

Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

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CALL TO ORDER at 6:02PM

1. ROLL CALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chris Abraham	Chair
Abir Ayoub	Recording Secretary (non-voting)
Amina Abawajy (she/her)	President
Masuma Khan (she/her)	Vice-President (Academic and External)
Chantal Khoury (she/her)	Vice-President (Finance and Operations)
Cory Larsen (he/him)	Vice-President (Student Life)
Alex Hughes (she/her)	Vice-President (Internal)
Kati George-Jim (she/her)	BOG Representative
Ali Barnaby (she/her)	Aboriginal Students Community
Ashley Farrell (she/her)	Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Arazoo Hoseyni (she/her)	Computer Science Representative
Yazan Khader (he/him)	Engineering Representative
Rhys Macdonald (he/him)	Graduate Students Representative
Katie MacLellan (she/her)	Science Representative
Liam Finnegan (he/him)	LGBTQ2+ Representative
Neda Alizedah (she/her)	Health Representative

COUNCILLORS ABSENT WITH REGRETS

Jeremy Ryant (BOG Representative), Chelsea Cox (Law Representative), Alexandra Erb (Management Representative), Kamryn Findlay (Agriculture Campus Representative), Kate Rumoldt (Dentistry Representative) and Chad LeClair (Medicine Representative) sent their regrets.

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Katie Douglas (Women Students Community Representative) and Nikunj Kachhadiya (International Students Representative) were absent during the meeting.

Katie Douglas attended the meeting at 6:11pm.

Rhys Macdonald and Neda Alizedah left the meeting at 8:27pm and 9pm respectively.

OTHERS PRESENT

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION 2018-02-28: A01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Moved: Khan **Seconded:** Finnegan

MOTION 2018-02-28: A01 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: A02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended 1.to add a motion under the new business 8.d “Accessibility Fund Discussion” and 2.to remove “Section 5.B Election Committee Appointment” from the agenda.

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MOTION 2018-02-28: A02 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: A03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION 2018-02-28: A03 CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair did not receive the minutes from the previous meeting (February 21, 2017) since the previous meeting was just last week.

4. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

A. Regrets

Jeremy Ryant (BOG Representative), Chelsea Cox (Law Representative), Alexandra Erb (Management Representative), Kamryn Findlay (Agriculture Campus Representative), Kate Rumoldt (Dentistry Representative) and Chad LeClair (Medicine Representative) sent their regrets.

5. APPOINTMENTS

A. Chief Returning Officer

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is the person who is in charge of running the elections for the Dalhousie Student Union.

Nominations:

- i) Cody Coture
- ii) Amr Elkhashab
- iii) Kaitlynne Lowe
- iv) Juan Rivera
- v) Morgan McAloney

The Chair states that members who are running in the 2018 election are able to vote to the appointment of the CRO.

MOTION 2018-02-28: N01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move into camera to have a brief debate on who is the best candidate for the CRO position.

Moved: Larsen **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: N01 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: N02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move out of camera

Moved: George-Jim **Seconded:** MacLellan

MOTION 2018-02-28: N02 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: N03

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT Kaitlyne Lowe be appointed to the Chief Returning Officer. This was voted by a secret ballot during an in-camera session.

MOTION 2018-02-28: N03 CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Elections Committee

The Election Committee has not submitted a report.

Khan has a concern with the structure of the debate, in regards to students not given the opportunity to ask questions during the debate. Khan believes this is creating a barrier to students to talk to their future representatives. She raises a general question on how the Elections Committee is going to fill three hours of a debate, if students are only allowed to submit questions in advanced.

A member of the election committee mentioned that about two and a half weeks ago the committee officially decided to have the questions posted at the debate. At that time, each of the committee's member were designated a certain social media platform to be in charge of. They have done their best to advertise that the committee will be accepting questions prior to the debate on all platforms of social media that were available like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter. As of right now, they only received one question from the student body after three weeks of advertising. The Elections Committee will be having a Q & A in the next following weeks; the date has not been finalized yet. All students who attend and participate in the Q&A will be able to have their question vetted by the Election Committee Members, making sure the questions are appropriated to be asked at the venue and therefore all candidates will be asked the questions at the debate.

The Elections Committee has advertised for the past two to three weeks, for students to submit their questions at the Q&A sessions. During the sessions, students will submit the question at the door by writing it on a piece of paper, which will be vetted through Elections Committee and submitted to the moderator of the debates. Given there is time for questions, in the three-hour debate, the moderator will also create questions and follow up questions for the candidates during the debate. If students have questions during the debate, they would need to submit the questions through social media, which will then be vetted, submitted and approved by the moderator of the debate. The questions will then be asked to candidates.

At the start of every single debate, the moderator will read a statement describing what the debates are for which is advocating positive change for the DSU. When the committee receives questions, they are not looking for ideas to censor but making sure that language is appropriate, respectful and not offensive on behalf of any candidate or any groups of people that are being represented. The committee is only vetting questions that are insulting and

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disrespectful. They will not vet out questions that are free of speech. There will be no censoring in terms of discussion of ideas or actions in a healthy debate.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Referendum Question

i. Pharmacy

MOTION 2018-02-28: P01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pharmacy society referendum question is approved as circulated.

Do you support increasing the fee for the Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society from \$20.50 per semester to \$23.50 per full-time student per semester starting in September 2018 to allow for an increase of \$6 per year in Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) local funding? This question applies only to students in the College of Pharmacy on the Halifax campus and includes the Fall and Winter semesters.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Douglas

MOTION 2018-02-28: P02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pharmacy Referendum Question be amended to replace “2017” with “2018”.

Moved: Macdonald **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P02 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P01 CARRIED

ii. NSPIRG

MOTION 2018-02-28: P03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSPIRG society referendum question is approved as circulated

Whereas Nova Scotia Public Research Interest Group (NSPIRG) has not increased its levy since 2013;

Whereas an increase in levy funding would allow NSPIRG to increase capacity for projects, campaigns, student research, student employment, funding and outreach to diverse groups of students;

Whereas this levy increase will support the sustainability and future growth of NSPIRG;

Do you support increasing the levy for Nova Scotia Public Research Interest Group (NSPIRG) from \$3 per semester to \$4.50 per semester for full-time Dalhousie students? This question applies only to Halifax campuses and registered full-time students.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Khan

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MOTION 2018-02-28: P03 CARRIED

iii. CKDU

MOTION 2018-02-28: P04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CKDU society referendum question is approved as circulated

Whereas CKDU-FM Society has not increased its levy since its inception in 1985;

Whereas CKDU-FM Society is Dalhousie's Campus Radio station committed to providing locally produced, relevant content to the Dalhousie student community;

Whereas an increase in levy funding would allow CKDU to hire year round student coordinators and subsidize the production of student-focused programming and podcasts,

Do you support increasing the levy for CKDU by \$1.00 per semester, increasing CKDU's levy from \$4.50 per semester to \$5.50 per semester for full-time Dalhousie students? This question only applies to Halifax campuses and registered full-time students.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P04 CARRIED

iv. Commerce

MOTION 2018-02-28: P05

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commerce society referendum question is approved as circulated.

Whereas an increase in the levy would allow the Dalhousie Commerce Society to continue to provide valuable resources, events, and opportunities to Bachelor of Commerce students in order to enhance their undergraduate experience;

Do you support increasing the levy for the Dalhousie Commerce Society from \$17.00 per semester for full-time students to \$22.00 per semester for full-time students? This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Finnegan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P05 CARRIED

B. Bylaw Amendments

MOTION 2018-02-28: P06

WHEREAS, the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee has proposed amendments to improve DSU operations and accountability, including grammatical corrections and typos;

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council adopt the circulated set of Bylaws with amendments until a General Meeting at which the Membership will have the opportunity to discuss and permanently adopt them.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Khader

MOTION 2018-02-28: P07

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council takes a five-minute recess.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** MacLellan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P07 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P08

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to delete 4.5.j *“In the absence of a meeting, Council is able to pass a special resolution by email in accordance with applicable policies.”* in the proposed Bylaws.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Macdonald

MOTION 2018-02-28: P08 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P09

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the definition of Ordinary resolution under 1.1 of the proposed Bylaws **from** *“a resolution requiring a simple majority of more than 50 per cent of those present and entitled to vote”* **to** *“A resolution requiring a simple majority of more than 50 per cent of voting members present and not abstaining.”*

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Khader

MOTION 2018-02-28: P09 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P10

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to add the entirety of section 9.6 Elections Appeals Committee from the current Bylaws to the proposed Bylaws

9.6 Elections Appeals Committee

- a. There shall be an Elections Appeals Committee, which shall include three Members who are not Councillors or Executive Officers, including at least one Member who is in their third year of law school or holds a law degree.*
- b. The members of the Elections Appeals Committee shall, by Ordinary Resolution, select one from among themselves to chair the committee.*
- c. Members of the Elections Appeals Committee shall be appointed by Council no later than September 30.*
- d. No member of the Elections Appeals Committee shall be an Executive Officer, Councillor, member of any Union Committee, or employee of the Union.*

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- e. *No member of the Elections Appeals Committee may contest an election under the jurisdiction of Council.*
- f. *No member of the Elections Appeals Committee may be a Campaign Worker for a candidate or referendum campaign in an election under the jurisdiction of Council.*
- g. *No member of the Elections Appeals Committee shall display any public interest in the campaign of any candidate or referendum campaign team.*
- h. *The Elections Appeals Committee shall, at the request of any candidate in an election or campaign team in an election, review a decision of the Elections Committee to determine if it is in line with the DSU Act, Bylaws, and Policies. Deliberations on questions related to any such request shall be held in camera.*
- i.
- j. *Decisions of the Elections Appeals Committee shall include reasons for any decision rendered.*
- k. *Decisions of the Elections Appeals Committee shall be final and not subject to further appeal.*

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Barnaby

MOTION 2018-02-28: P10 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P11

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend section b. under 9.4 Chief Returning Officer **by re-adding** the phrase from the current bylaws “*except for sitting on the Elections Committee*” **to** “*The Chief Returning Officer shall not be an Executive Officer, Councillor, Committee member, or employee of the Union for the duration of their term*” of the proposed bylaw.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Barnaby

MOTION 2018-02-28: P12

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amendment to **replace** the word “*electing*” with “*chairing*”.

Moved: Barnaby **Seconded:** Douglas

MOTION 2018-02-28: P13

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move into camera as the general public should not be aware of what is to be discussed in the midst of an election season.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** George-Jim

MOTION 2018-02-28: P13 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P14

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move out of camera

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Moved: Khan **Seconded:** Barnaby

MOTION 2018-02-28: P14 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P12 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P11 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P15

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to remove g. ii *“The Election Committee will provide Council with the recommendation of the position of the Chief Returning Officer no later than October 15”* under 9.5 Election Committee in the Bylaw Amendments.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** MacDonald

MOTION 2018-02-28: P15 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P16

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to add in *“v. The Vice-President, Internal shall chair the committee and vote only in the case of a tie”* under 6.6.1.a. Offices Steering Committee in the Bylaw Amendment.

Moved: Khoury **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P16 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P17

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to **remove** the phrase in a. under 9.4 Chief Returning Officer *“upon recommendation of the elections committee”* so the new sentences states *“The Council shall, by Ordinary Resolution, appoint a Chief Returning Officer no later than September 30 to assist in administering all Union elections and referenda on behalf of the Elections Committee”* In the proposed Bylaw.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Finnegan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P17 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P18

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend section b.i under 6.6.1 Offices Steering Committee, in the Bylaw Amendments, **from** *“Be responsible for the hiring and oversight of Office Directors”* **to** *“Be responsible for adhering to Office Terms of References, including appropriate hiring procedures, and general oversight of Office Directors.”*

Moved: Khan **Seconded:** Finnegan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P18 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P19

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to remove g.ii *“Oversee the Chief returning officer”* under section 9.5.Elections Committee in the Bylaw Amendments.

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Finnegan

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MOTION 2018-02-28: P19 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P20

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these bylaw amendments shall take effect once approved by a Special General Meeting

Moved: Khader **Seconded:** Khoury

MOTION 2018-02-28: P21

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move into camera to debate Motion P20.

Moved: Barnaby **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P21 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P22

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council move out of camera

Moved: MacLellan **Seconded:** George-Jim

MOTION 2018-02-28: P22 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P23

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amended Motion P20 to “Be it further resolved, these bylaw amendments shall take effect after the results of the 2018 elections have been announced”

Moved: Douglas **Seconded:** Barnaby

MOTION 2018-02-28: P24

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to challenge the one-minute time limit the Chair puts on the remarks of Councils

MOTION 2018-02-28: P24 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P23 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P20 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P25

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the proposed Bylaw by adding under “5.7 Responsibilities of Vice-President Academic” a new clause “n. Be responsible for organizing and promoting the Racial Justice Symposium. If the Vice President, Academic and External does not self-identify as a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color, they must hire a commissioner that self identifies a Black, Indigenous, or person of colour to fulfill said duties.”

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** George-Jim

MOTION 2018-02-28: P26

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amended Motion P25 to **replace** the word “commissioner” **with** “symposium coordinator”.

Moved: George-Jim **Seconded:** MacLellan

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MOTION 2018-02-28: P26 WITHDRAW AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT

MOTION 2018-02-28: P27

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amended Motion P25 to **replace** *“they must hire a commissioner that self identifies a Black, Indigenous, or person of colour to fulfill said duties”* **with** *“they must hire three commissioners, each one of whom self identifies as either Black, Indigenous, or person of colour to fulfill said duties. If such commissioners are to be hired, they must provide reference from their communities of their involvement within their communities.”*

Moved: Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P27 REMOVE AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT

MOTION 2018-02-28: P28

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amended Motion P25 to **replace** the word *“commissioner”* **with** *“officer”*.

Moved: George-Jim **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P28 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P29

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to extend the meeting for 9:45pm

Moved: MacLellan **Seconded:** George-Jim

MOTION 2018-02-28: P29 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P30

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to have a ten-minute recess

Moved: Barnaby **Seconded:** Khan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P30 FAILED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P31

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the amended Motion P25 to **add** *“or they choose to delegate this role”* **before** *“they must hire a officer”*

Moved: MacLellan **Seconded:** Abawajy

MOTION 2018-02-28: P31 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P25 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P06 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P32

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to have a five-minute recess.

Moved: Larsen **Seconded:** Barnaby

MOTION 2018-02-28: P32 CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-28: P33

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT to amend the agenda to place the “Accessibility Fund Committee Discussion” before the “Society Policy Amendment”.

Moved: Hughes **Seconded:** MacLellan

MOTION 2018-02-28: P33 CARRIED

C. Accessibility Fund Committee Discussion

MOTION 2018-02-28: P34

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Accessibility Fund Committee will have a two-person corium during this semester (Winter 2018).

Moved: Hughes **Seconded:** Hoseyni

MOTION 2018-02-28: P34 CONTRADICTS BYLAW/OUT OF ORDER

MOTION 2018-02-28: P35

Open nominations for the Student Life Committee

Moved: Larsen **Seconded:** Barnaby

Nomination:

Katie Douglas

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Katie Douglas is the new Candidate of the Student Life Committee

MOTION 2018-02-28: P35 CARRIED

Katie Douglas resigns from Accessibility Fund committee.

D. Society Policy Amendments

MOTION 2018-02-28: P36

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society Policy Amendments are approved as circulated.

Moved: Abawajy **Seconded:** Hoseyni

MOTION 2018-02-28: P36 CARRIED

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. BUSINESS OF THE EXECUTIVE

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

1. *Whereas the Dalhousie Student Union seeks to support students and promote equity* **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the DSU endorse DASSS's Rick Mehta motion, in support of marginalized students at Acadia University.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Survivor Support Centre mission, vision, mandate and tag lines are adopted as circulated.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. In the upcoming weeks, there will be lectures and conferences happening on campus in regards to the 200th anniversary of Dalhousie.
Friday March 9th at 7pm, Senator Murray Sinclair will have a lecture about the 200th anniversary.
2. Budget Consultations will be happening.
First one is on March 1st, 2018 at Sexton Campus from 5:45-6:45pm, outside the Design Commons while the second one is March 5th from 4:30-6:30pm at Studeley Campus in the Council Chambers.
3. On March 19, 2018 DISC is hosting a general election.
4. On Friday March 2, 2018 there will a discussion about improving equity and diversity that is closed to indigenous students from 4:30-7:00pm in the SUB
5. Snowy Discussion Panel is happening on March 1, 2018 in the SUB.
6. Mental Health Awareness Week is happening from March 12-16 2018.
7. Next Council meeting is March 7, 2018.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-02-28: A04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting of Council be adjourned.

MOTION 2018-02-28: A04 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm