

## **DSS Executive Meeting**

Feb 8, 2022 via Teams

“The Dalhousie Science Society acknowledges that Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union Building are located on traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered Mi'kma'ki territory. The Dalhousie Science Society seeks to honour the relational treaty process in its programming, events, and meetings.”

### **1. Roll Call**

- a. Carmen**
- b. Linh**
- c. Joyce**
- d. Kendra**
- e. Brooke**
- f. Emma**

### **2. Business of the Executive**

- a. Emma**
  - i. Meeting with Victoria Law to think about Alumni speakers**
  - ii. Drafted an email to advocacy committee to discuss speakers**
  - iii. Research mixer -March 24**
    - 1. Secured some speakers**
    - 2. 5 confirmed speakers**
- b. Brooke**
  - i. Maybe broke even - people bought them**
  - ii. Kendra and Brooke finding a time to get people to pick the rest up when we are back**
- c. Joyce - redbull rep reached out about a redbull fridge**
  - i. Could advertise it to science students, come to these hours and get some redbull**
  - ii. Workshop - might be a bit later for more promotion**

### **3. New Business**

- a. Dean's Office Meeting**
  - i. 12-1 meeting**
  - ii. pass/fail option - new option**
    - 1. Registrar's office did not know about it**
    - 2. Get in touch with degree audit people**
    - 3. cant find any info online but could they release some information**

4. Should be communication about this - can they shed some light and have some communication with science students about that
- iii. Transition to in person
  1. Recording lectures
  2. Suggest alternatives to it
    - a. Student note takers - could have a student note taker that could post on the Brightspace
    - b. Especially for first year classes - people might not be able to get notes from friends
  3. Classes being unclear about whether or not classes will be in person
    - a. Should be at least a weeks notice if going to be transitioning from online to in person
    - b. Unfair for students to drop everything and come back in person
- iv. Integrate more alumni connections
  1. Dont expect anything concrete but we can do then work this year so we can have an end product in the future
  2. Pointed towards SURGE and Deepsense mentoring program
    - a. Would be good to promote more
  3. Speed mentoring session
  4. Pushing to SURGE and Deepsense for mentoring
    - a. No requirement to be a Dal alumni as a mentor
- b. Symposium Updates
- c. Bursary
  - i. How we are going to divide the money
  - ii. Subcategories (2 or 3) of having 1 general financial need, 1 specific for housing need
    1. Conversation with council about how we want to do that
    2. Checklist google confirm - confirm financial need without proving or writing anything
    3. Lottery system
  - iii. What time of year for deadline
    1. Early fall?
    2. More time to learn about it?
  - iv. Students may encounter situations later in the year
  - v. Might be hard for it to roll through the year
  - vi. 2 deadlines throughout the year?

- d. Peer Mentorship
  - i. Professional development rep
  - ii. She has noticed this year a lot of mentees are not answering emails from mentors - no actual connection
  - iii. Issue in the past as well - also mentors dropping off
  - iv. Finding an alternative way to do the mentorship program
  - v. Could do it more of a mixer style
  - vi. Run mentoring events
  - vii. Mixer good
    - 1. More mentees could have different pieces of advice
    - 2. Could get more perspectives
  - viii. Mixer might not be the most accessible
    - 1. Single mentor but more of a schedule
    - 2. Set meeting time - more likely to show up for that
    - 3. Could organize meetings in person, people might not want to do zoom meetings
  - ix. Mixer is good but building relationships is hard
  - x. Could send out emails reminding people about their mentors/mentee
  - xi. Mixer early to meet your mentor
    - 1. Heads up matching game to find your mentor
  - xii. Can provide what kind of questions should you be asking
- e. Personal Finance help
  - i. Something we could help with
  - ii. Personal finance stuff can be intimidating for students - we are not taught how to do it
  - iii. Some video resources on how money, budgeting, credit cards, grocery budgets, how much you should be spending
    - 1. Videos - lacking in some areas
    - 2. Concern - post student financing
      - a. Grad school
      - b. Saving for retirement - how does that work
      - c. Paying off student loans
    - 3. Info targetted at only being a student right now
  - iv. Content ideas
    - 1. Finding out in first year little things
      - a. Things deducted from account when using ATM or etransfers
      - b. e transfers from chequing vs savings account
    - 2. Tax season

- f. Deans office extra note:
  - i. Met with rep from DABS - discussion within biology about cuts being made to finances
    - 1. Limiting the number of TAs
    - 2. Changing TA positions
    - 3. Anything in terms of jobs - where to point students to find additional jobs if they can't find jobs as a TA
    - 4. Dal resources difficult to find anything that an appropriate student level - limited options
    - 5. Talk with faculty
      - a. Could make a new addition to web page for job options
      - b. Could have a list of jobs on campus you could get
        - i. Know what on-campus faculty positions there are
- g. Help with university applications/scholarships
  - i. Writing applications for university and scholarships
  - ii. Barrier for a lot of students - not knowing what to put on an application
  - iii. Workshops for high schools for university essays?
  - iv. Things learned over time - difficult for people who put in the work to express why they are a strong candidate, sell yourself
  - v. Could work with STEM outreach? School outreach - already has connections to high schools
  - vi. Time pressing - are we looking to set up relations to high schools in advance - in fall people are already submitting applications
    - 1. Meeting with schools this year?
  - vii.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **DSS meetings**

- **Not ready in time for 28th**
- **One last council meeting before AGM - leave them online**
- F and G meeting**
- **No need for them to be in person**
- **Get numbers from faculty - what the average fee is looking like**
  - **Finding a minimum**
  - **Talk to Dean!**
  - **Is there some fees we can cover - what is feasible to help with**

