Council Meeting
April 22nd, 2020 - 6:00pm – Zoom Meeting

Call to order at 6:03 pm by Chair

1. Roll Call

Councilors Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aisha Abawajy (she/her)</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hasan Sinan</td>
<td>Vice President (Academic and External)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isa Wright (she/her or they/them)</td>
<td>Vice President (Finance and Operations)</td>
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<td>Ruby Coles (she/her)</td>
<td>Vice President (Student life)</td>
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<td>Calista Hills (she/her)</td>
<td>Vice President (Internal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatima Beydoun</td>
<td>Board of Governors Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claudia Castillo-Prentt</td>
<td>Black Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Sara Goswami</td>
<td>International Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Hannah Drake</td>
<td>LGBTQ2s Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Sandra Sunil (she/her)</td>
<td>Residence Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Nicole Blinn</td>
<td>Women’s Students Community representative</td>
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<td>Ryan Callahan</td>
<td>Faculty of Dentistry Representative</td>
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<td>Joshua Yusuf (he/him)</td>
<td>Faculty of Health Representative</td>
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<td>Meghan Faught</td>
<td>Faculty of Law Representative</td>
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<td>Ameir Yahia</td>
<td>Faculty of Management Representative</td>
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<td>Bakhmala Khan</td>
<td>Faculty of Science Representative</td>
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<td>Naomi Bird</td>
<td>Indigenous Students Community Representative</td>
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Councilors Absent With Regrets

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alireza Siadat</td>
<td>Board of Governors Representative</td>
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<td>Mhairin</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative</td>
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<td>Shivam Mahajan</td>
<td>Faculty of Computer Science Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Sarty</td>
<td>Faculty of Engineering Representative</td>
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<td>Fallen Matthew</td>
<td>Faculty of Graduate Students Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herman Stubeda</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine Representative</td>
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Councilors Absent

Others Present
2. Land Acknowledgment

3. Adoption of the Agenda
   Motion 3.1
   
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

   Mover: International Students Community Representative  Seconder: Residence Students Community Representative
   (17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
   Motion Carries

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
   Motion 4.1
   
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the March 25th meeting minutes be accepted as circulated.

   Mover: Residence Students Community Representative  Seconder: International Students Community Representative
   (11 – 0 – 4 abstentions)
   Motion Carries

   Motion 4.2
   
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the April 8th meeting minutes be accepted as circulated.

   Mover: Vice President Academic and External  Seconder: Vice President Student Life
   (13 – 0 – 3 abstentions)
   Motion Carries

5. Communications Received

6. Appointments

7. Presentations

8. Committee Reports
   a. International Students’ Issues Report
Sara – In light of tuition fee hike last year that disproportionately affected international students and in light of student reps on the BOG meeting voting in favor of tuition fee hike, it was crucial that there was some form of documentation that best represented the international students and the DSU consulted that. Aim was to come up with an intl. students policy by the end of this year, however due to the circumstances and challenges, came up with instead a consultation document. Reached out to intl. student and gathered a committee that best represented intl. students from different campuses and different parts of the world. Each member of committee consulted their constituents and we did some research and that has resulted in the document. Hope is that document will support the creation of an issues policy that will be an official part of DSU policy and bylaws. Hope is that this document can be a part of DSU official document and DSU consult this document before voting on issues related to intl. students.

Motion 8.1

WHEREAS International Students face challenges unique to those of domestic students, the International Students’ Issues Policy Committee formulated a report (privy to the Consultation Policy) to aid the future development of an International Students’ Issues Policy that allows the DSU to effectively advocate for international students;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU consult the International Students’ Issues Report when making decisions that pertain to or directly impact international students until an Issues Policy can be completed for International Students.

Mover: International Students Community Representative  Seconder: Residence Students Community Representative
(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

9. Old Business

10. New Business

Motion 10.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the attached amendments to the Executive Policy.

Mover: Vice President Internal  Seconder: Black Students Community Representative

MOTION 10.1.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the attached amendments from the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee to the amendments put forward in Motion 10.1
Section 2: Order of Authority

2.4 Amendment to replace “should” with “must”.

Proposed Wording: Section 2.4 be amended by striking out “should” and inserting “must,” so that the clause reads “…they must reach out to, in ascending order,…”

2.5

Proposed Wording: Section 2.5 be amended by striking out “promptly” and inserting “within ten (10) business days” so the clause reads “... if the breach is not rectified within ten (10) business days”

Section 4: Leave

Sections 4.2-4.4

Proposed Wording: Sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 be amended to include a sentence at the end of each clause that reads as follows, “The dates of any approved leave shall be relayed to the Chair of the Oversight Committee, or in the event the Oversight Committee has yet to be formed, the Chair of Council.”

Proposed Wording: Section 4.2 be amended by inserting “or the VP Internal in the absence of the President,” so that the clause reads “...submitted in writing to the President, or the VP Internal in the absence of the President, who shall...”

Proposed Wording: Section 4.3 be amended by inserting “or the VP Internal in the absence of the President,” so that the clause reads “...at which time the President, or the VP Internal in the absence of the President, may...”

Proposed Wording: BIRT Section 4.4 be amended by inserting “or the VP Internal in the absence of the President,” so that the clause reads “...submitted in writing to the President, or the VP Internal in the absence of the President.”

Addition of a section:

Proposed Wording:
8. Discipline

8.1 Failure to perform duties as outlined in the Bylaws, Policies, or the Statement of Office will result in disciplinary action by Council

Mover by: Faculty of Law Representative  Seconder: Vice President Internal
(16- 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 10.1 Vote Count – (16 – 0 - 1 abstention)
Motion Carries
Sandra- In relation to 4.2 and 4.4, it was just not clear on what the procedure would be if the President would be the one asking for leave, since it says that executive officers have to request to the Director and President.

Calista – Request would be submitted to the Directors and the President but the leave would be granted by a vote at the Executive Committee. So it would just be like the notice would go to those parties. Its kind of more assigning responsibilities of determining if that leave would interrupt operations and the actual approval of the leave is granted by the executive committee.

**Motion 10.2**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ethical Investment Policy be repealed and replaced with the attached Responsible Investing Policy.

**Mover: Vice President Finance and Operations  Seconder: President**

(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)

Motion Carries

Nicole – Given that we still have some small holdings in oil and gas, I wonder if we could have a small line about seeking to divest and moving towards that.

Isa – Essentially upon approving this policy, that divestment would happen. Under 2.1, it says the union shall refuse investment and divest from any current holdings in the following and the first section of that is the companies that operate in the coal, oil and gas sectors, so I would be directed to do that. We will be divesting upon approving this policy.

Nicole – So this policy also means that we will divest from current holdings? Do we have a timeline for that?

Isa – Yes we would be assessing all of our current holdings to make sure that we are in accordance in to this policy. There is not a timeline specified in this policy. Upon passing this policy, it would serve as a directive for me to do that as soon as reasonably possible to align with the policy.

Sandra – Was wondering if the external funds manager was consulted with the new policy and what they might have said?

Isa- I have met with him about these issues before and his job is not to provide feedback on any policies we have, but just to ensure that they are in place. He is more mandated just to
comply with our policies. No it was not necessarily in line with the spirit of the policy or with the actual role of the investment manager to consult him.

Fatima – Could you speak a bit more about the timeline. I feel like when there is a timeline, it helps with accountability on all ends.

Isa – Upon passing this policy, it would follow section 5.1. In 5.2, it would be a meeting under the budget and finance committee to provide the external funds manager with specific direction. I am happy to take suggestions with the timeline. I think if you wanted that to be passed as a motion, it would have to be separate from the motion about the policy because this is more like a one time event. If you would be happy to just have me give an overview of the timeline, I would happy to review our investments by the end of this week. If members of the current budget and finance committee would be amicable to a meeting happening next week, I think that could be reasonable and then I could provide that direction to the external funds manager. So it would be pending the availability of the budget and finance committee.

Claudia – Is it possible to make a note that we aim for a full divestment by the end of the 2020-2021 union year. Is that a possible amendment that we could make?

Isa – I think that could be a separate motion from the motion passing the policy amendments. I would be hesitant to pass such a motion because we can encourage for a motion but there no is no plan b in the motion of for example, what if the committee isn’t able to meet etc. I would be happy to take the direction to make this happen by the end of this year which is in 8 days.

Chair – Just so everyone knows, because of the way that you have to notice policy and in terms of making amendments to the policy now, we cant actually amend the policy much beyond what is kind of already in there. So if there is something that we could work within to amend that is already existent in what the updated policy is going to look like, then we can do that. But we can’t put an amendment on the table that doesn’t have anything to draw from.

Calista – Don’t know if this would solve some of the concerns, I thought that if maybe, whether it be a vote or casual decision, but refer the duty of creating a timeline to the investment committee. If they can meet next week and try to determine a rough timeline for the year and bring that back to council in the following meeting or the ones after that if it takes a couple of sessions to get a timeline set up.

Isa – I am happy to call a meeting of the budget and finance committee before the year ends and we could definitely lay out a further timeline from there.

Fatima – I think if the committee could draft up a timeline and then presented to us and then we could vote on it.
Motion 10.3

WHEREAS the process for society ratification currently includes a requirement to submit the names and signatures of ten active members; and

WHEREAS the requirement to submit signatures makes ratification logistically difficult for many societies, particularly societies where not all members study on the same campus; and

WHEREAS the signature requirement is an impediment to moving the ratification process to a more streamlined and readily available online format; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the words “and signatures” be struck from the Society Policy where it appears in sections 6.9.5, 6.10.6, 6.11.5, and 6.12.6.”

Mover: Vice President Internal  Seconder: Vice President Academic and External
(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 10.4

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has led to students across Canada losing work, income, and summer job opportunities, and the Government of Canada has responded with the creation of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and an expansion of the Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJ); and

WHEREAS the current terms for the CERB do not cover students and recent graduates who have not lost a job due to COVID-19 but who may be facing financial hardships nonetheless due to cancelled internships, fewer summer work opportunities, or the tough labour market; and

WHEREAS the Dalhousie Student Union represents Dalhousie students, many of whom are facing these challenges; and

WHEREAS on April 3, a grassroots coalition of students and recent graduates initiated the #DontForgetStudents campaign and posted a petition on Change.org calling on the Government of Canada to “provide income support to cover all students and recent graduates, regardless of prior work experience and income” which, as of April 16, is approaching 40 000 signatures; and

WHEREAS on April 15, Don’t Forget Students published an open letter jointly authored by their organization, the Canadian Federation of Students, and over 25 other student unions across Canada, calling on Justin Trudeau to implement the demand of the Don’t Forget Students petition; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU advocate for the full coverage of students and recent graduates under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit by signing the petition initiated by Don’t Forget Students; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU endorse the “Letter to Justin Trudeau re Students Need CERB” authored by a coalition of student organizations, and investigate becoming an official signatory to the letter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT individual DSU councillors, offices, and societies be encouraged to sign on to said petition and/or pass similar motions of solidarity and support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU share the open letter and the petition on social media and encourage members to sign on as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU continue to research ways to advocate for better student supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mover: Vice President Academic and External  Seconder: President
(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Hasan – Due to Covid 19, folks were laid off. The government introduced the Canada Emergency Benefit Program. I unfortunately excludes students unless they had a job and earned 5000$ under the last 12 months. So if you were a full time student without work then you’ll fall through the cracks. So what we have here is the letter which was written by #DontForgetStudents addressed to Justin Trudeau urging the government to include all students in CERB. The update that I have for you today is that, we have sent emails to all councillors and all faculty level societies to get their input as everyone is a stakeholder in this case. We have also posted on social media and had polls. On social media, out of 344 students, 81% voted yes in support for signing on to this letter. As some of you might have seen today, the Prime Minister had announced an assistance program for students. However, after discussion still feel that this is not adequate. For example, it does not really specify who the eligible students are. Also folks are expecting that international students will not be included in it and also don’t know if part time students will be included in it. It is also 750$ less than what CERB offers. If anything, students should be eligible for more funding. It is very hurtful especially for students who have dependents. It is just not the same as the 2000$ offered in CERB. Also the timing of it since it comes in May, some students are worried about paying the rents for may. While it is a good step to see the Canada Student Emergency Benefit, I still think along with other exec that we should still support this in hopes that students become eligible for CERB.

Nicole – I’m wondering if our energy is better directed towards advocating for people left out without any benefits, such as people on income assistance, refugees, international students, etc. even though I understand and realize that the Student Emergency Benefit is highly imperfect and not as good as CERB.
Hasan – For sure, this is something that is important to be taken into consideration. However the work for this is being done so I think adding more support to it would be beneficial just to amplify the voices that are already out there and increase the pressure on the government.

Motion 10.5

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting the well-being of not only DSU members but also the population of Nova Scotia as a whole; and

WHEREAS some temporary foreign workers, some international students, some asylum seekers and undocumented residents of the province are not covered under provincial health care (MSI); and

WHEREAS the Dalhousie Students Union aims “[t]o encourage in the students of the University an awareness of their responsibilities in the local, provincial, national and international community” (Bylaw 3.1.a); and

WHEREAS international students and the DSU have already been advocating for better health coverage under MSI for international students; and

WHEREAS on April 4, 2020, local community organization No One Is Illegal – Halifax/K’jipuktuk (NOII) published an open letter to Premier McNeil and Minister Delorey calling on all levels of governments, health institutions, and public health leaders to work together to:

1. Ensure COVID-19 assessment centres have an explicit policy to be free and accessible to all, regardless of immigration status;
2. Recognize that existing health care pathways such as community clinics and hospitals must be free and accessible to all people, regardless of immigration status, and work to remove barriers such as registration fees and bills, and implement appropriate staff training;
3. Develop a clear and explicit public messaging campaign to inform people that assessment and care is available to all residents, without charge, at COVID-19 centres and beyond;
4. Ensure MSI (Nova Scotia healthcare) coverage for all residents of NS, including access to care for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS NOII has asked for Nova Scotia residents and organizations to sign on to the letter; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU stand in solidarity with migrants without access to healthcare and sign on to the open letter “Nova Scotia: COVID-19 pandemic highlights urgent need to ensure full healthcare access to those uninsured,” written by No One Is Illegal – Halifax/K’jipuktuk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT individual DSU councillors, offices, and societies be encouraged to sign on to the letter and/or pass similar motions of solidarity and
support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU share the open letter on social media and encourage members to sign on as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSU affirm its support for fairness and adequate healthcare for international students and all other migrants who currently lack access to MSI.

Mover: Vice President Academic and External
(16 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Hasan – Because of covid 19, there are many people who are affected by this and are falling through the cracks. One of the groups who are not medically insured that includes migrants, refugees as well as international students are mostly not covered by the MSI. This is really an ask that all folks are ensured whether in this situation or if covid 19 wasn’t a thing. But especially at this time I feel that the barriers that are pre-existing are put away so that everyone has access to the healthcare that they need and deserve. So No One Is Illegal, the Halifax chapter has published an open letter urging the province to take certain steps to take these barriers away and have medical care accessible to everyone. We reached out to the Dalhousie international student association and then all societies that are under the Faculty of Health or the Faculty of Medicine as they are more knowledgeable about the healthcare system and some of them are volunteering on the frontlines now. Also we have published on our social media, and we have received 85% yes votes for signing onto this letter. We have also received emails from students fully supporting this motion.

11. Executive Reports

a) President
b) Vice-President (Internal)
c) Vice-President (Financial and Operations)
d) Vice-President (Academic and External)
e) Vice-President (Student Life)
12. Councillor Reports

13. Notices of Motion

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

Motion 15.1

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the DSU Council adjourns at 7:13 pm.

Mover: Faculty of Management Representative  Seconder: Women’s Students Community Representative

(16 – 0 – 0 abstentions)

Motion Carries

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<td>Minutes submitted by Secretary:</td>
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