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 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 2020-05-21-3.1
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