

Motion:

WHEREAS, Mary MacDonald, Students with Disabilities Community Representative on Council, has breached terms 1 and 2 of the Statement of Office;

AND WHEREAS, this Councillor has shown and continues to show a pattern of disrespect, as outlined in the attached Statement of Reasons (Appendix A), for the Statement of Office and procedures of Council;

BE IT RESOLVED, Mary MacDonald take the following actions to restore her standing in good faith with the Dalhousie Student Union:

1. Submit a letter to Arig Al Shaibah (Vice-Provost, Student Affairs) and Jen Davis (Academic Advisor – accommodations/professional faculties) indicating it was inappropriate to suggest severing Accessibility Services working relationship with the DSU.
2. Submit a letter to Dr. Richard Florizone (President), Dr. Kevin Hewitt (Chair of Senate), and Lawrence Stordy (Chair, Board of Governors) admitting that she breached the Statement of Office and the inappropriateness of her approach in expressing discontent with Council decisions.
3. Submit a written apology to members of the Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the above conditions are not met, Council will exert its right to remove this councillor from her position and the Equity and Accessibility Office will reach out to the Student with Disabilities Community in order to recommend an appointment to Council.

Statement of Reasons (Appendix A)

Introduction

The Dalhousie Student Union holds a Statement of Office (Appendix B) to ensure that all of our councillors act in good faith, conduct themselves with integrity, and act in the best interest of the Union, as determined by this Council. It has come to my attention that a member of our Council has breached several sections of the Statement of Office over this past year. At the beginning of each of their terms, councillors and executives, sign a Statement of Office that formally recognizes that “failure to uphold this Statement of Office could result in disciplinary action including [but not limited to] a verbal warning, a letter of censure, or recall by-election”, as outlined in the Statement of Office.

It is my responsibility as a member of Council to ensure that our bylaws and policies are upheld and to inform council when they are not. I regretfully inform this council that Mary MacDonald has breached two sections of the Statement of Office which constitutes a breach of bylaw 4.8 a. i). The terms breached in the Statement of Office are:

- Term 1 “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, as required in [Bylaw 4.4\(a\)](#) of the Union.”
- Term 2 “Conduct myself with integrity and respect for the collective decisions of the Council and subordinate my personal interests to the best interests of the Union.”

Background/Rationale

Term 1 indicates that councillors act honestly and in good faith in the best interests of the Union. In the email below (Figure 1) where Mary clearly indicates that “Access Services should suspend cooperation with the DSU” addressed to Jen Davis, Academic Advisor – accommodations/professional faculties, and Arig Al-Shaibah, Vice Provost Student Services on January 11, 2018. It is necessary in meeting the objectives of the DSU to maintain collaborative working relationships with Departments, Senior Administration, and other members of the Dalhousie community. In asking Access Services (Student Accessibility Centre), whom the DSU works with to offer the Student Accessibility Bursary, to sever its working relationship with the DSU clearly does not act in the best interests of the Union and actively opposes our work.

Term 2 indicates that councillors conduct themselves with integrity and respect the collective decisions of Council. While Council welcomes diversity of opinion, encourages thoughtful debate, and allows for respectful disagreement, this Councillor has not shown integrity and respect but instead outright disrespect for the collective decisions of Council as demonstrated in the following figures.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mary MacDonald has breached terms 1 and 2 of our Statement of Office.
I request that Council support this motion.

Appendix B: Statement of Office



STATEMENT OF OFFICE

All members of the Council must sign this statement in accordance with the Union Bylaws before taking office. A person is not a member of Council until this statement is duly signed and submitted to the Chair of Council.

I, as a member of the Dalhousie Student Union Council, will, to the best of my ability:

1. 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, as required in Bylaw 4.4(a) of the Union.
2. Conduct myself with integrity and respect for the collective decisions of the Council and subordinate my personal interests to the best interests of the Union.
3. Disclose in writing to the Chair of Council or have recorded in the minutes the nature and extent of any conflict that may arise as a result of me being a party to, being a director or officer of any person who is a party to, or me having a material interest in any contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction with the Union, as required by Bylaw 4.9 of the Union.
4. Not attend any part of any meeting of Council or the Executive Officers during which a contract referred to in 2 above is discussed, and I will not vote on any resolution to approve such contract or transaction, as required by Bylaw 4.9(c) of the Union.
5. Not disclose any information discussed in an in camera meeting of the Council or the Executive Officers, and use the utmost care and discretion in the handling of any confidential and privileged information, including not using any confidential or privileged information for personal gain or benefit;
6. Not using any power or service entrusted to me for my own personal use or by using any associations gained through my position to obtain programs or funds for any competing organization; and
7. Not accept any undisclosed gift or hospitality of material value offered or tendered by virtue of my position.

I understand that failure to uphold this oath of office could result in disciplinary action including a verbal warning, a letter of censure, or recall by-election, as outlined in Bylaw 4.8 of the Union

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Position: _____

Last Revised: 2015-05-11



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I understand that failure to uphold this oath of office could result in disciplinary action including a verbal warning, a letter of censure, or recall by-election, as outlined in Bylaw 4.8 of the Union

Signature: Mary MacDonald Print Name: MARY MacDONALD

Date: May 31, 2017 Position: Community Rep

Last Revised: 2015-05-11 Students with Disabilities

Figure 1

From: Mary MacDonald <mamacdona@dal.ca>
Date: Thu, Jan 11, 2018 at 11:11 PM
Subject: follow-up
To: Arig al Shaibah <arig.alshaibah@dal.ca>
CC: Jen Davis <Jen.Davis@dal.ca>, dsuchair@gmail.com <dsuchair@gmail.com>

Hi Arig,

To follow up on my email last night, in which I described Katie George-Jim's outburst toward me when I departed the DSU Council meeting, there are further details I wish to add. Before I do so I wish you well with your new position at McMaster.

When the DSU council went in camera last evening to discuss the appointment of yet another able-bodied councillor to the Accessibility Committee. I re-iterated that it should be understood as a form of institutional oppression when able-bodied persons dominate an Accessibility Committee. With respect to this nomination, the candidate offered no explanation or expression of interest in why she wanted to serve on the panel.

During the in camera discussion Katie George-Jim made an insulting remark to me in front of a dozen or so people. She said she knew it must be a terrible situation for me (speaking to my disability).. This young woman rails about micro aggressions at Dalhousie but has no problem making patronizing comments to me when I point out DSU double talk.

I believe Access Services should suspend cooperation with the DSU. The DSU demands proof of disability; this is confirmed by Access Services. Katie George-Jim and her colleagues at the DSU have invalidated my efforts to enhance equity for persons with disabilities. There are now three able bodied persons on the Accessibility Committee who will be scrutinizing applications from students with disabilities. My question to Dalhousie administration is "why have an Accessibility Committee at all"?

I am making the case to end cooperation with the Dalhousie Student Union where students with disabilities are concerned. The DSU has not explained how the confidentiality of applicants to the Accessibility Fund will be protected. Should you wish to meet to discuss these issues in more detail I am happy to do so.

Yours truly,

Mary

Mary MacDonald, MBA
MA Ed Candidate

congratulations on second term



Mary MacDonald

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 10:01 AM

To: Richard Florizone

Cc: DSU President Email; DSU VP Internal Affairs Email

Dear Dr. Florizone,

As councillors with the Dalhousie Student Union, Rhys and I are pleased to learn of your re-appointment as President of Dalhousie University. You have done a great job in your role and we are sure the university will continue to benefit from your outstanding leadership skills.

The Dalhousie Student Union passed a motion recently demanding an apology to Masuma Khan. This motion did not pass unanimously, and we regret that the DSU is making such demands. We urge you to steadfastly resist such demands as there is no evidence they are supported by the majority of the student body.

Again, congratulations on your second term; we have confidence that your leadership will continue to benefit Dalhousie University in its 200th year and beyond.

Yours truly,

Mary and Rhys MacDonald

Mary MacDonald, MBA
MA Ed Candidate



Dalhousie Student Union



Mary MacDonald

Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 5:45 PM

To: Kevin Hewitt; Istordy@stewartmckelvey.com

Cc: DSU President Email

Dear Dr. Hewitt,

The Dalhousie Student Union released a statement regarding complaints by two students. Insofar as this document refers to marginalized students, I wish to clarify that as councillor for students with disabilities at the DSU, I voted against this motion.

Yours truly,

Mary MacDonald, MBA
MA Ed Candidate