**Council Meeting**

February 12th, 2020 - 6:00pm – Council Chambers, Student Union Building

Call to order at 6:10 pm by Chair

1. **Roll Call**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Councillors Present</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aisha Abawajy (she/her) – President</td>
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<td>Isa Wright (she/her or they/them) - Vice President (Finance and Operations)</td>
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<td>Hasan Sinan – Vice President (Academic and External)</td>
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<td>Ruby Coles (she/her) - Vice President (Student life)</td>
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<td>Calista Hills (she/her) - Vice President (Internal)</td>
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<td>Fatima Beydoun - Board of Governors Representative</td>
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<td>Alireza Siadat – Board of Governors Representative</td>
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<td>Claudia Castillo-Prentt - Black Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Hannah Drake – LGBTQ2s Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Sandra Sunil (she/her) -Residence Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Nicole Blinn – Women’s Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Sara Goswami – International Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Ryan Callahan - Faculty of Dentistry Representative</td>
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<td>Julia Sarty - Faculty of Engineering Representative</td>
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<td>Nima Maymandi is acting as proxy for Faculty of Graduate Students Representative</td>
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<td>Herman Stubeda - Faculty of Medicine Representative</td>
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<td>Joshua Yusuf (he/him)- Faculty of Health Representative</td>
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<td>Meghan Faught - Faculty of Law Representative</td>
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<td>Marin – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative</td>
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<td>Ameir Yahia - Faculty of Management Representative</td>
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<td>Bakhmala Khan - Faculty of Science Representative</td>
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<th>Councillors Absent With Regrets</th>
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<td>Lenka Wicha – Faculty of Agriculture Representative</td>
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<th>Councillors Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Naomi Bird - Indigenous Students Community Representative</td>
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<td>Shivam Mahajan - Faculty of Computer Science Representative</td>
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<th>Others Present</th>
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<td>Charity Justrabo - Chair</td>
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<td>Kranthi Kiran Jalakam - Secretary</td>
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2. **Land Acknowledgment**

Nicole – On the December 31st, 2019, the BC Supreme Court granted an injunction against the members of Wet’suwet’en first nation who have been protecting their traditional territories from destruction stemming from multiple pipelines, mostly the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline which was granted an extension. RCMP were instructed to use as such force as necessary. All the hereditary chiefs of the 5 Wet’suwet’en clans have rejected this decision that the BC supreme court had made which is against Wet’suwet’en law. They have issued an eviction of the Coastal Gaslink workers from territory. However in the last two weeks, RCMP have been raiding Wet’suwet’en territory for corporate interest to build the pipelines on the unceded land.

(Invasion (Video) was displayed on screen.)

Nicole – The bridge with the words reconciliation was sawed through by the RCMP. Tore down the red dresses which represent missing and murdered indigenous girls. Just to consider that kind of colonial violence and for example how the university is complicit in that. So going forward that is something that the DSU council should be in solidarity against and strive forward in our actions.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion 3.1**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be adopted as circulated.

*Mover: LGBTQ Students Community Representative*  
*Seconder: Women’s Community Representative*

**Motion 3.2**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda is amended to include a discussion item about Black History Month programming.

*Mover: Black Students Community Representative*

**Motion 3.3**

**WHEREAS** Dalhousie Iranian Students Society (DISS) has failed to pay its debt from last round to DSU.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** give this society a second chance by helping it to start from the beginning.

*Invitation for Presentation: Mr. Reza Rahimi (DISS representative)*

*Mover: Board of Governors Representative*

*(This motion was pulled out of the agenda later in the meeting)*
Motion 3.4
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted with the amendments.
(20 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 3.5
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the anti oppressive governance workshop be extended to 1.5 hours to include Workshop and for Strategic Planning related to mental health.
Mover: President  Seconder: Vice President Academic and External
(20- 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. Communications Received
Naomi Bird (Indigenous Students Community Representative) sends regrets.
Lenka Wicha (Faculty of Agriculture Rep) sends regrets.
Aisha – Unfortunately, Samantha has had to put in her resignation for the Students with Disabilities Representative Position.
(Aisha read a note from Samantha.)

6. Appointments

7. Presentations
   a. Anti – Oppressive Governance Workshop
   b. Presentation by the Dalhousie Iranian Students Society

Motion 3.3 was pulled by Alireza

8. Committee Reports
   a. IIC Committee Report

Motion 8.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report be tabled until February 26th on the grounds that everyone makes an effort to read the report.
Mover: Faculty of Health Representative  Seconder: Women’s Community Representative
(18 – 0 – 0)
9. Old Business
   a. CRO General Election update

   Dal Law Students Society has put forward a petition.

   Do you support an increase of 2$ to the levy collected by the Dalhousie Law Students Society?

   NSPIRG Levy question from previous meeting.

   Whereas NSPIRG has not increased its levy for full time students since 2013.
   Whereas NSPRIG has not increased its levy for part time students from 1992.
   Whereas an additional levy funding would allow to increase capacity for students research, projects, campaigns, student employment, funding and outreach to diverse groups of students.
   Whereas this levy increases sustainability and future growth of NSPRIG
   Whereas NSPIRG provides an opt out period to reimburse students their levy fee in fall and winter semester. Do you support increasing the LEVY for NSPIRG from 3$ to 4.50$ per semester for Dalhousie full time students and from 50c. to 2$ per semester for part time students. This question applies only to students studying at Halifax campuses of Dalhousie University.

   Ankit (CRO) – For the Law students society their interest area group is 490 students and they have gotten signatures of about 26-27 students. For NSPIRG it is a bigger society. They have got around 1090 signatures out of which few are duplicate.

   Chair – Tanisi and I looked over and found a handful of duplicates. It was flagged by NSPIRG that they were duplicate. So I think when names went on the petition, people couldn’t read the spellings of peoples names so some got flagged as duplicates. But they still do meet the minimum 5% of enrolled students and that’s without the duplicates. Basically, council just needs to approve these questions to put forward in the general elections.

   Calista – After they are successfully voted through the election platform, they would go to the BOG for a vote. One thing I might propose to have in our minutes which I saw they did in last year, was just to amend the motion to add that we are approving it to be on the ballot pending the approval of the signatures on the petition by Dalhousie university. They just asked us that we send them all to review to see that all the Boo numbers are legitimate and current students just so that they can confirm that they have the 5% before it goes to vote and comes to BOG.
Motion 9.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT both the referendum questions be approved for presentation on the ballot pending the approval of the petition signatures by Dalhousie university.

Mover: Vice President Internal  Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative

Johsua – Can you elaborate on why the fee hike for the law students society?

Meghan - Not sure when the levy was increased last time. The financial records that we have only go back to 2014 – 2015 so we think that is when it was last increased. Currently, all of our student societies and committees have to apply to us for funding and we don’t have enough to give out to them. Last year we budgeted about $15,000 to give out to societies but we received around 17,000 applications so we weren’t able to give all the societies all the money they needed to function.

Joshua – Did my research. What separates NSPIRG from DSUSO and our DSU environmental work initiatives.

Hasan – They do more than environmental justice. For examples, they had a federal elections campaign. They were tabling on all campuses. They are active in what happens in the community. They advocate for different things around as well.

Chair – Under their past working groups, Its Illegal Halifax was under the NSPIRG umbrella. As was the Queer and Rebel collective. Students against Israeli Apartheid and Divest Dal is also under that umbrella.

Isa- DSUSO is an internally funded organisation that is funded by the DSU fee. Whereas the DSU fee includes a levy that goes specifically to NSPIRG. But NSPIRGS budget isn’t only comprised by DSU fee. They collect fees from their other members. They have financial reports on their website if you would like to see them.

Aisha – Their mandate is to link research and action for environmental and social justice groups within an anti oppressive framework. They give a lot of dunging for different projects that hit on environmental projects. They do a lot of education and action as well. An example of a sub committee that started at NSPIRG and has now become its own thing is the Loaded Ladle. They support by students and for student initiatives.

Vote for approving levy petitions (Motion 9.1) – (17 – 0 – 1 abstention). Motion Carries.

10. New Business

Black History Month programming
Claudia – Equity and Accessibility Office Director and I as well as African Nova Scotian Students Association and some of the Black Students at Kings from the Racialized Students Collective Initiative are planning an afro-fest at the Grawood on the 28th of February from 7pm – 1am.

Trying to do highlight series on Black Student Leaders. If there is anyone in your society or faculty or community doing work, could pass on their information and I could highlight them. Any Black students that you know who are very keen on getting involved with student advocacy, tell them to email me.

11. Executive Reports

a) President

Aisha – Still do not have a director of operations. In that hiring process now. Those duties have mostly been absorbed by me. This includes managing a bar and supporting the work there. We also have our Comms position vacant which will be filled on March 1st. Calista is doing interim comms position. So, she is doing both VP Internal work as well as DSU Communications work. Our Policy and Governance Coordinator position is vacant, so we are in the hiring process of that as well. So that work is being absorbed by myself, the VP AE and Director of Research and Outreach. Full time staff has been great as well.

Marin – How are we advertising the current vacant positions? Are we receiving any interest in these positions right now?

Aisha – Post goes on our website and then it goes on job advertising websites. All the job applications are closed so we are in the process of reviewing applications. Comms is filled. Policy and Research Coordinator, we are in the process of going through interview and Director of Operations as well, doing interviews.

Joshua – So we don’t have an executive firm doing the search?

Aisha – We are following our hiring policy and guide which is available online. So our procedures are following that structure.

Isa – We did have a few people suggest to me that I look into the cost of looking into an external firm to help us advertise because that is a fairly common practice for some larger organisations. Had reached out to some larger student unions with larger executive director positions to see they usually advertise. Most of them said that hiring these firms was not worth the cost. Everywhere I looked at the cost, it seemed unwise to spend so much money. Open to discussion if this position is still vacant in two weeks then we can discuss the financial implications of that.

b) Vice-President (Internal)

c) Vice-President (Financial and Operations)

Joshua – Can you extrapolate on lawyer update?

Isa – He has not provided me with any substantial updates. Will update as soon as I hear something.
Isa – As far as audits go, very proud to say that all societies that submitted audits last semester, Except for CKDU and DAGS, everyone has received the audit cheques. Revamped the process so that more of it is online and trackable for this semester. I have emailed all of your treasures but a lot of them don’t have up-to-date communication info on the websites. So if they have not heard for me or don’t know how to submit their audit or don’t know what to do, ask them to send me emails.

d) Vice-President (Academic and External)

Hasan – We are in contact with Dalhousie Alumni association. There hasn’t been much collaboration in the past between the DSU and the Alumni association but we are meeting with them sometime soon. If anyone is interested in being in that meeting to strategize how the relationship is going to look moving forward, please get in touch with me.

e) Vice-President (Student Life)

Ruby – My commissioner is doing Drag show on Friday. Its on Valentines Day. You could show up.

Sandra – Just wanted to know how the mental forum went yesterday?

Ruby – It was wholesome and sat around and talked about different issues they are seeing on campus and worked them. They have a second councillor on sexton now. Another thing that came out of that committee was how late reading week happens in the first semester. That was brought to registrar’s office and they are reevaluating how they plan that reading week so as to support students instead of adding stress of doing homework and then having exams right after. Mental health awareness week is during March 15th-20th. Many societies getting involved in that. This forum has been much better than I anticipated it being when I campaigned on it. Chair the forum with David Pilon, everything from that committee goes straight to administration and people in power will hear about it. Next meeting is March 10th and it will be in this room at 4 o’clock.

Aisha – Have sent all the reports for the winter semester via email. If anyone wants any feedback or further information, please let me know.

Meghan – One thing I liked about your report was how you had different subheadings. One thing I would like to see would be just like how when you go do your tabling and having the presidents committee, how that goes about.
12. Councillor Reports

13. Notices of Motion

14. Announcements
Nicole - Teaching is going to be there tomorrow in the DSU Atrium. Other folks are going to share their experiences and organising around indigenous issues particularly indigenous sovereignty. Please do come to show your solidarity.

There is a reading group for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls reports that is on Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 and going through that report and moving together and calls to justice in the reports.

Isa – Anyone available to go to Dal transportation and Security committee meeting next Tuesday at 10 am?

Hanna – I would like to go.

15. Adjournment

Motion 15.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council adjourns at 8:54 pm.

Mover: Vice President Academic and External Seconder: President
(18 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

<p>| Meeting adjourned at: 8:54 pm |</p>
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<th>Minutes submitted by Secretary:</th>
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