

# DSU Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, March 08, 2024 - 6:30 PM

Location: Council Chambers

## Land Acknowledgement

*The Dalhousie Student Union acknowledges that Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union Building are located on traditional, unceded and unsurrendered Mi'kma'ki territory. The Dalhousie Student Union seeks to honour the relational treaty process in its programming, events, and meetings.*

## Equity Statement

*Student union solidarity is based on the principle that all members should be able to participate equally in their union, recognizing that students have diverse experiences of privilege and marginalization. As members of the students' union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We should neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.*

*It is our collective responsibility to create an inclusive space for discussion and dialogue. Any form or forms of discrimination and/or harassment will not be tolerated, nor will hate speech rooted in, but not limited to, sexist, racist, classist, ableist, homophobic or transphobic sentiments and/or remarks. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate is established. If you violate this understanding, you will be asked to leave.*

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by the Council Chair.

## 2. Roll Call

PRESENT
Mariam Knakriah – President
Thomais (Tammy) Maniou – Vice-President, Internal
Henry Amin – Vice-President, Finance & Operations
Ana Patton - Vice-President, Student Life
Eshan Arora – Board of Governor Representative 1

Ryan Dee - Board of Governors Representative 2

Nick d'Entremont - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative

Kailey Simon - Indigenous Students' Community Representative

Sydney Forbes - Faculty of Medicine Representative

Carmen Minnis - Women's Students Representative

Haileigh MacLeod - Faculty of Health Profession Representative

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS**

Omotayo Bankole - Vice-President, Academic and External

Mustafa Zahid - Faculty of Engineering Representative

Victoria Slipp - Faculty of Science Representative

Eni Oguntona – Faculty of Law Representative

Anand Lo - International Students' Community Representative

**ABSENT WITHOUT REGRETS**

Rowan Keith Menezes - Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative

**VACANT POSITIONS**

Faculty of Management Representative

Faculty of Architecture Representative

Residence Students' Community Representative

2SLGBTQIA+ Students Community Representative

Disabled Student's Community Representative

Faculty of Dentistry Representative

Faculty of Agriculture Representative

Faculty of Computer Science Representative

<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>

**\*Quorum was met\***

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION 2024-03-08-3.1

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

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by the Vice-President Student Life*

*MOTION 2024-03-08-3.1 Passes*

**4. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

MOTION 2024-03-08-4.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting on February 23, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

*Moved by the Women’s Students Representative*

*Seconded by the Vice President Student Life*

*MOTION 2024-03-08-4.1 Passes*

*Documents attached.*

**5. Presentation**

5.1 Executive Goal Plan

Presented by Vice President Student Life

*Document attached.*

**6. Appointment of Council**

MOTION 2024-03-08-6.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT **Sigma Jahan** and **Megan Cooper** are appointed to the General member seat on the Elections Committee for the 2023 – 24 year;

Recommended by Oversight Committee

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by the Vice President Internal*

*Document attached.*

## **7. New Business**

MOTION 2024-03-08-7.1

WHEREAS the welfare and support of domestic students are essential for fostering an inclusive and supportive academic environment; and

WHEREAS financial constraints often obstruct students' ability to afford suitable housing arrangements, thus adversely affecting their academic pursuits; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a Domestic Students' Housing Bursary aims to alleviate the financial burden on domestic students by providing assistance towards housing expenses;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount of \$18,500 be allocated for the Domestic Students' Housing Bursary to grant awards to thirty-seven (37) successful applicants, with a priority for Dalhousie Indigenous students. Each award, pending committee approval, is valued at \$500 per recipient.

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by the Board of Governor Representative 1*

*MOTION 2024-03-08-7.1 Passes*

*Document attached.*

MOTION 2024-03-08-7.2

WHEREAS, fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) within the DSU is paramount for promoting a supportive and inclusive community culture; and

WHEREAS, due to the pause on society grants this year, societies may encounter financial challenges in executing their programs and initiatives;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

An amount of \$15,000 be allocated from the Health Plan Engagement Fund for the establishment of the Society EDIA Grant

The Society EDIA Grant will be available to societies within the DSU, aiming to support projects or initiatives that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA).

To be eligible for the Society EDIA Grant, societies must submit a proposal outlining their project or initiative and how it aligns with the goals of EDIA. The proposal should include details of the intended impact and implementation plan.

Each eligible society that submits a qualifying proposal will receive a grant of \$250-\$500 to support their EDIA-related project or initiative.

The selection of grant recipients shall be based on the merit of the proposals and their alignment with the DSU's EDIA objectives. The current Grants and Sponsorship Committee will review and assess the proposals to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process.

*Moved by the President*

*Seconded by the Vice President Student Life*

*MOTION 2024-03-08-7.2 **Passes***

MOTION 2024-03-08-7.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council approves the Student Accessibility Fund Committee's proposal to access \$15,000 from the Student Accessibility Reserve Fund in accordance with the Reserve Fund Policy.

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, the Student Accessibility Fund Committee voted to submit a proposal to the VPFO in accordance with the Reserve Fund Policy, aiming to access \$15,000 from the Student Accessibility Reserve Fund to allocate towards awarding additional bursaries to applicants, as outlined in the attached meeting minutes;

WHEREAS, as of February 19, 2024, the Committee has 55 pending applications, having processed 79 applications in the current academic year, awarding a total of

\$35,187 to 56 applicants, with only 10 applicants approved for the full \$1,000 amount;

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fund Policy stipulates the establishment of the accessibility fund, utilizing funds from the DSU Student Accessibility Fee, totaling over \$36,000 annually, to support initiatives such as the Accessibility Bursary program, Accommodation Grants, and accessibility enhancing capital purchases;

WHEREAS, despite efforts to accommodate various access needs, the Committee is in a significant need for additional funding to adequately support disabled students;

WHEREAS there is currently \$160,000 available in the Reserve Fund, with no immediate plans for replenishment, necessitating the utilization of existing resources to address the pressing needs of disabled students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council authorizes the allocation of \$15,000 from the Student Accessibility Reserve Fund to the Student Accessibility Fund Committee to support the continued provision of bursaries and essential services for disabled students.

*Moved by the Vice President, Internal*

*Seconded by the Women's student representative*

*MOTION 2024-03-08-7.3 Passes*

*Document attached.*

## **8. Executive reports**

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

## **9. Notice of Motion**

The following motion will appear on the agenda for the next Council Meeting on March 22, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2024 -2025 budget to be adopted as circulated.

Document attached.

Recommended for approval by the Board of Operations on February 22, 2024

Moved by Vice President, Finance and Operations

## **10. Announcements**

10.1 The next meeting on the DSU Council will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers (SUB).

10.2 According to Bylaw 4.4.g, "Councilors are required to submit a written report to the council summarizing the work of their respective faculties and communities by the academic year-end."

10.3 DSU Council Meeting on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM via MS Teams?

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM by the Council Chair.