budget that moves towards universally accessible education.

Given the current global circumstances, Dalhousie is still projecting an increase in enrollment by 4.8%. Tuition currently makes up over 42% of Dalhousie current revenue, meaning students are the institution's second largest investor. To ensure our campus is equipped with the supports and services needed to create a healthy learning environment, Dalhousie must work alongside students, faculty and staff to ensure the budget is reflective of our needs.

The 2021-2022 draft budget included investments into a variety of grant and scholarship programs, such as the First Nations and Indigenous Black (FNIB) Student Scholarship. Scholarships for marginalized groups must be maintained to assist groups who face systematic barriers when accessing post-secondary education. However, blanket scholarships intended to bridge the divide created by rising tuition fees are insufficient, largely because they can only be obtained by a fraction of the student population and at-risk students are falling through the system's cracks. These funds should be used to decrease or stabilize current tuition and ancillary fees for all students.

Lobby the provincial and federal government to increase funding for post-secondary institutions.

We can work alongside each other and lobby the federal and provincial governments to increase their funding to post-secondary institutions. The current memorandum of understanding between the Province of Nova Scotia and the province's universities states that each institution's Operating Grant will increase by "not less than (1%) from the previous year" on a yearly basis. This mandated 1% increase is insufficient when faculty salaries, expenses, and inflation increase at faster rates.

In 2010/2011, 60% of Dalhousie University's revenue was from government sources, with only 31% of revenue coming from tuition and fees. Last year, government funding (49%) barely edged out tuition and fee revenue (42%). More and more of the costs of running and maintaining our universities are being offloaded onto students. Education is both a right and a necessity within today's society. We need public investment in our public education system. For us to maintain the development of innovative technology, we must ensure the institutions that fund them are adequately funded, and not at the expense of students.



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In conclusion, we call on the Budget Advisory Committee to develop a 2021-2022 draft operating budget that does not include tuition fee and fee increases.

Furthermore, students want to see a longer timeframe for their feedback to be sought and considered by BAC. We ask that initial feedback be collected via email up until April 1, 2021 and frequent communications and updates are made available following the deadline.

Students need the University to step up and seriously consider a new path forward with this operating budget—one that is reflective of the long-term wellbeing of students and the need for accessible post-secondary education in our province and in this country.

Signed,

Dalhousie Student Union

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm stinson'.

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanna Stewart'.

Hanna Stewart, Vice President Internal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Seelemann'.

Erica Seelemann, Vice President Academic and External

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isa Wright'.

Isa Wright, Vice President Finance and Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jad Ghiz'.

Jad Ghiz, Vice President Student Life



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More information:

Canadian and international tuition fees by level of study:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710004501>

Budget Advisory Committee Report LX:

<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/financial-services/Reports/BAC%20Reports/Budget%20Advisory%20Committee%20Report%20LX.pdf>

Proposed 2021-22 operating budget: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/financial-services/budget.html#:~:text=Budget%20plan%20highlights,by%20the%20Board%20in%202019>

<https://www.dal.ca/dept/financial-services/budget.html#:~:text=Budget%20plan%20highlights,by%20the%20Board%20in%202019>



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: March 25, 2021 – 7:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

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 2021-03-25-3.1

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 2021-03-25-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on March 11, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

MOTION 2021-03-25-11.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2021-22 budget be adopted as presented, and as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved by the Vice President, Finance and Operations. Document attached.

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: March 06 – March 19, 2021

Council Date: March 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

March 08: Council preparation; discussion on items to be brought to upcoming meetings. Approval of all philanthropic donations (Avalon Sexual Assault Center, NOII HFX, Treaty Truckhouse, Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, Delmore Buddy Day Centre). Discussion on auditing levy funds provided by the DSU to Dalhousie for scholarships. DSU signed on to ACORN housing advocacy. Discussion on society event approval. Accessibility Plan feedback session.

March 12: Discussion on the purchase of a wall-size calendar for the SUB. Tuition organizing conversation to brainstorm and decide on advocacy mechanisms. Communications requests reviewed. Discussion on response to society event concern from students.

March 15: Discussion on placement for SUB calendar. Decision to extend PlantCare contract. Decision on Summer and Fall 2021 SUB operating hours. VPAE gave update on academic integrity translation project. Reminder to work on transition reports and discussion on transition ideas. Update on Ascension contract – Ascension to be offered a 6 month lease (as per their request) at ½ of the current rent value per month, with the option to extend the lease for a two year period upon completion (update: as of March 20th, Ascension has signed this lease and will be resuming services as of April 01.)

March 19: Clarification on vaccine sites on Studley campus (there are none currently). VPAE update on Ombudsperson hiring process. Discussion on student concerns regarding university response to recent violence. VPSL update on Bisset Centre inclusion in DSU O-Week due to funding cuts from the university.

Other Meetings/Tasks

March 10, 3:30pm: Society Event Approvals Committee.

March 10, 5pm: Council prep meeting.

March 11, 2pm: Research and Outreach meeting. Discussion on #RejectTheFees.

March 11, 7pm: DSU Council.

March 12, 12:30pm: Senate and Board prep meeting.

March 12, 2:30pm: Mural Selection Committee meeting.

March 12, 4:30pm: Meeting with MBA Society executives to discuss tentative event.

March 17, 10am: Impact Awards filming.

March 17, 11am: Meeting with Nursing Society executives to discuss tentative event.

March 17, 1pm: Meeting with Policy & Governance Coordinator to discuss governance review.

March 17, 2pm: Reject the Fees meeting with Research & Outreach team.

March 17, 3:30pm: Society Events Approvals Committee.

March 18, 10am: Operations meeting.

March 18, 11:30am: Transition prep meeting.

March 19, 12:30pm: Senate and Board prep meeting.

March 19, 4:30pm: Student Senate Caucus meeting.

University Affairs and Committees

March 08, 3pm: Senate Meeting.

March 09, 9am: Senate Honorary Degrees Committee Meeting (confidential).

March 10, 10am: Provost Search Committee Meeting (confidential).

March 11, 9am: Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

March 16, 9am: DSU President / Dalhousie President monthly meeting. Discussion on joint advocacy and bringing discussions about the future of Dalhousie to the Board.

March 17, 4:30pm: Return To Campus (RTC) Executive Committee meeting.

External and Broader Community

March 10, 2pm: Courage To Act Conference.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

No significant updates.

Upcoming Dates

March 30th: Labour and Advanced Education Government/Student Roundtable.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: March 06 – March 19, 2021

Council Date: March 25th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Ratification Planning
 - Reconfiguring forms, realigning our data intake to get all required information, streamlining the form to include training options, and opening up the form to be able to gather all society member emails for future communication. This has been a majority of my work!
- Anti-Oppression training Next Steps
 - Reached out to council for feedback and having received none, will now work to implement the training on our website for easy access to future learners.
- Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Check-in – March 11th, 2021
 - Met to discuss elections timeline.
- Student Accessibility Fund Committee – March 12th, 2021
 - Continued to approve and issue bursaries thanks to the new funds!
- Survey Winners
 - Both the society survey and annual survey closed, and winners are being chosen!

University Affairs and Committees

- N/A

External and Broader Community

- Loaded Ladle Town Hall – March 8th, 2021
 - Attended to provide information to students. Relatively unsuccessful at reaching students from Sexton campus. Will try again!

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC met on March 9th, 2021
 - There was no important discussion had. No new societies required ratification and all societies under investigation have submitted no updates.

Upcoming Dates

- N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: March 06 – March 19, 2021

Council Date: March 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Regular Executive Committee and staff meetings.
- Oversaw implementation of new elections reimbursements process with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for more efficient candidate reimbursements.
- Working with the Societies and Programming Coordinator to review faculty and levy society audits. Review of current treasurer training process and recommendations for incoming VPFO regarding Spring/Fall 2021 training content and delivery.
- Participated in the Mural Selection Committee to find an Indigenous painter to create a mural at the SUB. Currently working with a short list of candidates.
- Preparing for DSU Offices hiring for the 2021-22 academic year, including hiring for DSAS, DSUSO and E&A offices.
- Met with societies regarding society audits, banking information, bank account options, and signing authority transitions.
- Support for the Mental Health Bursary Committee.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: issued a total of \$5,100.00 in this reporting period, for a total of \$14,250 this year.
- Preparing for executive transition – lots of time spent on my transition report, society audit process clarification, and preparation of helpful documents for incoming VPFO.

University Affairs and Committees

- Attended Name Changes in Dalhousie Systems Committee meeting on March 17, 2021, to provide feedback from a student perspective. Working to find a new DSU representative for the committee to start in May 2021.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: March 06, 2021- March 19, 2021

Council Date: March 25, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
 - a. Four of the original four translations are complete (Spanish, Hindi, French, and Mandarin). A fifth translator is being hired to complete an Arabic translation.
2. Student Senate Caucus (SSC) met on March 19th to discuss Senate's agenda for the March 22nd meeting.
 - a. Discussed the importance of student feedback and Student Ratings of Instruction (SRIs).
 - b. Presentation to Senate discussing the importance of student feedback on March 22nd.
3. The Accessibility Fund Committee met on March 12th to review applications.
4. On March 3rd, we began developing our campaign strategy to respond to Dalhousie's draft budget which shows another increase in tuition. The effort is ongoing.
 - a. We are trying to develop a unique plan considering previous actions have been unsuccessful.
5. Ongoing transition work for the incoming VPAAE.
 - a. Transition report.
 - b. Scheduling introduction meetings.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing conversations with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. A special meeting of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) was held on March 18th. The SRCC Proposal will be brought to Senate in April.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. We met March 18th. We are discussing how to make the language clearer and ensure that the process is student-centric and feasible.

3. On March 12th and 17th I attended an Exam Regulations Working Group meeting to discuss long term changes to exam policies.
 - a. Unfortunately, the working group is adamant they will be unable to finish policy changes in time for the Winter 2021 final exams. Changes will likely be implemented for Fall 2021.
4. On March 15th I attended a Senate E-Learning meeting.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: March 06 – March 19, 2021

Council Date: March 25th, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. International Student Emergency Bursary Committee
 - a. March 16th: Reviewed applications and aided in the distribution of funds.
2. Student Life Committee
 - a. March 10th: SLC met to finalize plan for Summer Send-Off.
3. Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC) Proposal
 - a. March 18th: the VP AE and I presented the proposal to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) and it was approved to proceed to Senate along with the SLTC's recommendation!
4. Mental Health Support Fund
 - a. March 19th: Committee began to review applications. Application review will be completed, and recipients will be notified by March 26th.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Impact Awards
 - a. March 8th: Various key members of the committee met to discuss the script for the trailer.
 - b. March 11th: DSU Impact Award Selection Committee met and completed the selection process for the winners.
2. 2021 Orientation
 - a. March 19th: Met with Dalhousie Orientation Committee to discuss possible action plans for the upcoming year.

External and Broader Community

1. Healthy Minds Nova Scotia

- a. March 11th: Attended evaluation sub-committee meeting.
- 2. Togetherall Meeting
 - a. March 19th: Attended info session about Togetherall, a new online mental health resource, to see how it can be applied to Dalhousie.

Upcoming Dates

- 1. Summer Send-Off Kits
 - a. April 8-9th: We will be distributing fun kits for students living in Halifax for the summer!



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: April 8, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

Land Acknowledgement

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Equity Statement

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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 2021-04-08-3.1

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 2021-04-08-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on March 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1 Update regarding Judicial Board report on election appeal.

Presented by the Chair

9. Committee Reports

10. Old Business

11. New Business

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

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: March 20 – April 02, 2021

Council Date: April 08, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

March 22: Council preparation and discussion on potential society-based tasks that could be moved to the Societies and Programming Coordinator to better support societies. Reminder for executives to schedule a laptop cleaning with Facilities Director. Review of Ombudsperson Terms of Reference document. Decision on executive members to join the Offices hiring committee, in addition to President.

March 26: Update on Giving Tuesday donations. Review of Data Sharing Agreement between DSU and Dalhousie. Promotion of petition to open the Board of Governors meetings to students/public/media again. Coordination of signing officers to be present for end of fiscal year (March 31st). Updates from VPSL from the Mental Health Forum.

March 29: Update on #RejectTheFees programming. Approval of cost of gift cards for part time staff and volunteers of the DSU. Update on wall calendar. Update and agreement on campus copy planning. Campus Copy is to be temporarily modified to become a study space for the 2021-22 academic year. This decision responds to overwhelming calls for more study space on campus and will allow the DSU to hold consultation on whether the printing service is of desire. The space will be re-arranged, and equipment stored, so that it can be used by societies and students for meetings and studying. Pending results of consultation, it may be reorganized back to Campus Copy, or fully renovated into a different service.

April 05: Discussion on O-Week hiring committee membership. Confirmation of the timeline for the DSU Mural project. Discussion on BRINKS contract. Update on bursary minute-taking best practices.

Other Meetings/Tasks

March 24, 1pm: Meeting with Student Affairs Office, Student VIP, and DSU Health Plan Office to discuss blackout period solutions.

March 25, 7pm: DSU Council meeting.

March 26, 3pm: #RejectTheFees Organizing Committee meeting. Meetings to continue weekly until Board of Governors Meeting on April 20th, where fee increases will be voted on.

March 29, 11am: Meeting with Board of Governor's Chair for in-person introductions.

March 29, 1pm: Meeting with Director Operations and Director Facilities to discuss and decide on location and size of new chalkboard Calendar in SUB.

March 30, 1:30pm: #RejectTheFees Internal planning meeting with staff.

March 31, 10am: Annual Survey Feedback meeting to discuss results with Executive.

April 01, 10am: Operations Meeting.

April 01, 1:30pm: Transition preparation meeting with Directors and Policy & Governance Coordinator.

April 02, 12:30pm: Senate and Board of Governors preparation meeting.

April 02, 3pm: #RejectTheFees Organizing Committee meeting.

University Affairs and Committees

March 22, 3pm: Senate meeting.

March 23, 1pm: Dalhousie Provost/VP Academic Candidate Interviews. (4 hours)

March 24, 3:30pm: Employment Systems Review Subcommittee meeting to discuss focus group strategy and attendance.

March 25, 10am: Dalhousie Provost/VP Academic Candidate Interviews. (10 hours)

March 31, 9am: Board of Governors Finance, Audit, and Investment Committee Meeting. Invited as a guest (non-voting) to present Council-approved increases to the DSU Health Plan. FAIR Committee also passed the Budget Advisory Committee's recommendations for increases to tuition and auxiliary fees, which will now go to the Board on April 20th for a full vote of the Board.

March 31, 12pm: Student Affairs – DSU Executive bi-weekly meeting. Discussion on DSU executive transition plans, return to campus plans for Fall 2021, accommodations for students, and the housing crisis. In November 2020, the Student Affairs Office said they would consider the possibility of allowing international students to complete their 14-day isolation in Dalhousie Residences, rather than a hotel. Today they let us know that this is not possible, as it would cost students more to do so, and would be less enjoyable.

April 01: Meeting with Human Rights & Equity Services (HRES) Sexual Violence Advisor to discuss DSU executive transition and plans for the new executive term.

April 01, 4:30pm: Return to Campus Executive Committee Meeting.

External and Broader Community

March 30, 9am: Government-Student Roundtable with Department of Labour and Advanced Education. Notes circulated to Executive Committee, available upon request.

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

Reminder: A full BoG Caucus Report will be delivered on the last meeting of Council for the 2020-21 academic year.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: March 20 – April 02, 2021

Council Date: April 08, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Transition
 - Working primarily on transition report and preparation for the next two weeks. This has taken up a majority of my workload.
- Societies Website Reviewal
 - Began a review of the societies website in order to pin point changes required for the coming year.
- Accessibility Fund Committee – March 26th
 - Continued to approve and issue bursaries.
- Grants Committee Meeting – March 26th
 - Approved and issued society grants, member grants, and accommodation grants.

University Affairs and Committees

- Bi-weekly Student Affairs (SA)/DSU Meeting – March 31st
 - Discussions were held around SA supports during DSU executive transition and academic accommodations for the coming year.

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- SRC has not met this reporting period. We are currently conducting an email vote for the Bike Center Society.

Upcoming Dates

- April 15th, 2021 – Executive Transition Starts.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: March 20 – April 02, 2021

Council Date: April 08, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Regular Executive Committee and staff meetings.
- Continual work with the DSU Societies and Programming Coordinator to review faculty and levy society audits. Review of current treasurer training process and recommendations for incoming VPFO and Spring/Fall 2021 training content and delivery.
- Met with DSU Graphic Designer and Societies and Programming Coordinator to plan graphics for the website to assist faculty and constituent society treasurers understand the audit process.
- Met with Student VIP and relevant Dalhousie University staff to discuss health plan opt-out process for Fall 2021.
- Provided feedback on the new re-ratification form for faculty and constituent societies, to be implemented Spring 2021.
- Participated in the Mural Selection Committee to find an Indigenous painter to create a mural at the SUB. Currently working with a short list of candidates.
- Preparing for DSU Offices hiring for the 2021-22 academic year, including hiring for DSAS, DSUSO and E&A offices.
- Met with societies regarding society audits, banking information, bank account options, and signing authority transitions.
- Reviewed the Annual Survey results with the VP Internal.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: did not meet this reporting period. Next meeting is on April 6, 2021.
- Preparing for executive transition – lots of time spent on my transition report, society audit process clarification, and preparation of helpful documents for incoming VPFO.
- Grants Committee met on March 26, 2021. The following society grants were approved:
 - Holiday Helper's Society
 - STEM Fellowship
 - PhD Health Student Society

- Dalhousie Sailing Team
- Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research Dalhousie (CANFAR)
- Dalhousie Muslim Students Association
- Women in STEM Society



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: March 20, 2021- April 02, 2021

Council Date: April 08, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
 - a. Four of the original four translations are complete (Spanish, Hindi, French, and Mandarin). A fifth translator has been hired to complete an Arabic translation. The translation will tentatively be completed by April 15th.
2. The Accessibility Fund Committee met on March 26th to review applications.
3. On March 30 we met to develop our campaign strategy regarding tuition increases. The effort is ongoing.
4. Ongoing transition work for the incoming VPAAE.
 - a. Transition report
 - b. Scheduling introduction meetings

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing work with Senior Administration and Faculty in regard to developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. A special meeting of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee was held March 18th. The SRCC Proposal will be brought to Senate late April.
 - b. The motion's approval was conditional on a few minor amendments. I have made the amendments and am currently waiting on a response from the Chair of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. We met March 25th and April 1st. We discussed the presentation that will be given to SLTC at our next meeting. I will answer many of the questions focused on student issues given my role in the Code's development.
3. On March 30th I attended the Open Educational Resources (OER) Grants Submission Decision meeting. I am thrilled in the number of proposals we received and we awarded 4 developing projects the full amount of the amount requested.

- a. More information to follow once the awards are accepted.
4. On April 1st, I attended a Sexualized Violence Prevention Resource Group meeting. We discussed updates from all offices involved.
5. On March 30th I was involved in the Award Selection Committee for the Educational Leadership Award for Collaborative Teaching.

External Affairs

On March 30th, I attended a Government Student Roundtable. We discussed what projects all student unions are currently engaged in. We raised concerns surrounding the isolation requirements for international students and the lack of discussion regarding tuition and the current Memorandum of Understanding with the government.

Upcoming Dates

N/A



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Report of the Vice President, Student Life

Name: Jad Ghiz

Reporting Period: March 20 – April 02, 2021

Council Date: April 08, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ombudsperson Hiring
 - a. March 22nd: Reviewed steps to ensure hiring process is complete by mid-late April.
2. Summer Send-Off Kits
 - a. March 23rd: Finalized purchases and schedule for the kit give-away event.
3. Mental Health Fund
 - a. March 26th: Completed reviewing all 273 applicants.
4. Reject the Fees
 - a. March 30th: Executive and staff met to continue campaign planning.
5. DSU Review of Residence Community Living Guide
 - a. March 30th: Consulted with students regarding RCLG.
 - b. March 31st: Completed review of RCLG.
 - c. April 1st: Submitted review to residence life leadership.
6. Annual Survey Review
 - a. March 31st: Executive team reviewed results of the survey to include in the transition process.
7. Student Life Committee
 - a. March 24th: Committee met to finalize plans for summer send off and ideas for incoming executive.

University Affairs and Committees

1. Impact Awards
 - a. March 24th: Attended impact award planning committee meeting to finalize video content.
 - b. March 25th: Filmed 3 videos for award video.
2. Appeals Committee
 - a. March 29th: Participated through the appeal process of 4 students.
3. Fall Orientation Programming committee

- a. March 25th: Attended committee meeting to discuss location and program distribution.
 - b. April 1st: Attended committee meeting to finalize locations and further discuss program distribution.
4. Sexualized Violence Prevention Resource Group
- a. April 1st: Attended meeting and shared resources, current events, and general updates on recent/ future initiatives.

External and Broader Community

1. Togetherall Consultation

- a. March 23rd: Attended a consultation session regarding a new online mental health resource.

Upcoming Dates

1. Summer Send-Off

- a. April 8th: Kit distribution event takes place in the SUB



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DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: April 22, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

Land Acknowledgement

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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 2021-04-22-3.1

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 2021-04-22-5.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on April 08, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

6. Communications Received

6.1. The President received data collected by Faculty Representatives regarding impacts of tuition fees on their constituencies, which was used by the President and the Board of Governors Representatives at the Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday, April 20th. A full report is attached.

7. Appointments by Council

8. Presentations

8.1. Update on Ongoing Projects

Presented by the President

9. Committee Reports

9.1. Board of Governors Caucus Report

Presented by the President

10. Old Business

11. New Business

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

The following committees will be filled at Council in May:

Budget and Finance Committee

Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Student Life Committee

External Committee

Society Review Committee

Grants and Sponsorship Committee

Oversight Committee

Judicial Board

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment



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Report of the President

Name: Madeleine Stinson

Reporting Period: April 03, 2021 – April 16, 2021

Council Date: April 22, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

Executive Committee Meetings

April 05: Decision on O-Week Commissioner hiring committee. Discussion on Mural timeline. Motion to end contract with Brinks Armoured Truck due to lack of physical deposits. Minute-taking discussion. Agreement on society ratification inquiry.

April 09: Discussion on unpaid loan owed to DSU from society. Brainstorming session for end-of-the-year Board and Senate reports. Discussion on executive transition planning and executive transition report status.

April 12: Discussion on university documents relevant to DSU executives that could help with transition. Further conversation on executive transition updates.

April 16: Update on potential Dalhousie staff strike (they've since reached a tentative agreement). Motion to approve use of I.M Well Fund for Mental Health bursaries. Update on Dal possible booking DSU rooms for classes in Fall – haven't heard back from Dal since their initial inquiry. Approval of capital funds project motion for Grawood bar fridge repair. Discussion on Health Plan and potential changes for next year. Update on campus reopening plans. Reminder for outgoing exec to send transition docs to incoming exec.

Other Meetings/Tasks

April 05, 2:30pm: Meeting with Director Operations, Director Facilities, and Reservations Manager about possibility of Dalhousie booking space for classes in the SUB in the Fall. No updates on this since.

April 06, 1pm: Reject the Fees meeting with staff and executives.

April 07, 5pm: DSU Council prep meeting.

April 08, 1:30pm: Executive transition prep meeting.

April 08, 2:30pm: Research & Outreach meeting.
April 08, 7pm: DSU Council.
April 09, 9am: DSU staff meeting.
April 09, 12:30pm: Senate and Board prep meeting.
April 13, 10am: E&A and DSUSO Offices interviews.
April 13, 2pm: Supply run for campout.
April 14, 10am: E&A and DSUSO Offices interviews.
April 14, 1:30pm: Reject the Fees meeting with staff and executives.
April 15, 11am: E&A and DSUSO Offices interview and debrief meeting.
April 15, 1:30pm: Executive transition prep meeting.
April 16: Reject the Fees campout began.

University Affairs and Committees

April 06, 1:30pm: Provost/Vice-President Academic interviews.
April 06, 4pm: Equity Admissions Project meeting.
April 09, 2:15pm: Provost/Vice-President Academic interviews.
April 12, 3pm: Senate meeting.
April 13, 1pm: DSU/Senior Administration monthly meeting.
April 14, 12pm: DSU/ Student Affairs biweekly meeting.
April 15, 3:30pm: Provost/Vice-President Academic deliberation meeting.

External and Broader Community

April 08, 3pm: CBC Mainstreet Interview

Board of Governors Caucus Updates

Board Caucus report attached to package.

Upcoming Dates

May 01: Executive transition.

May 31: Last day for council representative appointments to be communicated to DSU Policy & Governance Coordinator.



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Report of the Vice President, Internal

Name: Hanna Stewart

Reporting Period: April 03, 2021 – April 16, 2021

Council Date: April 22, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Transition!
 - Primarily worked on transition report, scheduling the next two weeks, tying up loose ends, and organizing computer files. This is the majority of the work I have been doing beside administrative work (emails, etc.).
- Reminiscenced all the lovely times I had in my office.
 - I really had a lot of coffee cups come through here.

University Affairs and Committees

- Senior Admin/DSU Executive Meeting – April 13th, 2021
- Bi-weekly Student Affairs/DSU Executive Meeting – April 14th, 2021

External and Broader Community

- N/A

Society Review Committee Updates

- Will not meet again until reappointed.

Upcoming Dates

- Reject the Fee's Rally – April 20th, 2021

Thank you all for your work this year!

Xoxo, Hanna.



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Report of the Vice President, Finance and Operations

Name: Isa Wright

Reporting Period: April 03, 2021- April 16, 2021

Council Date: April 22, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

- Regular Executive Committee and staff meetings.
- Continual work with the DSU Societies and Programming Coordinator to review faculty and levy society audits. Review of current treasurer training process and recommendations for incoming VPFO and Spring/Fall 2021 training content and delivery.
- Met with DSU Graphic Designer and Societies and Programming Coordinator to plan graphics for the website to assist faculty and constituent society treasurers understand the audit process.
- Participation in DSU Offices hiring committees and onboarding for the 2021-22 academic year, including hiring for DSAS, DSUSO and E&A offices.
- Met with societies regarding society audits, banking information, bank account options, and signing authority transitions.
- International Student Emergency Bursary Committee: approved \$5,350.00 in emergency bursaries for international students. Our next meeting is on April 23, 2021.
- Preparing for executive transition – lots of time spent on my transition report, society audit process clarification, and preparation of helpful documents for incoming VPFO.
- Providing input on changes to the health plan for the upcoming policy year.
- Camping out on the quad until Tuesday, April 20 to raise awareness for the proposed tuition increase and protest the motion on the table for the Board of Governor's meeting.



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Report of the Vice President, Academic and External

Name: Erica Seelemann

Reporting Period: April 03, 2021 – April 16, 2021

Council Date: April 22, 2021

Internal Affairs and DSU Committees

1. Ongoing work developing translations of policies related to academic integrity
 - a. Four of the original four translations are complete (Spanish, Hindi, French, and Mandarin). A fifth translator has been hired to complete an Arabic translation. The translation will tentatively be completed by April 22nd.
2. The Accessibility Fund Committee met on April 9th to review applications.
3. Ongoing Reject the Fees Campaign development.
4. Ongoing transition work for the incoming VPAAE.
 - a. Transition report
 - b. Scheduling introduction meetings

University Affairs and Committees

1. Ongoing discussions with Senior Administration and Faculty about developing a Student Ratings of Course Content (SRCC), which will be focused on oppressive content in the classroom.
 - a. Minor amendments from the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee have been accepted by the Chair. The proposal will be presented to Senate on April 26, 2021.
2. Ongoing work with the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee. The revised code will be presented to Senate on April 26, 2021.
3. On March 30th I attended the Open Educational Resources (OER) Grants Submission Decision meeting. I am thrilled in the number of proposals we received and we awarded 4 developing projects the full amount requested.
 - a. More information to follow once the awards are accepted.
4. On April 9, 2021 the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee met to discuss our proposed changed to the Job Description and Terms of Reference. At our recommendation, we changed some of the wording to make it more general. We were worried that some of the original language may restrict the Ombudsperson's reach. We want students to be able to go to the Ombudsperson with any and all concerns for direction.

5. On April 12 and 13, 2021 I was a student panellist on two cases for the Senate Discipline Committee.

6. On April 14, 2021 I attended an Academic Quality Taskforce Team meeting.

External Affairs

External Committee was scheduled for April 13, 2021. Quorum was not met.

Upcoming Dates

April 30th is my last day in office.

Reject the Fees: Why Rising Tuition Impacts Us All

Planning our post-Covid return to campus, Dalhousie is approaching a pivotal time in our history. How we will transition to the 'new normal'? Will Dalhousie's future be accessible to all? The DSU strongly believes that rising student fees put our community in an impossible position, and show an inertia within our governing bodies.

The following is a sample of student-sourced data, broken down by Faculty, that represents the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and rising fees.

Faculty of Law

- Most students surveyed rely on student loans and grants & bursaries to support themselves.
- Most students said there wasn't adequate financial aid within the Faculty, or that they weren't sure what was available.
- Almost half of students work while in school.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "I live with constant anxiety about taking on debt. Hiking tuition just because they can feels like a slap in the face."
 - o "I feel like Dalhousie doesn't care about the students."
 - o "[The tuition increase] could make the difference between continuing my legal education and being forced to stop and work..."
 - o "The Dal administration's behaviour during the pandemic with 100% impact my future decisions I make as far as giving back to the school goes. Really not proud to be a Dal student these days."
 - o "If it wasn't so challenging to switch law schools, I would leave Dalhousie immediately."

Faculty of Medicine

- Most students said there wasn't adequate access to financial aid within the Faculty.
- Almost all students relied on student loans, and at least 2 other sources of aid to support themselves.
- Most students chose not to work to focus on school and their health.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "A \$600 increase is \$50 a month I can't spend on food and things I need."
 - o "It's impossible to work while in med school, it's unfair to increase charges while many students' families can't help or have families of their own. Tuition is already very expensive and most of us will be graduating with a huge debt, I hope you reconsider increasing to our debts."
 - o "With fees increasing every year and the resulting debt load at the end of medical school getting higher and higher this directly impacts my decision on

choosing a high demand and low paying speciality like family medicine. It forces my hand toward pursuing a higher paying speciality to overcome the massive debt load I've had to take on."

Faculty of Science

- Students are supported by a wide variety of financial aid options, many work while in school.
- Most students weren't sure what financial aid options were available to them through the Faculty, or if they adequate.
- A higher rate of students in this Faculty face food insecurity compared to others surveyed.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "These fee increases seriously impact how current students regard and will continue to regard Dalhousie as an institution after they graduate and become alumni. These fee increases have dramatically decreased the amount of respect I have for the institution of Dalhousie and will certainly affect how I speak of the institution after I graduate."
 - o "Many international students have not felt that they are being valued by the University with the significant tuition increase and quarantining measures. International students are important members of the Dalhousie community and should be treated as such."
 - o "An increase in tuition fees could result in choosing between keeping a roof over my head, keeping myself... fed, and giving up transportation".
 - o "I am already struggling to stay alive as my mental health has gone downhill significantly. I am working 50 hour weeks and I still don't have enough money to buy food."

Faculty of Engineering

- Most students said they have incurred 500.00 in additional fees since moving online.
- Most students said they found it difficult to find employment within the Co-op program.
- Many students were supported by their families in some way, but not entirely.
- A higher rate of students in this Faculty face housing insecurity compared to others surveyed.
- Notable responses about the impact of rising tuition include:
 - o "Dalhousie to needs to step up. If rising tuition is necessary, at the very least make sure that the quality of the product students are receiving for their tuition isn't decreasing."
 - o "It is completely unfair to increase fees for university students that had been struggling as is. The extra money for tuition for some students will be coming out of money for food or other necessities that no one should be going without."



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- "I don't understand why we keep talking about this, Dal doesn't change for their students."
- "It will make it incredibly difficult for me to afford attending Dal with the new international student fees along with the 3% increase on tuition overall."
- "I will not be able to continue my degree honestly, I won't be able to afford it."
- "Being from a third world country it is already too expensive and difficult to pay for tuition as an international student. Increasing the tuition will mean more debt and therefore more work to earn more. Spending less time studying and more time working can negatively affect mine/everyone's grades."

Dalhousie Student Union Report to Board of Governors

Madeleine Stinson, President

June 23, 2020

dsupres@dal.ca

As the newly elected Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President, it is an honour to sit amongst the members of the Dalhousie Board of Governors. As the world around us shifts, I find myself increasingly humbled to have this opportunity to represent my peers. It is my promise to the Board of Governors to act as a steward for the University's best interests with the perspective of its most valuable stakeholder in mind - the student body.

DSU Executive Priorities

The executive has identified several key topics that will guide the DSU's actions and governance over the next year:

- Organizational & environmental sustainability
- Student mental health & well-being
- Affordable & meaningful post-secondary education for *all* students
- Student engagement & community connection
- Campus consent culture & survivor support
- Support & representation for Queer, Trans, Two Spirit, Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour (QTBIPOC), and other marginalized student populations

These themes represent the needs and wants of our diverse student population as they relate to the DSU, its mandate, and the greater Dalhousie community.

DSU Internal Planning

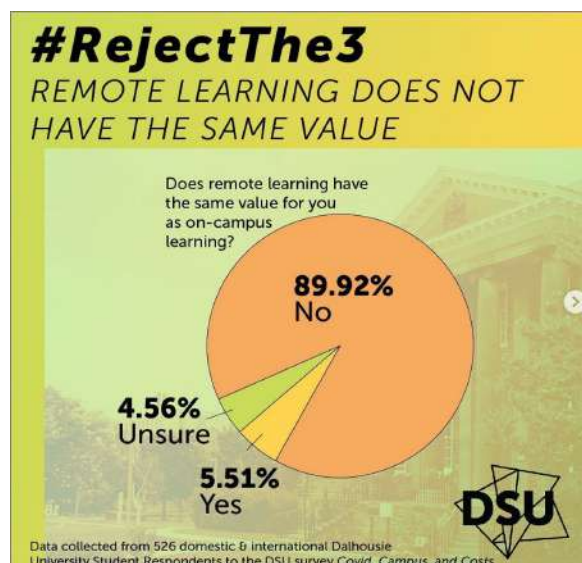
The DSU is committed to continuous learning and growth as an institution. This year the executive and staff are taking the opportunity to look through and reform our policies to ensure that they operate on frameworks of harm reduction, survivor-centrism, equity, accessibility, sustainability, and inclusion.

The executive has also agreed to allow for an organizational audit of the DSU in order to identify inefficiencies and allow for optimization of our operations.

The DSU also acknowledges that it cannot be removed from its own history, or the colonial, racist, and oppressive histories of Dalhousie, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Canada. The DSU is taking steps to become an actively anti-oppressive organization. These steps include anti-oppression training opportunities for staff and better support for employees and councillors of the DSU who identify with marginalized communities. Initiatives to better support QTBIPOC students and other marginalized members of the DSU community are ongoing and/or under development.

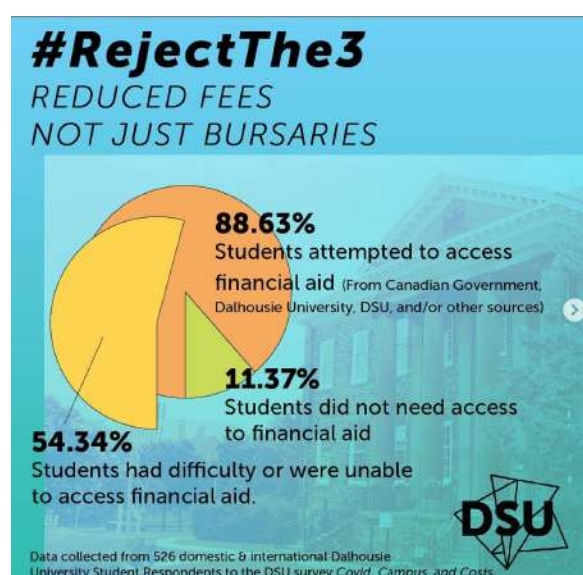
DSU Covid-19 Response ***Student Survey: Covid, Campus & Costs***

In response to the Dalhousie Board of Governor's recent decision to increase domestic and international tuition during a period of global crisis, the DSU has consulted with students to see what they think about the university's approach to learning and fees during the Covid-19 pandemic. From this, we created the campaign, [#RejectThe3](#).



The DSU maintains the position that if there ever was a year to *not* increase tuition, that the 2020/21 academic year would be it. While we understand that the university is acting in accordance with its vision to deliver world-class academics, we do not believe that institutional prestige should be valued over the wellbeing and security of students.

The DSU stands in support of students and calls for the Board of Governors to rescind their decision to increase tuition for the 2020/21 academic year, to decrease tuition and remove ancillary fees related to on-campus learning, and to issue partial refunds to students enrolled in the Winter and Summer 2020 terms. We urge members of the Board of Governors to consider the long-term sustainability and well-being of Dalhousie university, students, and the academic community at large.



DSU Orientation Week

The preparation for this year's O-week is underway. Considering the impacts of Covid-19 and the University's decision for the fall semester to occur predominantly online, the DSU has remodeled orientation to include a blended itinerary of online and in-person events. This year's theme, "Dream Big," is a nod to those who choose to embrace the undefined possibilities of the future, and to challenge the world around them.

Due to the fiscal constraints many students and families are facing as a result of Covid-19 and the fact that our orientation cohort will consist of individuals located across the globe, this year's programming will be delivered at no cost to participants. The DSU plans to substitute the usual schedule of large gatherings for various socially-distanced outdoor events and interactive, online programming.

Depending on the university's decisions for the Winter 2021 semester, the DSU hopes to welcome students back to campus with more substantive "Frost Week" programming.

DSU Prospective Membership with CFS

The Dalhousie Student Union remains in a prospective membership with the Nova Scotian chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Over the past year, the DSU's membership has voiced both support and concern regarding this prospective membership and the DSU's developing relationship with CFS.

This year's executive team has decided to proceed with a referendum vote to allow the members at large to decide what relationship the DSU will pursue with CFS. Until the time that a neutral, information-based referendum can be held (tentatively, Spring 2021), the DSU executive has decided not to engage in any long-term or large-scale partnerships with the CFS.

Dalhousie Student Union Report to Board of Governors

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

dsupres@dal.ca

DSU Executive Goals

The DSU executive team has recently published their individual goals for the 2020-21 academic year. These goals speak to the needs and wants of our diverse membership as they pertain to each portfolio's unique relationship with students and the greater Dalhousie community.

A summary of each position's goals are as follows:

- President
 - Review and development of governing documents
 - Collaboration and conversation with Dalhousie University
 - Advocacy for student supports on campus and in the community
- Vice President, Internal
 - Collection on, and reporting of student survey data
 - Development of member-oriented resources and policies
 - Facilitating member connection and experience
- Vice President, Finance and Operations
 - Optimization of internal financial processes and services
 - Improvement of student funding application and procedures
 - Financial tool and online resource development
- Vice President, Academic and External
 - Response to ongoing student issues
 - Advocacy work on behalf of members and the community
 - Development and proposal of student-centric academic procedures
- Vice President, Student Life
 - Development of programming in support of the health and wellbeing of members
 - Advocacy for harm reduction, community care, and fun on campus
 - Collaboration with, and support for societies and community

The DSU will continue to work with, and for students, to address key topics and issues over the course of the year, including:

- Student mental health & wellbeing
- Response to QTBIPOC student and community issues, calls to action, & solidarity efforts
- Environmental sustainability and ethical operations
- Local issues, such as the affordable housing crisis and student unemployment in Halifax
- Ongoing and arising issues with impact to the membership



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Internal Affairs

Annual General Meeting

The Dalhousie Student Union recently held our Annual General Meeting on October 01, 2020. During this meeting, the audited financial statements and executive reports were presented to the membership. The Vice President, Internal presented the highlights of the DSU Annual Survey, which can be seen in the meeting's recording. Members were also given the opportunity to ask questions, during which time a variety of student interests were discussed. To accommodate the level of consultation and review that Bylaw development requires, the DSU has decided to host a Special General Meeting in the Winter Semester to present amendments to our current Bylaws, which were ratified in 2016.

SUB Operations

The Dalhousie Student Union Building is now open, 7 days a week, at limited capacity. Some offices, services, and tenants of the SUB have returned to (adapted) in-person services (ex. Foodbank, Bookstore) while others have continued to operate remotely (ex. DSAS, Bissett Centre). Some businesses, such as the Grawood, T-Room, and Campus Copy will remain closed until it is deemed operationally and fiscally feasible to initiate their reopening. The DSU is committed to serving our members by providing access to space and services that contribute to the student experience; we will continue to prioritize both the health and wellbeing of our members, and act in accordance with our mandate.

DSU Orientation: Dream Big & Dream Bigger

This year, the DSU, supported by the Vice President, Student Life, executives, and our O-Week leaders, hosted "Dream Big" and "Dream Bigger". Dream Big included a wide range of events and content to welcome new students to the Dalhousie community. Highlights of this year's O-Week programming include a movie showing on the Quad, the annual 'Sex-Talk' in coordination with Venus Envy, a yoga class, a virtual tour of Halifax, and multiple concerts. Feature artists at this year's musical events represented a showcase of local talent, some of whom are Dalhousie students! A first for the DSU, this year's programming also included Dream Bigger, a series of activities that extended into the fall semester for student groups both on and off campuses.

Student Interests

Tuition at Dalhousie has continued to rise, now to the point where domestic undergraduate students at Dal are purchasing one of the most expensive post-secondary educations in Canada. Since the NS tuition freeze was lifted in 2011, Dalhousie students have watched tuition rise above the rate of inflation and at their expense. Specific note must be given to international students at Dalhousie, who pay even higher fees than domestic students. In response to the annual rise in fees, the DSU has organized 2 campaigns since May: Reject the 3, and Nova Scotia Needs Students.

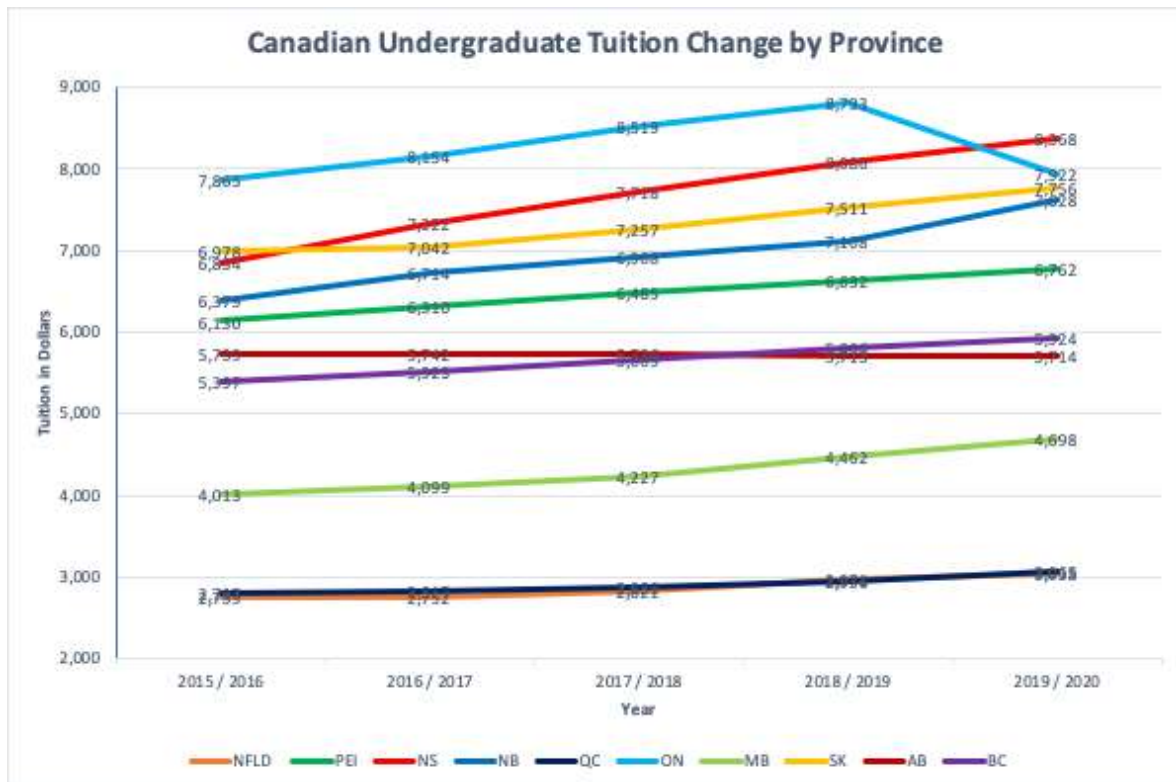
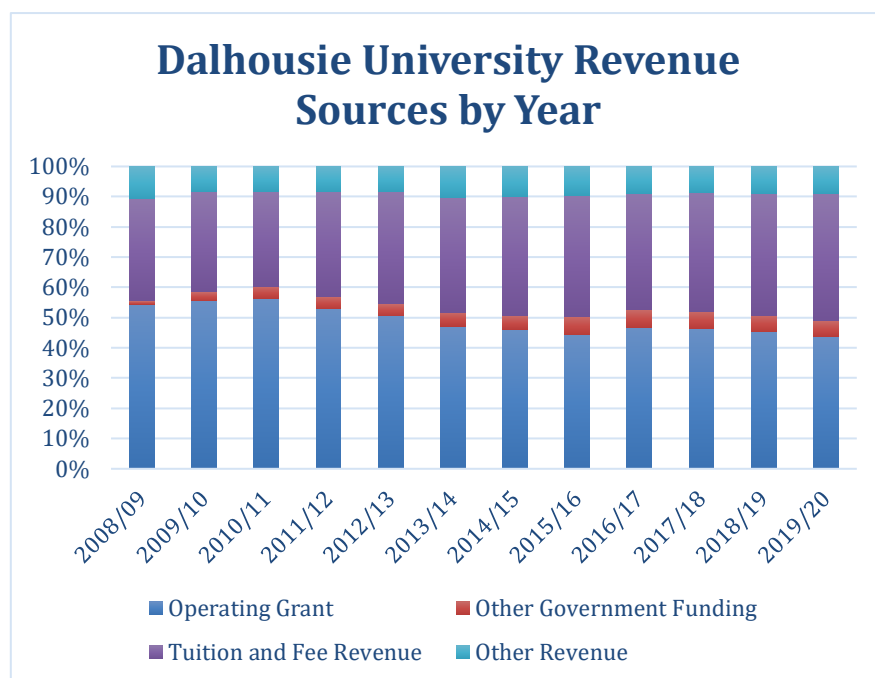


Figure 1: Undergraduate tuition fees for domestic students by province, 2015-2020

These ongoing increases are particularly troubling when observed in a national and regional context. Over the course of just four years this, a combination of compounded increases in Nova Scotia and a major tuition decrease in Ontario in 2019/20 have led to Nova Scotia holding the title of ‘Highest Tuition Fees in Canada.’ It is continually concerning that Dalhousie is becoming increasingly reliant on tuition revenue, while public funding stagnates.

Covid-19 has impacted us all, but students have been clear in communicating that they feel the University has taken advantage of them and the circumstances. While Dalhousie has seen an increase in enrollment and their operating budget, many students are facing new and overwhelming barriers to accessing an education. Not only do students owe more to Dalhousie this year, they are also experiencing an increase in unemployment, decrease in available housing, and minimal access to government support.



Now, at a time when students have paid their fees and are attempting to adjust to online learning, concern is growing around the potential for a Dalhousie Faculty Association strike. **The DFA's working conditions are our learning conditions.** For students to succeed in academic studies, Faculty must have access to a working environment that supports and respect them and their work. Students want to learn and complete their studies without more disruptions – there are already too many barriers. The DSU hopes that the University will come to the bargaining table in good faith, to ensure that students will not lose more value from the Dalhousie experience than they already have.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals outline the need to ensure “inclusive and equitable quality education” for all. Yet, Dalhousie continues to play a role in perpetuating the existence of barriers that prevent meaningful access to a post-secondary education. Among other factors present at Dalhousie, high tuition and fees prevent the creation of a space where ALL students can participate and excel without experiencing financial hardship. The DSU believes that the future of education is accessible to all – when will Dalhousie get on board?



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Report of the Dalhousie Student Union President: Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

Reporting Period: May 2020 – October 2020

dsupres@dal.ca

Academic Affairs

Tuition & Fees

The Dalhousie Student Union has continued to bring forward concerns related to tuition and fees at Dalhousie, as have past student representatives. However, it must again be said that the DSU stands in solidarity with students against rising fees. Dalhousie must work to be a part of the future of academia; the DSU believes that this future includes equitable access to education. We urge the Board to consider taking a more inclusive approach to student fees by reducing (and ultimately eliminating) international and domestic tuition. This topic will continue to be reported on at Board meetings, as it has been in the past.

Academic Workload

Due to Covid-19, academic delivery at Dalhousie has moved primarily online. As the semester has progressed, the DSU has become aware of an increasing amount of student concerns related to online learning. Primarily, students have indicated that the current workload far exceeds their capacity. This sentiment is easily evidenced through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences discussion board, posted to Brightspace. Despite the best intentions of teaching staff, activities intended to engage students have become too much, and amount to hours of additional work each week that students must complete. The Dalhousie Student Union is currently in the brainstorming phase of exploring options to work with administration and faculty to address academic workload issues. Next steps are anticipated to include data collection and analysis and we invite interested parties to reach out for collaboration.

The DSU has also been made aware that working groups and/or committees may have been created to assist in the development of online learning that do not include student representation. The DSU would like to request that students be present in all groups related to the development of online learning to ensure a responsible and equitable learning environment is fostered.

The DSU also believes it to be reasonably assumed that we are amid a student mental health and wellbeing crisis. Building off previous requests related to mental health services on our campuses, we believe that immediate and significant University action is required to address the declining health of our student community.

Faculty Association Bargaining

The DFA's working conditions are our learning conditions. For students to succeed in academic studies, Faculty must have access to a working environment that supports and respect them and their work. Students want to learn and complete their studies without more disruptions – there are already too many barriers. The Dalhousie Student Union council has recently voted in favor of solidarity with our Faculty Association.

The Dalhousie Student Union executive team has also spoken with administration regarding recent communications sent to students about a potential strike. The DSU is happy to provide feedback on the student perspective to guide communications, as was asked of us. However, despite specific discussions, the student perspective was not utilized in recent memos, resulting in harm to the student community. We firmly believe that students should have access to vital information regarding their education without being forced to engage with bias. Students are feeling alienated, frustrated, and are now unsure of the University's willingness to bargain in good faith with our faculty union and its members. The recent messaging from the University has been interpreted as a clear signal that the administration prefers to prioritize their reputation and defer blame over providing accurate and unbiased information to students. The DSU will continue to work with both the University and DFA to support students in an appropriate manner.

Student Ratings of Instruction

As was voted by Senate earlier this academic year, Student Ratings of Instruction have been effectively suspended. While data will be collected and viewed by teaching staff, it will not be used in any official capacity. The Dalhousie Student Union urges the Board to consider working with Senate and Faculty to maintain annual data collection while ensuring faculty are fairly evaluated given the circumstances. The DSU believes that collecting data from students is essential for the University to responsibly develop Dalhousie's capacity for online learning and teaching.

Student Experience

University Governance

As was discussed at the last (October 2020) Board meeting, students have shown growing concern with the University's governance, including spending patterns. Feedback has indicated that students no longer feel that the Board considers the best interests of students or the academic community; as would be expected for a University. Dalhousie's increasing dependency on student fees as a source of revenue has been questioned by students. Members

of the DSU are also concerned with the quality and accessibility of student services, supports, and academic resources, including faculty.

The compounding actions of the Board have increased the relational distance between the University and students. “Us versus Them” language is now commonplace in conversations regarding the Board, University, and students due to the perception that the Board is working against students rather than for them. While the Board’s main responsibility is to represent the interests of the University, students feel that they have been reduced to a source of revenue, as opposed to being valued members of the Dalhousie community.

Students are essential to achieving the goals outlined in Dalhousie’s Strategic Plan, as well as fulfilling the University’s stated vision and mission. For Dalhousie to succeed the University’s relationship with students must be repaired. To better support students, we must examine the methods used to govern Dalhousie and determine if they are the best or simply what has always been done.

University Spending

At the October 2020 meeting of the Board of Governors there was discussion on how Dalhousie’s spending patterns have raised concern from students. To provide support on this point, an analysis of the growth rates of several of the University’s Responsibility Centre Expenditure lines has been conducted.

Comparison of academic and student support to administration expenditures is only one way to view the data on Dalhousie’s spending patterns. Additional research, not completed by the DSU, has also noted a decline in finances being allocated towards the operating budget and an increase in funding to infrastructure development.

| Range Minimum | Range Maximum | Dalhousie University Responsibility Centre Expenditures: Rates of Growth | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Actual Academic Expenditure | Actual Administration Expenditure | Actual Academic Support Expenditure | Actual Student Services Expenditure |
| 2009-10 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2010-11 | | 7.7% | 7.1% | 1.3% | 18.4% |
| 2011-12 | | 2.7% | 3.1% | 7.2% | 4.9% |
| 2012-13 | | 1.4% | 2.5% | -1.7% | -0.7% |
| 2013-14 | | 5.5% | 1.1% | 0.4% | -0.7% |
| 2014-15 | | 11.8% | 16.7% | 17.8% | 26.1% |
| 2015-16 | | 2.6% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 0.7% |
| 2016-17 | | 2.7% | 2.9% | 5.5% | -0.8% |
| 2017-18 | | 0.8% | 1.0% | -2.2% | 0.3% |
| 2018-19 | | 2.4% | 4.5% | 11.2% | 2.3% |
| 2019-20 | | 2.7% | 3.4% | 6.8% | 3.0% |
| Mean | | 4.0% | 4.4% | 4.8% | 5.3% |
| Variance | | 0.00115 | 0.00219 | 0.00390 | 0.00860 |
| Standard Deviation | | 0.0339 | 0.0468 | 0.0624 | 0.0927 |
| 2009-2020 R.O.G | | 48% | 52% | 58% | 63% |

Figure 1: Dalhousie Responsibility Centre Expenditure Growth Rates, 2010-2020 (including outlier year)

| Range Minimum | | Dalhousie University Responsibility Centre Expenditures: Rates of Growth | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Range Maximum | | Actual Academic Expenditure | Actual Administration Expenditure | Actual Academic Support Expenditure | Actual Student Services Expenditure |
| 2009-10 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2010-11 | | 7.7% | 7.1% | 1.3% | 18.4% |
| 2011-12 | | 2.7% | 3.1% | 7.2% | 4.9% |
| 2012-13 | | 1.4% | 2.5% | -1.7% | -0.7% |
| 2013-14 | | 5.5% | 1.1% | 0.4% | -0.7% |
| 2014-15 | | REMOVAL OF OUTLIERS | | | |
| 2015-16 | | 2.6% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 0.7% |
| 2016-17 | | 2.7% | 2.9% | 5.5% | -0.8% |
| 2017-18 | | 0.8% | 1.0% | -2.2% | 0.3% |
| 2018-19 | | 2.4% | 4.5% | 11.2% | 2.3% |
| 2019-20 | | 2.7% | 3.4% | 6.8% | 3.0% |
| Mean | | 2.9% | 2.7% | 3.0% | 2.7% |
| Variance | | 0.00051 | 0.00036 | 0.00205 | 0.00370 |
| Standard Deviation | | 0.0213 | 0.0189 | 0.0453 | 0.0608 |

Figure 2: Dalhousie Responsibility Centre Expenditure Growth Rates, 2010-202 (excluding outlier year)

Figure 1 shows that Dalhousie's annual Actual Administration Expenditure has grown slightly more than that of Actual Academic Expenditures over the last decade.

Figure 2 shows that comparatively, Actual Administrative Expenditure had the largest year-over-year growth in 2012-13 and 2017-18. It also never grew the least year-over-year, relative to the other expenditures shown. While Actual Administrative Expenditure has consistently grown, other expenditures like Student Services have often shown negative growth rates.

Based on Figure 2, the following can also be reasonably assumed:

- The growth of Dalhousie's Actual Administration Expenditure has been more consistent than Academic, Academic Support, and Student Service Expenditure. This may be a sign that variables impacting expenditure do not have as large an impact on administrative costs as they do academic and student-related costs.

In conversation on University spending, it must also be noted that the Dalhousie Student Union urges to Board to consider divestment from all organizations that benefit from fossil fuel use and private prison operations. As of fall 2020, the DSU has divested from companies that:

- Derive profits from fossil-fuel related activities;
- Derive profits from mining/quarrying;
- Hold a record of cautions or conviction for pollution;
- Operate in a manner that falls below recognized standards for human rights and labour standards;
- Operate in a manner that lacks respect for Indigenous peoples;
- Derive profits from weapon/weapon systems productions; and/or
- Derive profits from alcohol or gambling-related activities.

These divestments were requested in accordance with the DSU's Responsible Investment Policy, ratified by Council.

Society Events

Over the past few months, the Dalhousie Student Union executive team has worked with the Dalhousie Return to Campus Committee to retake the responsibility to approve society events, as is its purview according to Nova Scotia Legislature. The DSU is set to resume society event approvals the week of October 26, 2020.

It must be noted that despite being promised a seat on the Dalhousie Return to Campus Committee on numerous occasions, this committee lacks student representation to date.

Annual Survey

The DSU presented the results of the 2019-20 Annual Survey this fall at the Annual General Meeting. We expect to be prepared to share the 2019-20 DSU Annual Survey Report at the next meeting of ASAC.



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Report of the Dalhousie Student Union Report to Board of Governors

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

Meeting Date: November 24, 2020

dsupres@dal.ca

Fall 2020 DSU Operations

Policy Review & Development

The Dalhousie Student Union is currently working to build its organizational longevity and sustainability. This fall has specifically focused on policy review and development. The entire collection of governing documents is set to be reviewed this year. An Ad Hoc Committee has also been struck to begin work on analyzing the DSU's policies in relation to survivor centrism. This group will work with students and local experts to assess how the DSU's policies relate to, and interact with, other policies. This will allow for the DSU to advance its own policies and integrate values that our membership has identified as important, to better support students.

Addressing Food Insecurity

The DSU is currently partnering with several colleagues in the Office of Advancement at Dalhousie to engage alumni around student-led food security initiatives. The DSU Food Bank feeds over 500 students each month and has become one of our most-used, critical services during the Covid-19 pandemic. For Giving Tuesday, the DSU will share information and stories around the DSU Food Bank with the hopes of inspiring alumni to engage with our efforts to address food insecurity on our campuses during the pandemic, and beyond.

Student Life

With students learning off campus and many expressing feelings of isolation, the DSU has been working extensively to inspire connections in the student body. The DSU has coordinated an extended Orientation Week (the first ever!), multiple outdoor events, and is now working to address the lack of appropriate study spaces for students in the city by organizing study halls. The Mental Health Forum has also returned, in coordination with Dalhousie Health and Wellness and is an open space for student-led conversation on mental health in the community. For the month of November, the DSU is also hosting conversations on men's mental health to have important discussions on the socialization of men and boys; the

relationship between society and transgender men and non-binary individuals; and toxic masculinity and men's development. The DSU has also coordinated with the Dalplex to offer free yoga classes.

Covid-19, Campus, & Student Mental Health

This year has been difficult for us all, and as it draws to a close, the DSU has been reflecting on how to move forward to best support our membership. What the DSU has heard, overwhelmingly, is that students are not OK.

The DSU first brought concerns to the Board related to the mental health of students amid the Covid-19 crisis in early July, 2020. The University responded with shared concerns and noted that they, "have been able to adequately and consistently address all student mental health requests". Through conversation with Dalhousie Health and Wellness, the DSU has since learned that the demand for mental health and wellbeing services has gone down. However, based on the input we've heard from students, we know that mental health concerns are at an all-time high. So where is the disconnect?

From what the DSU has been told, students are at the point where they are far too overwhelmed to find the time and energy to seek professional health services. Some students at Dalhousie have also noted that the current services offered by the University's health and wellness team do not reflect their needs or fail to create a safe space. Many students also fall within the category that have health concerns but do not require professional health services and would instead like to have access to adequate resources. Overall, students are looking for better support from their institution, and would benefit most from those supports that lessen the demand for their time and energy.

To be a student during a global pandemic has proven stressful, frustrating, physically and mentally exhausting, and in many cases less meaningful than regular in-person instruction. Many students report that their grades are lower than usual this semester. If Dalhousie does not act now, academic futures are in question. Students should not be punished for doing their best to stay afloat in an incredibly challenging semester. Based on student feedback and consultation, the DSU has continued to call for the University to address mental health and wellbeing - for five months now. Recently, the DSU has developed a survey to connect with students about what they need to succeed for the remainder of the semester. This goal of this consultation is to hopefully identify an adequate medium for supporting students that the DSU will then bring forward to Senate, Board, and administration.

DSU Annual Survey 2020

Highlight Presentation

Board Academic and Student Affairs Meeting

December 09, 2020



About the Annual Survey

- Introduced in 2018 as a way to collect information about our members and their priorities
- The 2020 survey ran between July 3 and August 3, receiving 1206 responses
- One of many tools that the DSU uses to engage with and consult members



Respondent Demographics

The majority of our respondents:

- Are undergraduates (73.1%)
- Study on Studley Campus (68.3%)
- Are full-time students (94.5%)
- Are domestic students (78.4%)
- Self-identify as White (45%)
 - 33% self-identified as Black, Indigenous, and/or Persons of Colour
 - 22% didn't specify or omitted
- Self-identify as cisgender and straight (70.6%)
 - 15% self-identified as a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community
- Did not identify as a student with a disability (99.9%)

Financial Matters

- 71.2% of respondents are expecting to carry debt upon graduation. 48.3% are expecting to owe over \$30,000.
- Debt expectations are highest for professional students, 64.2% of whom are expecting over \$40,000 in debt.
- 75% were employed in summer 2019 and 67.7% were employed throughout the school year



DSU Involvement

- 96.6% of respondents had attended at least one DSU event or planned to do so in the future. Dalfest, the Society Expo, and O-Week were the most attended.
- 70% had been involved in elections by voting or in some other capacity
- 25% had been involved with a student society
- 14.3% had volunteered with or been employed by the DSU

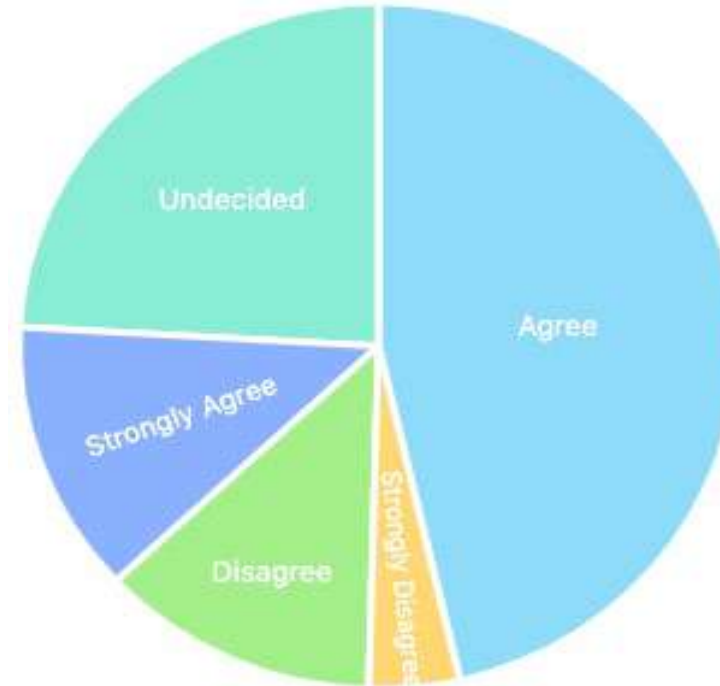
Awareness and Satisfaction

- The survey showed a correlation between awareness of the DSU and what it offers and satisfaction with those offerings. Those who understand what the DSU offers are far more likely to be satisfied than those who do not.



Belonging to the Dalhousie Community

- Just over ½ (59.3%) of respondents feel that they are part of the Dalhousie community and that they are supported in their academic program/faculty.



"I feel like I am part of the Dalhousie Community"

Services and Businesses

- Students who had used DSU services were satisfied with their experiences, but many either had not heard of or had not made use of our services
- For example: 61.3% of students had never used the services at Campus Copy. However, 92.5% of those who had were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied. A similar pattern appeared in the ratings for the Grawood and the T-Room

Student Union Building

- The vast majority of students based at Halifax campuses have visited the SUB, and 43.5% visited 50+ times over the past year.
- The top three reasons for students to visit the SUB are the food court, bookstore, and study space
- 89.1% of Halifax-based students were Somewhat or Very Satisfied with the SUB

Communication

- Most respondents noted that Dal E-mail was their number one way of hearing about the DSU for most types of events, information, and opportunities
- Written responses emphasized the importance of engagement on social media platforms, particularly Instagram and Facebook



Employment and Volunteering

- While only 14.3% of students had worked at or volunteered with the DSU, 75% of workers and volunteers agreed that the DSU is a good place to work or volunteer.
- Among past employees and volunteers, the DSU's volunteer opportunities got generally higher ratings than work opportunities.

Priorities and Direction

- When asked to name the topics most important to them, most respondents chose **education cost** (1025 responses), **mental health** (935 responses), and **cost of living** (819 responses).



Key Advocacy Themes

1. Increase advocacy against tuition fee increases
2. Advocate for improved accessibility and mental health services
3. Take action to support BIPOC students and to challenge racism and xenophobia
4. Lobby for improved on-campus work options
5. Call for improvements to physical spaces on campuses
6. Lobby for international student support
7. Call for improvements to academics

Key Internal Themes

- Improve communication and transparency
- Connect with distance students and Sexton, Carleton, Agricultural, and Yarmouth Campuses
- More ways to get involved
- Emphasize equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion
- Prioritize mental health programming
- Make improvements to the SUB
- Engage with underrepresented communities



Key Internal Themes (cont'd)

- Advertise and expand services
- Support new students and newcomers to Canada
- Improve Union governance
- Expand financial aid
- Support societies

Contact:

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Dalhousie Student Union Report to the Board of Governors

Madeleine Stinson (she/her), DSU President

Meeting Date: February 09, 2021

dsupres@dal.ca

Content Warning: The following contains discussion of sexualized violence & mental health crises.

Updated Budget

On December 17th, 2021 the Dalhousie Student Union Council passed a Revised 2020-21 budget to accommodate changing circumstances and winter semester plans. Highlights of the new budget include:

- \$40,000.00 in funding for an Emergency Bursary open to all DSU members facing unforeseen financial challenges.
- \$6,500.00 in sponsorship funding to allow the DSU to support local community organizations, advocacy groups, and movements that are of interest to the membership and community.
- \$15,000.00 in funding for a Mental Health Bursary to assist students in accessing mental health and wellness supports. **The DSU is currently looking for name partners on this initiative who may be interested in matching our donation to further assist students.**

DSU Pride Week

Lead by the DSU Vice President, Finance and Operations, Isa Wright, the DSU hosted a winter Pride Week from January 25th to 30th. The week's events included free massage and yoga sessions, a self-advocacy workshop, a queer mentorship night, a workshop with Dalhousie Health and Wellness, queer burlesque and hip-hop workshops, a pronoun competency workshop for Dalhousie faculty, administration, and staff, free professional headshots, and a movie screening. The DSU hopes to continue offering pride programming, especially those opportunities that engage with faculty, staff, and management to improve the experience of 2SLGBTQIA+ students at Dalhousie.



Current Student Issues & Advocacy Efforts

International Student Isolation and Treatment

Since November 2020 the Dalhousie Student Union has been addressing student concerns related to the inequitable treatment of international students returning to Nova Scotia to complete their studies. These concerns were heightened in late December and early January when more students returned to the province and were mandated to a \$1627.36 CAD hotel stay. Although financial aid is available, the majority of students do not meet the eligibility criteria. Alarming, the DSU has received multiple concerns related to a lack of adequate food, internet, and heating. On January 08, 2021 the DSU released [a statement](#) calling on Dalhousie and the Provincial and Federal Governments to address this discriminatory policy and poor treatment. The recent treatment of international students is at minimum unfair, and at the worst, intentionally exploitative. To date, Dalhousie has not responded to this call to action.

Sexual Violence on Atlantic Campuses

The news headlines in Atlantic Canada for this academic year point to a very dangerous and pervasive issue that thrives on our campuses. Since November 2020 Dalhousie has made headlines as survivors of sexualized violence have come forward. Two active professors – one on our [Medical campus](#) in New Brunswick, and another from the [University of King's](#) – each face multiple claims of alleged sexual assault. In both cases, Dalhousie made no efforts to support students, survivors, or the community. These cases were solely addressed by student's unions. To continue to allow these cases to come up with no acknowledgement is a sign to perpetrators that this behaviour will not cause waves on campus, creating a dangerous environment.

This year multiple universities across the Maritimes have been called on to respond to instances of sexual assault with no response. This is an opportunity for Dalhousie to become a leader in addressing sexualized violence in academic spaces. **To stay silent on these matters is violence.** Inaction in this circumstance is especially harmful to our women*, Black, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, and disabled students, staff, and faculty. I strongly encourage the Board to take action by publicly condemning this behaviour and communicating supports and resources available to our community.

Provincial Funding

In January 2021 the Nova Scotian government publicly announced an allocation of ~\$9.5 million dollars in funding to Dalhousie. After this news, the DSU approached university administration with recommendations for student-centric use of these funds. In a January meeting, the DSU executive was informed that these funds had already been allocated to the reserve budget and that there was no opportunity for discussion on the matter. The DSU is concerned, after many conversations on ensuring financial decisions of the university are accessible to students, that Dalhousie has not made steps to inform the community of this

decision. I would encourage the Board to ensure that students are aware of public funding and fee revenue allocation in the future to build student trust and transparency.

Ongoing & Upcoming Work

Governance Review

The DSU is continuing work on reviewing our governing documents and model this semester and has recently acquired the services of Wickwire Holm to assist in a two-step analysis and re-development of our policies and bylaws. This work is expected to be completed by May 2021.

The first phase of this work will center on establishing policy and process for handling complaints and conflict in and involving the DSU. The next phase will identify contradictions, loopholes, and possible opportunities to condense and simplify policy. This work is to be conducted in a survivor-centric, intersectional, and highly accessible manner to ensure that the DSU's governance is equally accessible to all members.

DSU Elections

The DSU's [winter term elections](#) period began on February 01, 2021 with the opening of the nominations period. We look forward to welcoming new executives, councillors, and student senators to the DSU team. The results of the election will be available on March 10, 2021.

Orientation and End-of-Year Planning

As the end of this academic year and the start of another approaches, the DSU has begun planning for our 'Last Class Bash' and Fall 2021 Orientation Week. Programming for both of these events is likely to be delivered in a hybrid format, both online and in-person, dependent on Covid-19 restrictions. The DSU is also planning to welcome two classes of students to Dalhousie this Fall: those students starting their first year and returning second-year students who are coming to campus for the first time.



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Dalhousie Student Union Report to the Board of Governors

Meeting Date: April 20, 2021

Madeleine Stinson, DSU President

dsupres@dal.ca

DSU Executive, 2021-22

Four new executive officers, and one returning officer, will continue the work of the DSU starting May 01, 2021.

President: Madeleine Stinson (she/her/hers)

Program: BMgmt, Sustainability Studies, Minor in Security Studies.

Priorities: Finish a review and amendments of all the DSU's governing documents. Build a strategic plan for the DSU. Supporting the safe return of students to our campus, ensuring they have the necessary supports and services.

Vice President, Internal: Truelee Love (she/her/hers)

Program: BA, Political Science.

Priorities: Create resources for students to better understand the DSU. Improve communication and organization for societies. Implement an anti-oppression stance within societies.

Vice President, Finance & Operations: Mohab Brisha (he/him/his)

Program: BSc, Marine Biology & Biochemistry

Priorities: Better communication and engagement with students. More financial support for students. Improve support to societies.

Vice President, Academic & External: Hannah Bealieu (she/her/hers)

Program: BA, History and Political Science, Minor in Indigenous Studies.

Priorities: Promotion of accountability, transparency, and accessibility within the DSU. Interacting with the student body. Helping students navigate difficult spaces and environments.

Vice President, Student life: Mazen Brisha (he/him/his)

Program: BSc, Kinesiology

Priorities: Improve student access to mental health resources. Increase investment into the DSU Foodbank and alleviate food insecurity. Re-structure the use of DSU social media.

2020-21 Recap

The Student Union has spent the past year focused on supporting the student body through the Covid-19 Pandemic. Key academic initiatives have included:

- Advocacy for alternative grading schemes, including successful presentation of the PASS/ILL motion in Fall 2021.
- Support for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous students, including successful presentation of motion for academic amnesty in support of students in Saulnierville.
- Advocacy for Open Educational Resources and Student Ratings of Course Content
- Support for equity-deserving groups and their inclusion and excellence in all aspects of academia
- Advocacy for students during academic integrity processes, including the creation of multiple translations of the policy and facilitation of discussions around appropriate use of testing software.
- Support for Queer students, including facilitation of pronoun competency workshops, work with the Name Change Committee, and support on Registrar efforts to make the application process more inclusive.
- Extensive discussion with Faculty members, administrators, and students to resolve issues related to teaching, learning, and academic governance.
- Advocacy for student mental health and adequate supports and services.

Key student experience initiatives have included:

- Hosting Atlantic Canada's largest in-person orientation to welcome students to campus.
- Delivered over \$400,000.00 in student bursaries and grants to students in need.
 - o This includes funds given under the Accessibility Fund, Emergency International Student Fund, Equity & Accessibility Office Grant, Society Grant, Emergency Student Bursary Fund, Mental Health Fund, and Black Student Grant. Individual fund sizes ranged from \$11,000.00 to over \$90,000.00.
- Reject the Fees and Nova Scotia Needs Students campaigns in Fall 2020 to advocate against rising fees and raise awareness for the lack of provincial funding for post-secondary in Nova Scotia.
- Support for our equity-deserving students through events, programming, financial aid, and motions at Council.
- Supported our Foodbank, in coordination with community, as it became our most used service during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Movember, PRIDE, and Frost week programming.

Priorities for 2021-22:

Based on student-sourced information and the context of the 2021-22 academic year, the following are likely to be key priorities for the DSU:

- **Returning students to campus safely and equitably**
 - o Ensuring returning students feel safe on campus and in classes, and have access to all the supports and services they may need:
 - Appropriate open spaces on campus for the intended campus population, including study spaces and areas for in-between classes
 - Access to short-term, big A and little A academic accommodations
 - Appropriate class hours and classroom facilities
 - Consideration of the financial impacts of the pandemic and rising fees on students
 - Equitable teaching and learning environments
- **A holistic approach to mental health on campus**
 - o Facilitation of conversations around promoting the health and wellbeing of faculty, staff, and students.
 - How can we do both things at once, instead of attempting to balance conflicting priorities? (ex. Encouraging professors to not work after hours, but also promising place-bound students they won't have to take exams at 4am their local time)
 - o Amending policies and processes to reduce red-tape and make navigating Dalhousie easier for both students and faculty.
 - o Finding better ways to handle EDIA issues in the classroom.
 - o Providing mental health services that are reflective of the student population, meaning an investment in Black, Indigenous, POC, Queer, and Disabled health professionals.
- **Universally accessible post-secondary education**
 - o Moving closer to the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act deadline for 2030, holding discussions around accessible teaching and learning environments.
 - How do we balance the Accessibility rights of students with the Academic Freedom rights of professors?
 - o Understanding the long-term effects of pricing students out of an education at Dalhousie, and how we might move away from a financial model that relies on student fee increases without unfairly impacting the faculty or staff.
 - o Continued conversation on EDIA issues across campus, and within specific faculties.

The primary take-away from many of our discussions this year is that things are easier if we work together. We can't, and won't, always agree or be able to balance our priorities. However, whenever it is possible, the DSU will strive to advocate for a better Dalhousie for all.

Reject the Fees: Why Rising Tuition Impacts Us All

Planning our post-Covid return to campus, Dalhousie is approaching a pivotal time in our history. How we will transition to the 'new normal'? Will Dalhousie's future be accessible to all? The DSU strongly believes that rising student fees put our community in an impossible position, and show an inertia within our governing bodies.

The following is a sample of student-sourced data, broken down by Faculty, that represents the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and rising fees.

Faculty of Law

- Most students surveyed rely on student loans and grants & bursaries to support themselves.
- Most students said there wasn't adequate financial aid within the Faculty, or that they weren't sure what was available.
- Almost half of students work while in school.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "I live with constant anxiety about taking on debt. Hiking tuition just because they can feels like a slap in the face."
 - o "I feel like Dalhousie doesn't care about the students."
 - o "[The tuition increase] could make the difference between continuing my legal education and being forced to stop and work..."
 - o "The Dal administration's behaviour during the pandemic with 100% impact my future decisions I make as far as giving back to the school goes. Really not proud to be a Dal student these days."
 - o "If it wasn't so challenging to switch law schools, I would leave Dalhousie immediately."

Faculty of Medicine

- Most students said there wasn't adequate access to financial aid within the Faculty.
- Almost all students relied on student loans, and at least 2 other sources of aid to support themselves.
- Most students chose not to work to focus on school and their health.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "A \$600 increase is \$50 a month I can't spend on food and things I need."
 - o "It's impossible to work while in med school, it's unfair to increase charges while many students' families can't help or have families of their own. Tuition is already very expensive and most of us will be graduating with a huge debt, I hope you reconsider increasing to our debts."
 - o "With fees increasing every year and the resulting debt load at the end of medical school getting higher and higher this directly impacts my decision on

choosing a high demand and low paying speciality like family medicine. It forces my hand toward pursuing a higher paying speciality to overcome the massive debt load I've had to take on."

Faculty of Science

- Students are supported by a wide variety of financial aid options, many work while in school.
- Most students weren't sure what financial aid options were available to them through the Faculty, or if they adequate.
- A higher rate of students in this Faculty face food insecurity compared to others surveyed.
- When asked if there was anything else they'd like the Board to know, the following were responses:
 - o "These fee increases seriously impact how current students regard and will continue to regard Dalhousie as an institution after they graduate and become alumni. These fee increases have dramatically decreased the amount of respect I have for the institution of Dalhousie and will certainly affect how I speak of the institution after I graduate."
 - o "Many international students have not felt that they are being valued by the University with the significant tuition increase and quarantining measures. International students are important members of the Dalhousie community and should be treated as such."
 - o "An increase in tuition fees could result in choosing between keeping a roof over my head, keeping myself... fed, and giving up transportation".
 - o "I am already struggling to stay alive as my mental health has gone downhill significantly. I am working 50 hour weeks and I still don't have enough money to buy food."

Faculty of Engineering

- Most students said they have incurred 500.00 in additional fees since moving online.
- Most students said they found it difficult to find employment within the Co-op program.
- Many students were supported by their families in some way, but not entirely.
- A higher rate of students in this Faculty face housing insecurity compared to others surveyed.
- Notable responses about the impact of rising tuition include:
 - o "Dalhousie to needs to step up. If rising tuition is necessary, at the very least make sure that the quality of the product students are receiving for their tuition isn't decreasing."
 - o "It is completely unfair to increase fees for university students that had been struggling as is. The extra money for tuition for some students will be coming out of money for food or other necessities that no one should be going without."

- "I don't understand why we keep talking about this, Dal doesn't change for their students."
- "It will make it incredibly difficult for me to afford attending Dal with the new international student fees along with the 3% increase on tuition overall."
- "I will not be able to continue my degree honestly, I won't be able to afford it."
- "Being from a third world country it is already too expensive and difficult to pay for tuition as an international student. Increasing the tuition will mean more debt and therefore more work to earn more. Spending less time studying and more time working can negatively affect mine/everyone's grades."

Upcoming Dates

The Dalhousie Student Union is hosting a rally on campus on April 20th to advocate against rising tuition fees. All faculty and staff members are invited to attend, out of support or in search of more information about why rising fees impact us all. [#REJECTTHEFEES](https://twitter.com/REJECTTHEFEES)

