

Bylaw Package Highlights

1. Amendment DSU Objectives adding “with an anti-oppressive framework.”

3.1 e. To do this all in a manner that furthers the objects of the Union as set out in the DSU Act and with an anti-oppressive framework.

2. 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.

3. Council is now able to pass a Special Resolution by e-mail.

Accompanying procedures have been drafted into the Union Rules and Procedures Policy.

4. There are a number of clarifications and additions to Executive Officer role descriptions. For example, the addition of the Racial Justice Symposium under the Vice-President, Academic and External.

5.7 n. Be responsible for organizing and promoting the Racial Justice Symposium. If the Vice President, Academic and External does not self-identify as a Black, Indigenous, or person of colour, or they choose to delegate this role, they must hire an officer who self identifies as a Black, Indigenous, or person of colour to fulfill said duties.

5. 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.

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- 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.

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

This now allows us to clearly promote to our Members their ability to attend certain Standing Committees they may be interested in without having to be appointed. A Member can decide to attend one meeting of interest or all of them and can speak when recognized by the Committee Chair, however, unless directly appointed by Council they cannot vote.

In addition, when a Member wishes to be appointed to a Committee, they can now simply make a request of the Committee Chair who will put it to a vote and send the adopted special resolution to Council for formal appointment.

“the Committee Chair shall send a copy of the adopted Special Resolution nominating the member to Council for Committee appointment.”

This eliminates the need for Members to appear at Council and speak to their wish to be appointed unless Council directly requests that they do.

7. Addition of Judicial Board as a standing committee:

6.2 Judicial Board

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

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- 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.

8. Introduction of Offices Steering Committee to clarify and provide oversight of all Offices of the Union:

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. The Vice-President, Internal, who shall chair the committee and vote only in the case of a tie.
 - iv. Two Community Representatives on Council;
 - v. 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;
 - v. In coordination with each Office Director, provide Council an end-of-year report including the successes, challenges, and recommendations for each Office.

The Offices Steering Committee was a result of discussions surrounding the lack of structural clarity between them and the governance of the DSU. This was leading to a lot of confusion surrounding responsibilities including reporting, project/budget approval, programming.

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The intention is for the Steering Committee to meet on a semesterly basis for broad oversight as per their mandate.

9. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has been meeting regularly but had not been formally recognized anywhere in bylaw or policy. This is now clearly structured with an accompanying mandate.

a. The Executive Committee is a closed committee which shall consist of:

- i. The President who shall act as Chair;
- ii. All other Executive Officers of the DSU;
- iii. The General Manager who shall act as an Advisor to the Committee.

b. The Committee shall:

- i. Make decisions on proposals brought forward by the Director of Facilities;
- ii. In consultation with the General Manager, make decisions to do with Full time staff and the Staff Manuals of the DSU;
- iii. Be responsible for the evaluation of the Health and Dental Plans, including setting guidelines and making decisions on appeals to the opt-in and opt-out deadlines, and advise Council on necessary amendments and procedural changes to the Health and Dental Plans;
- iv. Determine monthly priorities in relationship to annual goal plans.

10. Addition of Oversight Committee encompassing the mandate of the Executive Review Committee which was removed.

6.9 Oversight Committee

a. The Oversight Committee is a closed committee and shall be composed by July of each year with the following members:

- i. Two Faculty Representatives on Council;
- ii. Two Community Representatives on Council;
- iii. Two Members at large. DSU BYLAWS

b. A Chair and Secretary shall be determined at the Committee's first meeting by ordinary resolution.

c. The Oversight Committee shall:

- i. Make recommendations regarding appointments for any vacancies that may arise in Union governance as per relevant policy;
- ii. Assist in identifying, interviewing, and recruiting candidates for standing committees;

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- iii. Develop and recommend to Council the establishment, revision, or discontinuation of compensation and benefits for the Union's appointed positions, and any revisions to appointees' terms of appointment;
 - Any volunteer position receiving an honoraria shall submit an end of term report on their completed projects which must be accompanied with a recommendation for compensation by their supervisor;
 - The Committee will determine, based on the end of term report, if the honoraria will be disbursed in full or some portion thereof;
- iv. Conduct an annual performance evaluation of each Executive Officer, done in accordance with relevant policy;
- v. Following performance evaluations, provide any recommendations to Council regarding:
 - Executive Officer roles and responsibilities;
 - Executive Officer remuneration;
- vi. Such other powers and duties as assigned by Council, from time to time.

11. 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.

12. Amendments to our Bylaws can only appear at the AGM.

13. 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.

14. The DSU can run plebiscites.

This will allow the DSU to gather the Membership's opinion toward a specific issue.

15. Representative Societies are defined and provided an opportunity to nominate the relevant Councilor seat.

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

16. Bylaw 11.2 rewritten to clarify conditions proposed amendments from Council to the bylaws must meet in order to be considered for temporary adoption.

11.2 b. Council may only adopt such amendments or revisions in advance of an Annual General Meeting where such are necessary for the continuing good governance of the Union and are of a character such that a delay in adopting same would result in placing the Union or its Members in legal jeopardy as, for example, in the case of new provincial or federal legislation. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in no case shall Council consider any amendment or revision to these Bylaws which would have the effect of disenfranchising Members with respect to their rights to elect or remove Councillors and Executive Members, approve amendments to Bylaws, initiate referenda, or petition to add items to the agenda of an Annual General Meeting.

17. 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:

- 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

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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.