

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

## Table of Contents

1. ROLL CALL.....	2
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	2
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....	3
4. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.....	3
A. Regrets .....	3
5. APPOINTMENTS.....	3
A. Accessibility Fund Committee.....	3
6. PRESENTATIONS.....	3
7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES .....	3
A. Elections Committee.....	4
B. Board Caucus .....	4
C. Senate Caucus .....	4
D. Society Review.....	4
E. Grants and Sponsorship .....	4
8. NEW BUSINESS .....	4
A. Rick Mehta.....	5
B. Survivor Support Centre .....	5
C. A Special General Meeting.....	7
9. OLD BUSINESS .....	7
10. BUSINESS OF THE EXECUTIVE.....	7
A. President .....	7
B. Vice-President (Internal).....	7
C. Vice-President (Financial and Operations) .....	8
D. Vice-President (Academic and External).....	8
E. Vice-President (Student Life) .....	8
11. NOTICES OF MOTION .....	8
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	8
13. ADJOURNMENT .....	9

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## CALL TO ORDER at 6:03 PM

### 1. ROLL CALL

#### COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chris Abraham	Chair
Abir Ayoub	Recording Secretary (non-voting)
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
Arazoo Hoseyni (she/her)	Computer Science Representative
Kate Rumoldt (she/her)	Dentistry Representative
Yazan Khader (he/him)	Engineering Representative
Chelsea Cox (she/her)	Law Representative
Katie MacLellan (she/her)	Science Representative
Kamryn Findlay (she/her)	Agriculture Campus Representative
Ashley Farrell (she/her)	Arts and Social Sciences Representative

#### COUNCILLORS ABSENT WITH REGRETS

Amina Abawajy (President), Masuma Khan (Vice-President, Academic and External),, Jeremy Ryant (BOG Representative), Ali Barnaby (Aboriginal Students Community Representative), Liam Finnegan (LGBTQ2+ Representative), Katie Douglas (Women Students Community Representative), Rhys Macdonald (Graduate Students Representative), Alexandra Erb (Management Representative) and Neda Alizedah (Health Representative) sent their regrets.

*Amina Abawajiy called in via conference call at 6:14pm.*

#### COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Nikunj Kachhadiya (International Students Representative) and Chad LeClair (Medicine Representative) were absent during the meeting.

#### OTHERS PRESENT

### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### MOTION 2018-03-07: A01

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

**Moved:** Khoury **Seconded:** MacLellan

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**MOTION 2018-03-07: A01 CARRIED**

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**MOTION 2018-03-07: M01**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes from the February 21, 2017 be accepted as circulated.

**Moved:** Hoseyni **Seconded:** Larsen

**MOTION 2018-03-07: M01 CARRIED**

## **4. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

### **A. Regrets**

Amina Abawajy (President), Masuma Khan (Vice-President, Academic and External), Jeremy Ryant (BOG Representative), Ali Barnaby (Aboriginal Students Community Representative), Liam Finnegan (LGBTQ2+ Representative), Katie Douglas (Women Students Community Representative), Rhys Macdonald (Graduate Students Representative), Alexandra Erb (Management Representative) and Neda Alizedah (Health Representative) sent their regrets.

## **5. APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Accessibility Fund Committee**

Hughes described that in the upcoming 2-3 weeks, the chosen candidate will help the Committee review applications, that the committee received from the winter semester of the accessibility bursaries. The Committee will then decide who gets funding and how much funding. Hughes stressed that if Council members, who would like to nominate themselves to be on the Committee, should be available in the next three weeks for two-hour periods at a time. If council members have very busy schedules, Hughes advises them not to apply.

The Chair closes nomination and the appointment for the Accessibility Fund Committee will come up in the next meeting March 21, 2018.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

## **7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

## **A. Elections Committee**

No representatives of the Election Committee were present during this meeting.

## **B. Board Caucus**

George-Jim said that after the Board Caucus meeting in February, they have been following up with many board members. They brought forward a motion to the Board Caucus, however only half of it got approved. The part that got approved was that the Finance and Audit in Investment Committee would look into hiring an external third party Finance investigation into what divestment could mean for the university. George-Jim stated that this is a great first step to have back from the table. The second part that wasn't approved was delegating to the committees of the board to look into how divestment would specifically affect their committee and their communities within them. She believes the Board Caucus is moving in an incredible direction with the relationships that they are building, and students really see themselves in what the Caucus is discussing.

## **C. Senate Caucus**

Khan was not present during this meeting.

## **D. Society Review**

Hughes said that they have achieved their goal of 365 societies. The 365<sup>th</sup> society is By-Caucus.

Hughes shared that the Society Committee was presented with a notification that a society has broken Society Policy and a few other policies. The Society Review Committee brought forward a motion to Council advising that Council disciplines the society.

Also Hughes mentioned that during the committee's last meeting they reviewed the society space allocation process and they have a few things they want to edit. The committee is open to feedback and they will have something on the DSU website that will help societies provide the Committee with feedback.

## **E. Grants and Sponsorship**

Khoury mentioned that the last meeting was two weeks ago. The committee awarded several sponsorships to societies' fun galas and events. This year, the committee awarded both a grant and a sponsorship to the Spanish Society as they had a financial hiccup. The grant and sponsorship was for their large event La Velada

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

## A. Rick Mehta

### MOTION 2018-03-07: P01

*The Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS) strongly condemns trivialization of Indigenous experiences of genocide at the hands of the Canadian colonial government, stigmatization of transgender people, and promotion of sexist discrimination or stereotypes. DASSS sends our voice in solidarity with Acadia students who are impacted by Acadia University's slow response to public concerns regarding Rick Mehta and hesitancy to address and discipline him for his actions. On behalf of the society, we reaffirm our dedication to upholding the rights of Indigenous and transgender students, as well as all female students, and call for more institutional accountability for the actions of professors of our Nova Scotian higher learning institutions. DASSS wishes to protect the safety of students and their right to not feel targeted within their own classrooms and universities. We call upon all Nova Scotian universities to fulfill their responsibilities to affirm these rights for their own students through transparency and accountability.*

*DASSS fully supports emphasizes the importance of supporting transgender, non-binary and two-spirit peoples, who are most likely to face hate-based violence due to discrimination and ignorance. As well, we wish to recognize the struggles that women, especially BIPOC women, face in academia due to the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes. We additionally want to remind all university students and staff that Gordon Residential School in Saskatchewan, Canada's last residential school, was closed only 22 years ago in 1996. These tools used by the government to commit genocide are not ancient history, but rather the reality for thousands who were taken from their homes and cultures. We believe that as educational institutions, universities have a responsibility to recognize and uphold information which is widely academically considered to be up-to-date and factual regarding these sensitive societal, historical, and cultural issues. Further, we believe that professors within our universities share this same responsibility for academic integrity.*

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the DSU endorse DASSS's Rick Mehta motion, in support of marginalized students at Acadia University

**Moved:** Farrell **Seconded:** George-Jim

### MOTION 2018-03-07: P01 CARRIED

## B. Survivor Support Centre

### MOTION 2018-03-07: P02

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

*Tag Lines: We Believe the Survivors: Support. Education. Advocacy. --- Survivor Support Centre*

*Vision Statement: Lives and Relationships free from sexualized violence.*

*Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide anonymous, confidential, non-judgmental, trauma -informed support to survivors of sexualized violence and to create positive social change at Dalhousie by addressing issues of sexualized violence and rape culture through innovative education strategies and advocacy.*

*Mandate:*

## *1. Support:*

*The Survivor Support Centre will be open to Dalhousie students of all genders and experiences of sexualized violence whether recent or historic.*

*The Survivor Support Centre will help students and members of the Dalhousie community navigate systems specific to this institution and the community as requested.*

*The Survivor Support Centre aims to empower survivors in their choices.*

*The Survivor Support Centre will implement and maintain a Sexual Assault & Harassment Phone line, providing confidential, active listening, information and systems navigation for survivors and those affected by sexualized violence.*

*The Survivor Support Centre engages a peer-to-peer support model.*

*The Survivor Support Centre aims to build capacity and work in collaboration with existing and valuable services on campus and in the community, rather than in competition with them.*

## *2. Education:*

*The Survivor Support Centre aims to provide consistent and sustainable support, training and resources to our volunteers.*

*The Survivor Support Centre aims to create programming, workshops, resources, campaigns and services and to be a model and a leader for other Student Unions and post-secondary Administrations.*

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

## 3. Advocacy:

*The Survivor Support Centre will advocate for a safer campus lobbying university administration and government on issues of sexualized violence.*

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

**Moved:** Abawajy **Seconded:** Khader

**MOTION 2018-03-07: P02 CARRIED**

## C. A Special General Meeting

**MOTION 2018-03-07: P03**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** a special general meeting be called for March 29, 2018, at 6:00 in order to consider the following resolution:

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

*AND WHEREAS these Bylaws were approved, with amendments, by DSU Council on February 28, 2018;*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the current Union bylaws be repealed and replaced by the draft bylaws as circulated.*

**Moved:** Abawajy **Seconded:** Khader

**MOTION 2018-03-07: P03 CARRIED**

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

## 10. BUSINESS OF THE EXECUTIVE

### A. President

Abawajy circulated her written report in the Council package.

### B. Vice-President (Internal)

Hughes circulated her written report in the Council package.

# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

## **C. Vice-President (Financial and Operations)**

Khoury circulated her written report in the Council package.

## **D. Vice-President (Academic and External)**

Khan circulated her written report in the Council package.

## **E. Vice-President (Student Life)**

Larsen circulated his written report in the Council package.

## **11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

a. DSU to support QP3903 and QP2424 in Carlton and York who are on strike for better Constituents.

b. *WHEREAS, the Society Review Committee has been made aware that Halifax Greek Council, a DSU Ratified Society, has breached the DSU Society Policy, the DSU Equity Policy, as well as the terms of the DSU Meetings and Event Management Contract;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

- 1. As advised to Council by the Society Review Committee, Halifax Greek Council's societal booking privileges be revoked, including the ability to book space in the SUB, as well as other rentable DSU assets (popcorn machine, snow cone machine, barbeque) and will not be granted Event ID numbers to book space elsewhere on campus effective immediately, until Winter Semester 2019.*
- 2. Halifax Greek Council provide apology letters to the University Club Bartending staff who were experienced verbal harassment at a Halifax Greek Council event, namely: Samantha Farnham, Francis Parker and Leslie Palaheimo, and Julia Charboneau no later than March 31st, 2018.*

c. Bylaw Policy and Review Committee is noticing amendments to the hiring policy and the accommodation policy.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- TEDx is this weekend on Sunday March 11 at 2pm in the McInnes room.
- Mental Health Awareness week is from March 12-16
- St. Patrick's Day is at the Grawood from 12-7pm next Saturday.
- Impact awards and Dal Got Talent are during the following weeks.
- On March 8 there will be a Budget Summary held on Sexton Campus at Noon in room 311 in the B Building and another on at 5pm in Mona Campbell (in room 1111). A final Budget Summary presentation will be on March 13 at 4pm in the Riverview room at the agricultural campus.



# Dalhousie Student Union – Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

6:00 PM – Council Chambers

6. March 21 is the next council meeting.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2018-03-07: A02**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the meeting of Council be adjourned.

**MOTION 2018-03-07: A02 CARRIED**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm**