

Statement of Reasons pursuant to Dalhousie Student Union Bylaw 4.8 (f) (2016)

Pertaining to Notice of Motion to impose disciplinary measures dated September 13, 2017:

The following governance documents of the Dalhousie Student Union set out expectations regarding conduct of councillors during their term of office:

DSU Bylaws 4.4 (a) - Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Union in respect of matters for which the Council has the authority to act

DSU Bylaws (April 2016); bylaw 4.8 (a) i - Councillors may be disciplined for the following reasons: Failure to perform duties as outlined in the Bylaws, Policies, or the Statement of Office

DSU Constitution Bylaw X – Recall of councillors, Section 3: Where not otherwise specified in this By-law, just cause means: (b) conduct likely to bring the Union into disrepute

The public posting of a Facebook statement by DSU councillor Masuma Khan, VP Academic and External, in which she addresses stakeholders of Dalhousie University, raises questions about her judgement and maturity.

The Facebook posting employs puerile, disrespectful language toward others who disagree with a position she advocated while in the course of exercising her duties as a DSU councilor and Vice President.

Doing so is incompatible with her duty as an Executive Officer to act in good faith and in the best interests of the DSU and its members.

The content of the Facebook post uses confrontational and discriminatory language toward others with whom Ms. Khan disagrees. Her words as published in the Facebook post demonstrate conduct that is likely to bring the Dalhousie Student Union into disrepute.

The language and tone of the Facebook post in question exhibit contempt for stakeholders who hold views incongruent with Ms. Khan's. She makes disparaging remarks about others with whom she disagrees, on the basis of their presumed immutable characteristics over which they have no control. Her comments display a willingness to dismiss in a confrontational way the perspectives of others on the basis of their skin colour. The content of this Facebook post demonstrates a willingness to stereotype others with whom she disagrees. Such an approach is antithetical to the principles of openness and inclusivity which the DSU upholds. This approach is not in the interests of the over 18,000 members of the Dalhousie Student Union who deserve to be respected as individuals by the Executive Officers of the DSU.

As DSU Executive VP Academic and External, Ms. Khan's responsibilities include interacting with government representatives at the municipal and provincial level. Her Facebook post raises questions about her ability to represent Dalhousie Student Union members with tact, maturity and sound judgement while interacting with government officials and external stakeholders.

DSU Executive Officers are paid salaries in the range of 32k annually. Dalhousie Student Union members expect these elected officials to model a high level of professionalism while representing their interests.

It is for these reasons that the disciplinary provisions of Dalhousie Student Union Bylaw Section 4.8 (b) should be enacted by DSU councillors, by method of a Special Resolution directing a recall to by-election.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary MacDonald

September 13, 2017