DSU Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2019
Carleton Campus, Collaborative Health Education Building

1. Roll Call

Present:
- Hassan Snan (he/him) – VPAE & Arts and Social Sciences Representative
- Isa Wright (she/her or they/them) – Vice President (Finance and Operations)
- Ruby Coles (she/her) – Vice President (Student Life)
- Calista Hills (she/her) – Vice President (Internal)
- Fatima Beydoun (she/her) – Board Of Governors Representative
- Claudia Prent-Castillo – Black Student Rep
- Sandra Sunil (she/her) – Residence Representative
- Sarah Goswami (she/her) – International Student Representative
- Hannah Drake – 2SLGBTQ+ Representative
- Lenka Wich (she/her) – Agricultural Representative
- Shivam Mahajan – Computer Science Representative
- Julia Sarty – Engineering Representative
- Fallen Matthew – Graduate Studies Representative
- Joshua Yusuf (he/him) – Health Professions Representative
- Science Representative – sent proxy
- Law representative
- Dentistry Representative

Absent With Regrets:
- Aisha Abawajy (she/her) – President

Absent without regrets:

Non-Voting Members:
- Management Representative – no letter sent to the Chair to confirm Ratification
- Indigenous Student Representative – to be approved as voting member in Appointments

2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Adoption of the Agenda:

MOTION 3.1:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.
Seconded: Faculty of Health Professions
Passes: Carries

Discussion:
- retracting the motion put forward regarding DSU Market
- Appointment of Indigenous Representative to be added to appointments

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

MOTION 4.1:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the August 21st meeting be accepted as circulated.
Seconded: International Student Representative
Passes: Carries

MOTION 4.2:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the September 11th meeting be accepted as circulated.

- Not yet circulated – Motion withdrawn
- VPI says they will be distributed immediately following council for review to be approved later.

5. Communications Received:

Agricultural Representative received request from their constituents to livestream the meetings to Truro Campus.

MOTION 5.1
BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be lived streamed to student on the agricultural campus.
Moved: Faculty of Agriculture Representative
Seconded: Faculty of Health Professions
Passes: Carries
6. **Appointments:**

Where Dalhousie Indigenous Student Collective is inactive, per our policy the Indigenous Student Center can approve a voting member of council. Appointed by Indigenous Student Center by letter sent to the Chair.

**MOTION 6.1 Indigenous Student Representative**

BE IT RESOLVED where DISC is inactive, the ISC can appoint an Indigenous Student Representative.

Moved by: VPFO

Seconded: Health Professions Representative

Passes unanimously.

Indigenous student representative now voting member of council.

**Discussion:** Can the Management Representative be ratified and vote at this meeting? No minutes received by the Chair to confirm appointment. Management Representative still a non-voting member.

**MOTION 6.2. Oversight Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Sara Goswami be appointed to the Oversight Committee for the 2019/2020 academic term.

Moved by: VPSL

Seconded: Faculty of Graduate Students Representative

Passes unanimously

**MOTION 6.3 External Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Ryan Callahan be appointed to the External Committee for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Moved by: VPSL

Seconded: Residence Representative

Passes unanimously
7. Presentations:

**MOTION 7.11 – Canadian Federation of Students’ Presentation on Robert’s Rules**

BE IT RESOLVED we have a 30 minute presentation from the Canadian Federation of Students on Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Moved:** VPF  
**Seconded:** Health Professions Representative  
**Opposed:** 3  
**Abstain:** 1 – Engineering Representative  
**In favour:** 12  

Motion Carries

**Questions:**

(i) Law – question on notice of motion  

Answer: double check with chair, this is specific to the organization. CFS sends notice of motion 6 weeks in advance, 4 weeks to send back motions, motions and final agenda circulate 2 weeks before meeting. At kings give 1 week, motions given and final agenda 48 hrs. Notice is important, so people have time to review. These are very colonial rules, be mindful about your positioning in Roberts rules, be careful of taking too much space, use as room to grow.

(ii) Gallery: is there an alternative framework to Roberts Rule’s, maybe not as wide spread but used on similar basis?  

Answer: I don’t know any out there, I’ve experienced this the most and don’t know any specific ones. Sure, they exist. Kings noticed this as a board, and tried to make meeting less intense/formal, even if just sitting at couches instead of in a boardroom setting. It is important to talk to your council to find what is most comfortable and how to care for one another within the meeting space.

Agricultural Representative: Browns Rules also exist.

8. Committee Reports:

No committee reports presented to council at this time.
9. **Old Business:**

**9.1 MOTION**
WHEREAS there has been ongoing conversation regarding motion 6.1 from the May 22nd Council meeting that has been requiring a significant amount of Council’s time; and

WHEREAS a legal opinion regarding alleged policy breaches would assist in moving this issue forward;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the avenue of redress for any issues regarding past council decisions be brought to either the Judicial Board or legal counsel.

**Moved:** VPAE  
**Seconded:** Black Student Representative

**Discussion:**

(i) VPAE: this is taking too much time at council and our discussion isn’t moving forward without the legal opinion of our judicial board or legal counsel.

(ii) Dentistry: wants to hear motion 6.1 from the may 22nd minutes

(iii) Chair reads motion: BE IT RESOLVED that DSU apply for immediate prospective membership of CFS and the CFS-NS.

(iv) Law Representative: Spoke against the motion. Did not have opportunity to discuss with constituents and keep getting questions about that meeting. We do need legal counsel because there is a legally binding contract but it keeps coming up because we did not have the discussion that should have happened before.

(v) VPAE: We just need opinion from judicial board or legal counsel to move forward with this conversation.

(vi) VPFO: Point of information: motion to move discussion 3 for or 4 against the motion  
Faculty of Health Professions puts forward amendment: not limit speaking numbers but time limit  
Seconded: LGBTQ  
Faculty of Agriculture says we are not supposed to have the same person speak more than once

(vii) Gallery: how are we making a motion in the middle of a motion  
Ilsa: it is allowed, in Roberts rules

(viii) Chair makes call: 3 for and 3 against, we need to move forward with this

(ix) Engineering: spoke against the motion as this may inhibit future discussion and and spoke in favour of having conversations with both DSU Council and legal counsel.  
*(had to leave before voting but would have voted against, not enough notice given to vote by proxy)*

(x) Residence representative: Spoke in favour of the motion.
*Question: within the motion it says either legal counsel or judicial board so what would the different results be taking them from one*
other or the other?

(xi) International Student Representative: spoke against the motion.
AMENDMENT:
** BE IT RESOLVED THAT the avenue of redress for any issues regarding past council decisions be brought to either the Judicial Board or legal counsel with DSU council present.

(xii) Dentistry: spoke in favour of the motion. Agreed with amendment to have DSU council present in legal meetings but that ultimately all decisions go through council.

(xiii) Agricultural Representative: Spoke against the motion – suggested we should be able to debate this at council. There has been time left at meetings to have these discussions. Are we ending this discussion or just not having any more motions brought forward? What about the petition of the judicial board?

(xiii) Chair: we submit petition, they weigh in on it and review the documents – briefly looked at judicial board policy so I don’t know if having it in a meeting works with that, it would be up to their discretion.

(xv) Agricultural Representative: if they say there are policy breaches, do we just discuss if we would do anything about it? Confused about getting judicial board to weigh in and what that looks like in practice with our policy

(xvi) BOG: In favour of the motion – judicial board is composed of law students so might be in conflict with what is being proposed, is supposed to act outside of council and to look at it objectively and whether policy has been breached or not. This allows us to answer questions already asked but does not limit actual discussion. We should use the judicial board because this is why we have them

(xvii) VPAE: addressing questions: Not limiting discussion but need legal to have more productive discussions and to move forward. Both give us opinions but operate as external bodies to council so having them present is questionable. After we receive legal opinion, discussion can continue at the council level, we simply need this first.

(xviii) Agricultural Representative: Can anyone submit the petition to legal counsel? Can we all put together one or work independently and submit multiple?

(xix)Law: all councillors are free to seek judicial board or legal counsel so why do we have this motion when we can go any time?

(xx) International Student Representative: new info changed opinion so different amendment. Didn’t know councillors can go to judicial board on their own, makes sense to use board to find breaching of policy if it is there

9.1.1 MOTION AMENDMENT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the avenue of redress for any issues regarding alleged policy breaches in past counsel decisions be brought to either the Judicial Board or legal counsel.

Moved: International students Community Representative
Seconded: VPFO
passes unanimously

Discussion:
(i) Residence Representative: which one does it go to?

(ii) BOG: does the one putting the petition forward decide?

(iii) Hasan: wants all of counsel to bring the petition forward because there are differing opinions and thoughts on the motion in question.

9.2 **MOTION to table MOTION 9.1 until our next council meeting.**
Moved by: Health Professions Representative  
Seconded: Dentistry Representative  
In favour: 9 – did not pass

9.3 **Vote on calling the question – Called by Faculty of Health Professions:**
- in favour: passes with 2/3 majority

9 (b) – moving to a vote.

**AMENDED MOTION 9.1**
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the avenue of redress for any issues regarding alleged policy breaches in past counsel decisions be brought to either the Judicial Board or legal counsel.
Moved By: VPAE  
Seconded: Black Student Representative  
In favour: 13  
Opposed: 2  
Abstained: Agricultural Representative and Health Professions Representative  
Motion Carries

**International Students Community Representative moved to recess and reconvene at 8:17pm**  
Passed unanimously.

10. **New Business:**

10.1 **CRO by-election update**
- Oversight hasn’t met, but will next week.  
- We need elections committee by Sept. 30th and oversite provides this recommendation.  
- We need these sorted by October 15.  
- Health Professions Representative: misunderstanding in who chaired, thought it was president.
- Chair: Oversight Committee submits exec report, so no exec can sit on it.

10.2 Annual General Meeting date

- Needs to be set and approved by council no later than Nov. 30.

10.3 Audit statement

(a) VPFO: required to submit audited financial statements 48 hours prior, sent Monday, in this email is attached a confidential draft of financial statements put forward to accounting by external auditors (happens every year). In draft form because not approved by counsel, once approved they are in final form and no more changes to be made. Did not receive any questions, did folks look? *no one really responds

(b) Health Professions Representative: bar is running a deficit, do we have a plan in place to fix this?

(c) VPFO: Grawood does run a big deficit. DO interview question on tactics for addressing this as the manager, hired someone with direct experience and turning a campus bar from running a deficit to a profit within 3 years. Also, one of the reasons we hypothesized is because we cannot advertise pricing, but this would be a harm reduction approach; bringing people to our bar as opposed to going downtown because staff are trained to care for students and ensure safety. The admin continues to monitor our pricing and advertising, but we are trying.

(d) Health Professions Representative: wants to see a strategic plan brought to council

(e) VPFO: Will ask Director of Operations to do this.

(f) Law: Internally restricted net assets of health plan fund: Looks like restricted cash for health plan and other things, we have lost $500,000 on health plan. (on page 6 of pdf, line 5, health plan opening balance expenditures)

(g) LGBTQ: this has happened for a while so council made decision last year to increase the health plan fee.

(h) VPFO: the way our health plan fund works is we as the DSU has an Administrative Services Only Contract with Health Plan Office, so the fee we collect from students goes to a health plan fund (most Student Unions have their funds go to external organizations) but with our plan 6% of the fee goes to administration (2 full time staff) and the rest goes into a fund so we manage more of what the students get with the Health Plan. So, controlling the percentage of health vs. dental care and can increase things like Mental Health services without going to an external party. The fee adjustment is to address that, this fund gets build up over time and can’t be spent on anything other than health plan claims and had become unsustainable.

(i) Health Professions Representative: non-revolving credit facilities? 2020 we owe money to RBC? Why did we borrow this money? What was that for? (on page 12 of word document under long term debt)

(j) VPFO: DSU entered into agreement with RBC years ago, not familiar with this agreement, but understands that swap
agreement is a kind that just involves a different rate of pay so the debt we incurred is payable over 25 years, and pretty sure interest swap gives us – debt was for the huge renovation on the SUB that was a substantial loan and that is the debt we are repaying.

(k) Law: question on point 4, excess revenues over expenses and expenses over revenue for a year, question is about from 2018 we had an excess of revenues of 20,000 and then loss of revenue of a lot

(l) VPF: expects that includes health plan difference, computers losing value over time, if we made substantial capital projects, not VPFO at this time but can ask for more specific list if needed.

(m) Law: would like more information on this.

(n) MGMT: Request for information on break down of health plan, how did we come up with that dollar amount? VPFO: might say something in meeting minutes from when the increase was approved but can check in to get an answer on that.

(o) LGBTQ: there was a presentation and variety of strategic options in the meeting to increase the Health Plan fee.

(p) Residence Representative: They broke down a big chart and looked into a 5 year plan and different areas and how much deficit for each option and the minutes to this meeting are unfound.

(q) VPI: Wednesday April 3rd minutes approved increase on international health plan, but no minutes on the general health plan – not much detail

(r) Commerce Representative: is the Health Plan managed by dal?

(s) VPFO: still managed by the DSU in the terms laid out when you pay for the health plan, it is a fund managed by our DSU accounting and compensations are given out by our accounting office.

(t) Commerce Representative: Where is any “cash” sitting?

(u) VPFO: mostly in an investment account managed by an investment advisor

(v) Commerce Representative: could we see that? What assets are invested?

(w) VPFO: don’t know if public or private but will check on this.

International Student Representative: why increase in the international Health Plan? Are international students using it more?

(x) VPFO: yes, and coverage changed which is increase an in expenditures

(y) Graduate Student Representative: Can any further questions be emailed to the VPFO?

(z) Health Professions Representative: Is ethical investment committee is open and they vote on investments. Committee is comprised of budget and finance committee; minutes are published but has not met as they have not had quorum.
(i) VPI: Point of Information: streaming and talking confidential?
(ii) VPFO: The document itself is confidential because it is still in draft form but the information will be public upon vote by council. We aren’t talking about specific numbers so streaming is fine.

10.3 MOTION
BE IT RESOLVED we approve the audited financial statements

Moved by: VPFO
Seconded: Black Student Representative
Passes unanimously

10.4 DSU Market

MOTION
WHEREAS the DSU market is understaffed and losing capacity to continue running efficiently;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSU Council allocate $3,500 to the DSU Market to hire 2 extra staff for the year.

Retracted by: Black Community Representative

10.5 Minute Timeline

11.5 MOTION
WHEREAS Council is currently without a secretary; and
WHEREAS this has made posting minutes within the timeline listed in the policy unachievable
BE IT RESOLVED we have the leniency of the policy timeline be allotted for preparation of minutes before they are required to be circulated and posted online.

Moved by: VPI
Seconded: VPAE

Discussion:
(i) Agricultural Representative: Question: Can we have an actual time to expect the minutes but limit to three weeks instead of just saying leniency so we have an accurate timeline.

(ii) Law: Point of Information: The policy states we need the minutes posted 5 days after approved at council but no policy of when they need to be passed by council. Is this for being voted on at council or for being posted online?
(iii) VPI: motion refers to when they are posted online for students to see, but originally thought there was a requirement to get them given to council. If this is not the case, it would apply to when they are voted on and being posted, so ideally both.

(iv) Chair: reads policy: copies of meeting minutes circulated 5 days after approval by council. Do not know the bi-laws off hand.

(v) Agricultural Representative: Moves to amend the motion to add a limit of 10 school days.

MOTION:
BE IT RESOLVED we have the leniency of 10 school days to the policy timeline be allotted for preparation of minutes before they are required to be circulated and posted online.

Moved by: Agricultural Representative
Seconded: Computer Science Representative
Passes unanimously

10.5 MOTION
BE IT RESOLVED we have the leniency of 10 school days to the policy timeline be allotted for preparation of minutes before they are required to be circulated and posted online.

Moved by: VPI
Seconded: VPAE
Passes unanimously
11 Executive Reports:

– submitted online, questions from council are welcome.

12.1 President

12.2 Vice-President (Internal)
(i) Computer Science Representative: when is the Society Review Committee meeting?
(ii) VPI: email me.

12.3 Vice-President (Financial and Operations)
(i) Residence Representative: question on audits due Oct. 8 is this the case?
(ii) VPFO: submitting them later is fine.

12.4 Vice-President (Academic and External)

Vice-President (Student Life)
(i) VPSL: what do you want from our reports?
(ii) Health Professionals Representative: 5 point summary, short and sweet, and then post online, if we want details we can post them online.

12 Council Reports:

None presented to council.

13 Notices of Motion:

None presented to council.

14 Announcements:

None presented to council.

15. Adjournment:

Moved by: Graduate Students Representative
Seconded: Dentistry Representative
Passes unanimously.

Meeting closed at 8:58.