Council Meeting
February 5th, 2020 - 6:00pm – Council Chambers, Student Union Building

Call to order at 6:09 pm by Chair

1. Roll Call

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillors Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isa Wright (she/her or they/Them) - Vice President (Finance and Operations)</td>
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<tr>
<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>Naomi Bird - Indigenous Students Community 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>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>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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<tr>
<td>Aisha Abawajy (she/her) – President</td>
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<td>Fallen Matthew - Faculty of Graduate Students Representative</td>
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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>Herman Stubeda - Faculty of Medicine 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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<tr>
<td>Charity Justrabo - Chair</td>
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<td>Kranthi Kiran Jalakam - Secretary</td>
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2. Land Acknowledgment

3. Adoption of the Agenda

   Motion 3.1
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.
   Mover: VP Academic and External Seconder: Black Students Community Representative

   Motion 3.2
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda is amended to include the two appointments i.e Jack Campbell and Zaheda Islam to the election committee.
   Mover: Faculty of Health Representative

   Motion 3.3
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to strike the first WHEREAS clause in the motion under 8.a) of the agenda.
   Mover: Faculty of Health Representative

   Motion 3.4
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to change the date in the Notice of Motion from the February 13th to February 26th.
   Mover: Faculty of Health Representative

   Motion 3.5
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a discussion about the NSPIRG Levy question.
   Mover: VP Academic and External

   Motion 3.6
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to include the appointment of a new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative to the DSU Council.
   Mover: VP Academic and External

   Motion 3.7
   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the agenda be voted on in omnibus.
Mover: Faculty of Health Representative  Seconder: Board of Governors Representative (Fatima)  
(17 – 0 – 1 abstentions)  
Motion Carries

Motion 3.8  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments be added to the agenda.  
Mover:  Seconder: 2SLGBTQ  
(17 – 0 – 1 abstentions)  
Motion Carries

Motion 3.9  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted with the amendments.  
Mover: VP Academic and External  Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative  
(19 – 0 – 0 abstention)  
Motion Carries

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
Motion 4.1  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the January 15th meeting be accepted as originally circulated without amendment.  
Mover: Faculty of Law Representative  Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative

Motion 4.2  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the text beneath motion 10.7 in the January 15th meeting minutes be struck out.  
Mover: VP Student Life  Seconder: VP Academic and External

Meghan (Faculty of Law Rep) – Don’t think it is appropriate to remove the entire paragraph from the minutes. Recordings are available too. If we need to add something to the minutes to make it more clear, that would be acceptable. It would be in completely bad faith to publish minutes with complete sections not included.

Motion 4.3  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appointment of Mhairin as the new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative to the next order of business. (Mentioned the actual appointment motion under Motion 6.5 of the Appointment section)  
Mover: Residence Students Community Representative  Seconder: International Students Community Representative  
(18 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

(Mhairin has been appointed to the position and hence vote count increases from here)

Motion 4.4
BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move-in camera.
Mover: VP Student Life  Seconder: VP Academic and External
(11 – 6 – 2 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 4.5
BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move out of camera.
Mover: VP Finance and Operations  Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative
(19 – 0 – 0 abstention)
Motion Carries

Motion 4.6
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Motion 4.1 be amended so as to add an editor’s note to say whatever
the executive feels appropriate.
Mover: Faculty of Law Representative  Seconder: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
(4 – 9 – 6 abstentions)
Amendment does not carry

Motion 4.7
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Motion 4.2 be amended so that instead of striking the entire text
beneath motion 10.7 of the January 15th meeting, it can be summarised to say that the
Management Representative Proxy (Madeleine) asked if there was a mitigation plan in place
when the Director of Operations leaves and the President responded that there was a
mitigation plan in place to account for the Director of Operations duties on the interim. It can
be further amended to strike out the Faculty of Health Representative (Joshua)’s comment at
the end.
Mover: VP Student Life  Seconder: VP Finance and Operations
(9 – 5 – 5 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 4.8
BE IT RESOLVED THAT original minutes be approved with the amendments that were vote on.
Mover: VP Student Life  Seconder: VP Academic and External
(10 – 7 – 2 abstentions)
Motion Carries
5. Communications Received

Aisha Abawajy (President) sends regrets.

Lenka Wicha (Faculty of Agriculture Rep) sends regrets.

Fallen Matthew (Faculty of Graduate Students Rep) sends regrets.

In relation to motion 8.3 in the 15th January meeting minutes,

Ruby – Did have a conversation with Madeleine about what the motion said. After Madeleine spoken to her Grawood staff, they said they wouldn’t like an exec to be directly involved but they could keep me posted with the progress and what’s going on with the workshop and that I will collect feedback from them afterwards to see how that session can be applied to other DSU staff. Wanted to let council know that the first BE IT RESOLVED in the motion won’t be applicable, but second BE IT RESOLVED will still be in play.

6. Appointments

Motion 6.1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Heywot Tadesse be appointed to the Oversight Committee for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 Academic Year.

Mover: Faculty of Health Representative

Motion 6.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jack Campbell and Zaheda Islam be appointed to the Election Committee for the 2019 – 2020 Academic Year.

Motion 6.3

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appointments be voted on in omnibus.

Mover: Residence Students Community Representative Seconder: VP Academic and External

(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)

Motion Carries

Motion 6.4

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appointments be approved.

Mover: Seconder: Faculty of Management Representative

(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)

Motion Carries

Motion 6.5

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mhairin be appointed as the new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative for the DSU Council for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. (Note: This motion was
voted on earlier in the meeting hence vote count for this motion is one lower since Mhairin couldn’t vote)

Mover: VP Academic and External  Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative (18 – 0 – 0 abstentions).
Motion Carries

7. **Presentations**

Calista – Presentation won’t be happening as the President is not here. Discussion questions will be there.

Aisha sent over discussion questions related to strategic planning.

Q1. How would you explain the DSU and what we would to for a new or perspective student?

Q2. What are the top advocacy issues for your constituents?

Sara – The whole idea of tuition fees being hiked and international students being targeted for fee hikes. This is a big advocacy issue for them. Greater funding and programming for international center. Dalhousie International Students Association (DISA) has specific budget and fund for events. Often times, the international center looks to DISA for monetary support. These are the two main issues. There has been a lot of improvement as well this year, in terms of programming. International Students Work Experience Program (ISWEP) was a good initiative.

Sandra – Hard to generalize issues with all the residences. Sometimes issues that come up in Residences can be dealt in residence themselves but sometimes there lacks programming in residences.

Ameir – Biggest issues with the faculty is housing insecurity and homelessness.

Mhairin – Have been able to go to one meeting with Dal Arts and Social Sciences Society. There seems to be issues with finances. All of the societies within DASS within DASS are very concerned about getting their grants and disbursements from DASS.

Julia – Faculty leaving and not being replaced. Faculty coming in from industry and not knowing what they are doing. They don’t have the time and energy to commit to students. Get lots of emails about professors being sexist, racist etc.

Alireza – We have only about five faculty members in Structural Engineering which is uncommon in such a university. I’ve heard that some of the criteria they use to choose faculty members is not very logical. Civil engineering faculty has one faculty member from the last five years and one of the parameter considered for the recruitment of that person was presentation skill and not industrial skill or quality of research etc.

Meghan – Mental health and cultural competency.

Joshua – There is a big list of issues. The big thing the DSU can do is provide a better line of communication with the Health Sciences Students Association.

Herman – Mental health services and lower tuition.
Naomi – Pushing for free education.
Nicole – Childcare on campus. Change tables on campus.
Hannah - Would be great to see policy or connections being made because right now students are finding unity with the union maybe have no defensive mechanism against the administration.
Claudia – Racism on campus. Law and Social work departments especially. Racism from peers, faculty. Implementing a stronger anti-racism campaign. Some anti-blackness coming from part time and few full-time staff of DSU.
Bakhmala – More information about research. The DSS have been organizing symposium for researchers and faculty. Prayer rooms were too crowded and small, on Fridays especially. Trying to figure out if its just on Fridays or everyday. Providing new spaces in the SUB.
Fatima – DSU could advocate for more prayer spaces.
Hasan – Prayer spaces, working with Dal Muslim Students Association on that. In contact with university about it. About Strategic planning for university, every second senate session is kind of a brainstorming session for strategic planning.

Calista – Aisha gave few more questions which I will send over email.

8. Committee Reports
   a. IIC Committee Report
      Motion 8.1
      WHEREAS the committee is committed to completing a wholesome review and feels it necessary to communicate with the VPFO before releasing the final report;
      BE IT RESOLVED THAT the life of the IIC be extended to the February 12, 2020 Council meeting. Moved by: Faculty of Health
      Mover: Faculty of Health  Seconder: VP Academic and External
      Isa – Haven't communicated with the IIC because I was on medical leave.
      (19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
      Motion Carries

9. Old Business
   a. CRO General Election update

      Charity – Elections committee was hoping to extend the date for referenda petitions being submitted to the CRO to the 11th February.

      Meghan – It wouldn’t affect any other deadlines?

      Ankit (CRO) – No.
Hasan – Is that the new deadline for submitting signatures too?

Ankit – Yes, it is.

Ankit – One of the students trying to stand for the elections will be graduating in April. That person will be taking a master or graduate degree in Dalhousie in the Fall. Would that person be eligible for the election? What would they need to fill in the form as their degree in the candidate form.

Ruby – They would be eligible. They would need to fill undergrad.

Motion 9.1

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Elections timeline for the referendum deadline be updated from 9th to 11th February.

Mover: Faculty of Health Representative  Seconder: Residence Students Community Representative  
(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)  
Motion Carries

Motion 9.2

**WHEREAS** the Judicial Board clearly determined that DSU Council has acted in breach of its bylaws and recommended the DSU seek legal counsel as soon as possible regarding the legal relationship with CFS

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following documents be sent to the lawyer

- DSU motion for prospective membership
- CFS motion to adopt our prospective membership
- DSU bylaws
- CFS bylaws
- Letter given to DSU by CFS dated August 20, 2019
- DSU Referendum Policy
- July 24th DSU Council meeting minutes

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a letter be provided to council from the lawyer that details what our current legal relationship is. This letter is to be provided unedited and in its original form.

Mover: Faculty of Law Representative  Seconder: VP Academic and External.

Isa – Have spoken with several lawyers. Was hoping to use our lawyer who looked at Bylaws, just for the sake of efficiency and cost efficiency. Sent all the documents to him and things were going well and then he informed that he was no longer able to work with us and did not disclose why. He sent the name of a colleague and I spoke with that person. He is not familiar with our Bylaws but is familiar with non-profit and student union governance. He is based off in Toronto. His name is Andrew Valentine. Did the check that he doesn’t have any affiliation with CFS or anyone else that DSU previously has any conflict with. They have sent the letter of engagement
and we are now working with that lawyer. He thinks it will take a couple of weeks to get the letter but it shouldn't be too long.

Motion 9.3
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move-in camera.
Mover: VP Operations and Finance  
Seconder: VP Academic and External
(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 9.4
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move out of camera.
Mover: Faculty of Engineering Representative  
Seconder: Faculty of Health Representative
(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Vote for motion 9.2 – (15 – 0 – 4 abstentions)
Motion Carries

Motion 9.5
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recess for 10 minutes.
Mover: LGBTQ2S+  
Seconder: VP Academic and External
(19 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

10. New Business
(Motion by Aisha under New Business in the agenda moved to next council.)

11. Executive Reports
Sandra – With now knowing that legal counsel will be sought and it might take two weeks just to know the letter and in our election deadline to approve the referendum question is next week, I just wanted to know how the CFS referendum would be discussed next meeting?

Isa – Likely the CFS referendum won’t happen until late next Fall at the earliest.

Joshua – I think in the current situation with CFS, the referendum would be a breach of Section 12 of our bylaws. That’s why it will be next year if we adjust our bylaws.

Isa – Perspective membership allows us not to have the referendum for a year anyways so that would be 12 months from June. CFS doesn’t do referenda in the summer anyways so they have to motion to extend our perspective membership. So it wouldn’t be until next year even if there were none of these legal issues.

Joshua (on behalf of oversight) – Particularly now with no live stream, your reports become more important. So just a friendly reminder.
Isa – Just a general update, all of the societies who have passed their audit has received their funding. Feel free to reach out to me if you have a question about the status of your funding.

Julia – For this semester, is the timeline going to be similar? Can we expect funding towards the end of the semester or around the middle?

Isa – Usually Dal advance the funds to the DSU in February so that we can give them out to societies as soon as possible but they haven't done that and haven't told when they will be releasing it to us so I will be emailing all of the Treasurers as soon as I know the answer to that.

NSPIRG Levy Question Discussion

(Copies were given out by Chair. Verbal feedback can be sent to them or emails can be sent later as well.)

(Chair read it.)

Nicole – Given the provincial mandate of NSPIRG, why would it only apply to Halifax campus and not the agricultural campus?

Joshua – Since so much of the revenue is coming from Dal to them, wouldn’t we want more research opportunities to go to Dal? They say they want to hire more Kings students. Where are their other sources of revenue?

Sara – Just in terms of how it works with international students, NSPIRG organizes workshops and one of it was relating to tenancy. They have created a website for international students that has additional information that Dalhousie’s website can't necessarily provide. They do outreach and work with specific communities and on to assist in research and provide resources like workshops, websites etc., from what I've seen.

Hasan – During federal elections, they did an outreach on all campuses and even in residences about how elections work and how people can vote. They have organized different workshops for different students. They were present during various actions too. They also have funding for people who want to be a group under them. They collaborate with a lot of societies.

Calista – They are based in the basement of the SBU. They have a library of different books and they have paid students in the past to make resource guides to Halifax. As to Josh's question as to where their other revenue comes from, they apply for grants from different organisations. They have limited capability to outreach other campuses right now. They don’t collect fees from Agricultural students. They might be interested to expand to other campuses if they have more capacity I assume.
Alireza – I think we need a more detailed proposal on what exactly they are because a lot of members in the council don’t know about it. So if they are collecting such a huge amount of money, we would need more details and information about it.

Naomi - People who do know about NSPIRG is who they are predominantly reaching towards so I don’t think they should do more work in explaining what they do.

Julia – People on sexton campus don’t know what this is. Maybe if there was a sentence explaining briefly what it was. Students might be in support of it if they knew who they were. Just for those students who are not aware, they might unwillingly vote on something they don’t know about.

Calista – How the referendum part will work is, looking at last years agenda and minutes, from my understanding, there wasn’t even a proposal put together. It was just the exact wording of the questions sent over to the chair in an email. So I think its nice that everyone has access to it to know what they are voting about. In terms of what we are approving, the main point coming to us for feedback is to ensure that they are putting a question forward that is in line with their mandate as well as with our mandate and bylaws.

Meghan - You can opt out of levy fee as well. So it would be appropriate to put it forward to students and see if they would want to opt out or not.

d) Vice-President (Academic and External)

e) Vice-President (Student Life)

12. Councillor Reports

a) Faculty of Science Report

13. Notices of Motion

MOTION 13.1

WHEREAS the President was provided with the necessary accommodations to fulfill her reporting duties but has yet failed to do so.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a charge of 5% of the President’s biweekly stipend be applied for each report not submitted to the DSU website by 6pm on Feb 26th, 2020.

Moved by: Faculty of Health

This motion will be discussed on the February 26th Council meeting.

Isa – Just wanted to express my disappointment that this is coming forward (in reference to the motion above). It is African heritage month. We have a strong and competent black female president who works so hard. If you had concerns with her report, talk to her about it. This seems completely inappropriate and racist.

Claudia – As someone on the committee who is also the Black Rep, I do feel as though she has been told multiple times and I have personally told her multiple times and emailed her and brought up in council meetings and the still haven’t received the reports since May.
Sara – Want to reiterate that the motion came forward through the oversight committee. We have reached this conclusion as a result of doing evaluation reports. The only way we can do these evaluations is with these reports and often times other DSU members are aware of what the President is doing. I don’t deny that she is not working hard. It could relieve some of the stress if public could see what she is doing. As a person of colour, I understand the importance of African heritage month. This has been an ongoing communication issue between the oversight committee and the President and this is why we came to a consensus and felt that this was the only way we could move forward with our situation at hand.

Julia – The idea is that the disciplinary action doesn’t come to be. We don’t wish to do the disciplinary action and this is the last step after everything and hopefully we don’t come to it.

Hasan – This was very frustrating to see. Like Sara said it could alleviate some of the pressure. But Aisha has too much work and responsibility. This came as a shock to all of us. If the council reports are to be written, then other things would need to take a step back.

Ruby – Don’t know the specifics of the communication that Oversight had with Aisha so can’t speak about that. My understanding is that the person being disciplined has to be given more time than council so that they have time to prepare themselves for what’s going to show up on the agenda. The fact that Aisha found out about the motion the same time as everybody else is extremely unfair. She does give verbal reports every meeting. If people want to take notes of it, they could. As Hasan said, we don’t receive our last paycheck till we write full transitional reports and until we fully transition the next person that comes into a role. Our salary as exec comes up a lot. It is not significant. So I feel the additional financial stress of taking away 5% of their biweekly pay felt mean.

Even if Aisha was given notice and motion had come to council with a deadline and further accommodations to make up for the fact that she has so many reports to catch up on, there didn’t need to be the financial stress added to it because that would’ve been a duty passed by Council that she would have to fulfill. There was no reason to threaten her pay and add more stress to her life.

Isa – My comment about African Heritage month was not relevant. I completely disagree… There is a long legacy of incitement of black folk in Nova Scotia and in Canada. Black Woman are still held to way higher standards than to white woman and other people of color as well. I have not submitted many more reports than Aisha has but where is the motion about me submitting my reports.

Claudia – I would like to make a suggestion that to tread lightly on accusations of anti-blackness because it is a fairly serious topic. I have had discussions as the Black Rep for Black History month and she in particular hasn’t been overly supportive of me or other black students planning initiatives for this month for the past few weeks. We made accommodations and she still hasn’t come through on them.

Motion 13.2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council extend the meeting for 10 minutes.
Motion 13.3
WHEREAS the B.C. RCMP say they are ready to enforce an injunction order against the water and land protectors upholding Wet’suwet’en law and title tights by standing in opposition to the Coastal Gas Link pipeline,
WHEREAS the DSU seeks to honour the relational treaty process and act in an anti-oppressive framework.
WHEREAS we are all Treaty People on unceded, un-surrendered land
WHEREAS Monday February 10th was named the International Day of Solidarity with Wet’suwet’en earlier today
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU will release a solidarity statement with Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs and Nation and advocate for social and environmental justice for and with Indigenous peoples.
Mover: Indigenous Students Community Representative  Seconder: Faculty of Management Representative
(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries

14. Announcements
Chair – About councillor’s reports, we are going them again this semester. Will make a facebook poll and you just have to sign up for it and if you can try to get it done before the Monday of the council meeting and then we’ll circulate them and if anyone has questions or you can give a brief verbal report as well as a written report.
Ruby – One of the things I have started this year is Dalhousie mental health forum. We have our next meeting on Tuesday February 11th in Room 307 of the SUB. I would love to see some of you folks there to raise the concerns of your specific constituencies. We do have some exciting announcements about progress that’s actually being made based on the feedback that this group has brought.

15. Adjournment
Motion 15.1
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council adjourns at 9:06 pm.
Mover: Faculty of Health Representative  Seconder: Black Students Community Representative
(17 – 0 – 0 abstentions)
Motion Carries
Meeting adjourned at: 9:06 pm
Minutes submitted by Secretary: