

Bylaw Package Highlights

1. Additional requirement for VP Finance and Operations role:

4.e) Those candidates running for the position of Vice-President, Finance and Operations shall be made to declare on their application they do not possess a criminal record for an indictable offense under the *Criminal Code* with respect to fraudulent activity or theft.

2. Adjustments to allow for representative Societies to elect their own representative:

4.6 c) Should there be a vacancy in the office of a Councillor on or before October 31, a by-election shall be held to fill such vacancy. This by-election process will mirror the process by which the Councillor was elected.

9.1 a) This Bylaw shall govern elections for all Executive Officers and those Councillor positions without a ratified representative Society.

3. Enlarging Senate Caucus for greater representation:

6.3 b) Fourteen students to represent each of the Faculties. One each from: Agriculture, Architecture and Planning, Arts and Social Sciences, Computer Science, Continuing Education, Dentistry, Engineering, Health Professions, Law, Management, Medicine, and Science and two students from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

6.3 c) One student to represent each of the following constituencies: international, LGBTQ2S+, women, Black/African Canadian, indigenous, disabilities.

6.3 d) With the exceptions of President, Vice-President, Academic and External, Agriculture, and Graduate senators, the remaining Senate seats will be decided from amongst the Caucus by Ordinary Resolution of the Senate Caucus.

- i. When determining which representatives will receive a Senate seat, the Caucus should take into account the composition of Senate for that year to ensure as many identities and lived experiences are represented as possible.

4. Clearly identifying “open” and “closed” committees.

5. Addition of Judicial Board as a standing committee:

6.2 Judicial Board

- a. The Judicial Board is a closed committee which shall consist of:

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- i. A Chair who shall be enrolled as a law student in their third year of study at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law;
 - ii. Two other students enrolled as law students at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law, preferably in their second or third year.
- b. Judicial Board members cannot be an Executive Officer, Councillor, Committee Member, Commissioner, or Employee of the DSU for the duration of their term.
- c. In accordance with the Judicial Board Policy, the Judicial Board shall:
 - i. At the request of Council make binding authoritative judgments on the correct interpretation of the Constitution and/or Policies of the Union.
 - ii. At the request of an Executive Officer, Councillor, or Committee Chair make non-binding judgments on the interpretation of the Constitution and/or Policies of the Union.
 - iii. At the request of Council, advise as to whether a violation of the Constitution or Policies has taken place by a Councillor or Council and, if appropriate, provide a recommendation of corrective action.
 - iv. At the request of any candidate 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* and decisions are final with no further appeal.

6. Introduction of Offices Steering Committee to replace individual Office steering committees allowing for greater day to day management from Office Directors:

6.1 Offices Steering Committee

- a. The Offices Steering Committee is a closed committee which shall consist of:
 - i. The Vice-President, Academic and External;
 - ii. The Vice President, Finance and Operations;
 - iii. Two Community Representatives on Council;
 - iv. Two general members.
- b. The Committee shall:
 - i. Be responsible for the hiring and oversight of Office Directors;
 - ii. Review and approve annual goal plans brought forward by each Office in respect to the Office's mandate and available resources;
 - iii. Review and approve annual budget submissions for each Office;
 - iv. Review and approve any Office organizational structure amendments;

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- v. In coordination with each Office Director, provide Council an end-of-year report including the successes, challenges, and recommendations for each Office.

7. Later timeline for AGM to take place to allow for proper consultation and proposals to membership:

8.6 a) An Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be held between the first day of classes at the University in September and the last day of November of each year.

8. Clarification of Elections Committee and CRO authorities, and addition of plebiscites:

9.5 g) The Elections Committee shall:

- i. Recommend election dates to the Council;
- ii. Provide Council with a recommendation for the position of Chief Returning Officer no later than October 15;
- iii. Oversee the Chief Returning Officer;
- iv. Publicize important information regarding elections, referenda and plebiscites;
- v. Oversee all Union elections, referenda and plebiscites;

9. Clarification of what Council is to take into account when evaluating a referendum question:

9.7 e) In approving a referendum question, Council must consider:

- i. The clarity of the question;
- ii. Supporting information showing the necessity for a new, or increased, levy;
- iii. In the case the levy is in regards to a new service, a thorough report on the long term feasibility of supporting such a service and how the levy amount was arrived at.

10. Bylaw 12 was completely rewritten for additional clarity:

Bylaw 12: External Groups

12.1 The Union may become a member of an external student organization that requires the Union or its members to pay a membership fee to that organization, but only if the Union and the organization enter into a binding, written agreement that guarantees the following:

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- a. The Union's membership in the organization does not preclude the Union's membership in any one or more other organizations;
- b. Any organization which the Students' Union is a member of must be open and transparent in its decision-making processes;
- c. The external organization must be financially open and transparent. The Students' Union must be able to hold the organization accountable for all of its expenditures in order to allow the Students' Union to be fully accountable to its members for any funds paid to the external organization;
- d. The Union's constitution and bylaws shall always supersede those of the organization's and at no time may the Union enter into a binding agreement with an organization that has a constitution and bylaws that are in contradiction to those of the Union's;
- e. The Union's membership rights and privileges always supersede those of the organization's and at no time may the Union enter into a binding agreement with an organization that has a constitution, bylaws or policies that make claim over the membership of the Union;
- f. The organization recognizes that the Union reserves the right to terminate its membership in the organization according to the Union's own constitution and bylaws.

12.2 Prior to becoming a member of an external student organization, any written agreements between the parties will be reviewed by the Union's legal counsel and an opinion letter will be provided to Council for review.