**DSS Council Meeting**

October 19th, 2015

Chair: Mitch Coupland

1. **Introduction** 
   1. Meagan: If you are not receiving DSS meeting reminder email, see Meagan at end of meeting or message dss@dal.ca
2. **Role Call**
3. **Acceptance of agenda**
   1. Agenda received
   2. Motion by Ola to move the discussion of the budget to section 6. a., before divestment, seconded by Hugo, passed
   3. Motion by Tori to table Faculty of Science committee, seconded by Ola, passed
   4. Motion by Julia to accept the agenda, seconded by Nic, passed
4. **Acceptance of minutes**
   1. Minutes received
   2. Motion by Emily to accept the minutes as distributed, seconded by Shelby, passed
5. **Communications received**
   1. Meagan: Proxys were sent from DABS, MSSDU, and UNS
6. **New Business**
   1. Budget
      1. Presented to Finance and Grants Committee at last meeting, October 5th
      2. Totals can be seen in budget document on the website
      3. Debit:
         1. Levees from last year, but are higher than reported
         2. Sales, no revenue
         3. Total revenue of $64624
      4. Credit:
         1. Disbursement are higher than reported
         2. 20% of levees for Grants
         3. 15% of levees for events include mental health day, symposium, gala
            1. Lower for 1st year event
         4. Repurchase projector
         5. 9.2% for ~$5000 Honoraria
         6. Executive retreat, website, awards to societies
         7. Total expenses of $44000
      5. Surplus of $20000
      6. Motion by Tori to pass the 2015/2016 DSS budget, seconded by Thomas, passed
   2. Divestment
      1. Simon, previous undergraduate involved in Divestment: divestment is based on the fact that fossil fuels are causing climate change. 5300000000 investment in climate change, which is inherently wrong. Mainly at the faculty level, professors have been writing letters, both positive and negative, regarding divestment. For students, we need to support divestment in order to push forward the movement.
      2. Tori: Last year we voted to support DSU divestment. Today’s vote is to support divestment at the Dalhousie level. The acting Dean of Science’s report on divestment highlights how it will negative affect the faculties.
      3. Mitch: Because this is an important topic for consensus, we will be using a two-thirds majority vote. First, we will discuss divestment, then we will vote on approval of a statement from the discussion on the DSS opinion of divestment.
         1. Discussion opens for 7 minutes
         2. Tori: statement should include that DSS supports or does not support Dalhousie Divestment and give reason.
            1. If the DSS concludes that we do not support Dal Divestment, it would be since several students in our faculty are funded and afforded co op jobs through these large companies: these opportunities would be at risk if we divest. It is irresponsible to put our students at risk; we must stand to not support divestment since these are our students and the other overarching societies will support divestment.
         3. Alice: How would funding of scholarships from these companies be affected? Tori: It is uncertain if companies will stop supporting these programs and how much they will stop supporting if we divest, but there is a risk.
         4. Thomas: Divesting means that there is an option to invest otherwise.
         5. Caitlyn, a student in Geology: It is important to have these investments in fossil fuels since research comes through there.
         6. Alice: Divestment means a stance which goes beyond university. Divesting from fossil fuels contributes to clean energy movement.
         7. Ola: We are voting on the stance of the DSS in our letter on behalf of science students, so despite the fact that fossil fuels are harmful we cannot support divestment since it negatively impacts our students.
            1. Motion by Kasey to extend the discussion by 5 minutes, seconded by Nic
         8. Cat: Is it possible to be neutral on divestment? Tori: Fully supporting DSU divestment, but not support Dal divestment is a way to communicate our level of support.
            1. Kat: Not supporting seems harsh and dismissive. Tori: The letter on our stance must still address the negative consequences to the Faculty of Science.
         9. Shelby: Are there any positive outcomes for the Faculty of Science from divesting? Tori: Likely only positive outcomes are from the moral sense.
            1. Shelby: Other opportunities to invest would be presented? Tori: Possible, but unknown. Nic: possibility for other companies to fill the scholarships loss, but it is largely hearsay. Since the fossil fuel companies are already guaranteeing funding this would be a risk.
         10. Shelby: How dependent are students in co op on the jobs from these companies? Graham, Earth science student in co op: Only one co op position is from Shell and no other petroleum jobs are offered from large fossil fuel companies, however, however there is funding being put into other areas of the department.
         11. Kat: If students individually disagree with investing in co op jobs, they can exert their personal belief in divestment by not applying for these co op positions. Other students should be left the opportunity to make this decision for themselves; this cannot occur if Dal divests, thus robbing students of opportunities to decide for themselves.
         12. Nic: In discussion from last year on DSU divestment, it was noted that there is only a small chance that funding will be pulled since it would reflect poorly on the company to take fund away from a dependent university simply because they pulled a small amount of investment. It remains unfair to put students at risk within our faculty however small the risk.
         13. Simon: Divestment is a matter which concerns climate change, which is drastic. Immediate action is required. This is a tangible change that is offered: this a long term investment in the planet, not a university action.
             1. Motion by Dave to extend discussion by 5 minutes, seconded by Shelby
         14. Tori: Based on the letters that Faculties are sending in, both Faculty of Science and Engineering will be opposed to Dal divestment. We have a responsibility to all of the science students to represent them appropriately.
             1. Due to time, will not read the letter from the Faculty of Science, but there was some degree of confidence within the Faculty of Science that some funding would be lost.
         15. Emily: While the environment is important, the small amount in money invested in these companies by Dalhousie will not largely impact them. Personally unsure if the statement is worth the risk of the loss of funding at Dalhousie.
         16. Yvonne, environmental science student: Divestment could be beneficial to biology and marine biology since more green energy investment would draw more research into those departments. This could help balance the loss from the Earth Science department. Additionally, more attention would be drawn to Dalhousie, benefiting the university as a whole since green energy research would make Dalhousie more reputable. This is of long term importance and investment changes will become harder to make in the future. This short term disruption will set a prescient.
         17. Alice: Are there any statistics on how divestment would impact funding? Tori: No consensus. The letters from Faculty of Science indicate that funding loss would be substantial, but some investors have said otherwise.
         18. Mitch: When is the DSS stance response required? Tori: as soon as possible. Dave: Senate were supposed to meet September 15th to discuss divestment, which was extended to October 15th; however, Senate is accepting late submissions. Senate meets every three weeks and ad hoc meets frequently for discussion.
             1. Mitch: Therefore, we cannot table this decision.
         19. Thomas: Each society can also contribute their specific opinion to the letter movements, so despite the DSS decision, you can be specifically represented.
         20. Mitch: since this discussion is necessary and cannot be tabled, we will overrule 17 minute maximum
             1. Motion by Thomas, to extend discussion by 6 minutes, seconded by Allister
         21. Dave: It makes more sense to air on the side of caution when information is lacking, so it might be a good idea to table or stay neutral. Tori: No information will be released: there is only speculation on both sides, which makes this a difficult issue; however, due to the risk to our students, we need to come to a decision.
         22. Allister: Can you clarify whether we are currently writing a statement or voting to support. Tori: We are deciding on our stance for the Dean on Dalhousie divestment.
         23. Motion by Alice to dissolve DSS written stance and allow individual societies to write their stance.
             1. Thomas: Since there is no cohesive decision, representation is difficult. Hearing from individual societies is more representative.
             2. Kasey: As we are already late in putting forward a letter, it is best to keep this decision within the DSS
             3. Motion inconsistent with DSS power over D level societies, rejected by Chair
         24. Kat: Can we be neutral or inconclusive? Tori: Yes, the DSS can adopt any stance.
         25. Julia: Are we voting now? Tori: Yes. Julia: What are the options for alternative voting? Tori: Inconclusive is the default if no consensus is reached.
         26. Shelby: It is best to allow everyone to voice opinions before we discuss alternative stances.
         27. Thomas: A two thirds majority is not representative since only a few societies are affected negatively. Tori: It is possible in our letter to highlight that many people are not affected at all but these few people negatively affected, who are minimized in voting, contributed to the neutral stance. Meagan: A strong stance more useful to drive change; minimization of the affected D levels will compound at Dalhousie level. Alice: Accuracy is more important than impact.
         28. Ola: If the DSS is indeed neutral, we can outline the positive and negative affects on our constituents causing net neutral stance.
      4. Motion by Tori to not support, remain neutral, or be in support of Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean by the simple majority vote
         1. Adam: Neutral wording indicates not caring.
         2. Nic: Discussion seems to indicate the we are inconclusive. Tori: Wording will be representative of discussion from the minutes. Alice: An actual detailed statement would make it easier to gauge opinion and reflect our stance.
         3. Motion withdrawn due to split of votes indicating inconclusive, not neutral
      5. Motion by Kasey for temperature check to screen voting in order to determine if largely inconclusive, identified as inconclusive
         1. Tori: Elaborating the statement will allow us to explain how our circumstance.
      6. Motion by Tori to remain inconclusive on Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean with explanation in detail, seconded by Nic, fails
         1. Chair: Further motions without specified simple majority require two thirds majority to pass
      7. Motion by Nic to remain inconclusive on Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean without any explanation, seconded by Julia, fails
         1. Revote called by Alice, fails
      8. Motion by Ola to not support Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean without any explanation, seconded by Meagan, fails
      9. Shelby: Is it possible not to comment on the topic? Mitch: No consensus means defaulting to inconclusive. Tori: However, some people will not be happy without a voted conclusion, since last year when voting to support DSU divestment, Dean assumed our stance on Dalhousie divestment, which had not indeed been discussed
      10. Motion by Alice to table discussions of divestment
          1. Tori: The DSS have a stance of some sort.
          2. Meagan: tabling effectively means inconclusive, except we are not being proactive by sending any letter or statement to the Dean, which was already due. Thomas: If we table discussion, is there no letter sent? Tori: A letter would only be sent by motion with our stance if decided.
          3. Motion withdrawn
      11. Revote called by Shelby on motion by Nic to remain inconclusive on Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean without any explanation, seconded by Julia, withdrawn
          1. Tori: Detail would be requested anyway.
          2. Thomas: It doesn’t make sense to restrict what Tori can say.
          3. Adam: Despite not giving detail, it would be evident that we have considered the positive and negative. Mitch: It is possible to give some general detail.
          4. Shelby: Contributing detail means that there is less of a stance since you are inviting argument. It is best not to go into the reasons, only to state our side of the argument when we present a letter of our stance.
          5. Thomas: Is it possible to ask the different societies for their opinions in your stance? General detail acknowledging existence, not specifying each
          6. Mitch: If we provide detail, we all need to agree on it, since it’s a stance that we are all taking. Alice: This makes it easier to say no detail. Nic: Most agree the general level of detail acknowledging the two sides in faculty. Kasey: No detail in the formal statement is fine, but it will be asked and would not make sense to fail to answer.
          7. Meagan: These minutes are public since they are posted to the website, so it doesn’t make sense to restrict details from our discussion.
          8. Tori: DSS reasoning has previously discussed with Dean.
      12. Motion by Alice to remain inconclusive on Dalhousie divestment during statement to Dean with no specifically detailed explanation, seconded by Yvonne, passes
   3. Evidence for Democracy’s Pledge to Science
      1. Kasey: At the last advocacy committee meeting, Allister brought up pledge for science, which is non-political rally to make decisions based on evidence, not hearsay. Signing the pledge is one way to indicate to the Canadian government that we wish for them to allow scientists to be more forthcoming and open.
         1. The pledge states: “I believe that all Canadians benefit when governments solicit, collect and use the evidence and expertise needed to make smart policy decisions that safeguard the health, safety and prosperity of Canadians. I support actions that invest in public-interest science; ensure open, honest and timely communication of scientific information; and make public the evidence considered in government decisions”
      2. Allister: Transparency in science is obviously necessary.
      3. Motion by Thomas to end discussion, seconded by Kat, passes
      4. Motion by Hugo to sign the Evidence for Democracy’s Pledge to Science, seconded by Julia Guk, passes
7. **Appointments to committees** 
   1. Environmental Affairs Committee (1 Councilor)
      1. Position elaborated by Kat: The environmental affairs committee liaises with green societies to promote events and represent the DSS in the environmental community.
      2. Trevor self-nominated, seconded by Adele
      3. Election nominations closed
         1. Trevor: passionate about humans and continuation
            1. Kat: Are you older than over 19? Trevor: Yes
      4. Trevor elected as final councilor for environmental affairs committee by unanimous consent
   2. Constitution Committee (3 Councilors)
      1. Position elaborated by Mitch: This position is important. You will meet for 1 – 2 hours once per semesters to propose amendments to the constitution. The constitution guides us as a society.
      2. Meagan self-nominated, seconded by Thomas
      3. Adam self-nominated, seconded by Adele
      4. Hugo nominated by Thomas, declined
      5. Thomas nominated by Tori, declined
      6. Kasey self-nominated, seconded by Emily
      7. Election nominations closed
         1. Meagan: Was on the constitution committee last year and it was a really good way to learn about the society and how it should function; I’ve read the constitution many times by now.
         2. Kasey: Never previously on the committee and have never read the constitution, but wishes to change it,
         3. Adam: 4th year who would like to see the nitty gritty of the rules
      8. Meagan, Kasey, and Adam elected as constitution committee by unanimous consent
   3. Social Committee (unlimited)
      1. Position elaborated by Adele: Meetings every second week to plan events.
      2. Shelby nominated by Tori, accepted, seconded by Julia
      3. Julia nominated by Shelby, accepted, seconded by Adele
      4. Julia Guk nominated by Adele, declined
      5. Election nominations closed
         1. Shelby: Wishes to plan fun events
         2. Julia: 3rd year in Microbiology who wishes to plan fun social events
      6. Shelby and Julia elected as social committee by unanimous consent
8. **Appointments to Faculty of Science committee**
   1. Faculty of Science Committee (3 students)
      1. Previous motion tabled
   2. Award for Excellence in Teaching (2 students)
      1. Position elaborated by Tori: In this position you give awards to professors in faculty of science, Generally there are no meetings but the Faculty of Science says that DSS needs to elect this position.
      2. Thomas self-nominated, seconded by Ola
      3. Ola self-nominated, seconded by Emily
      4. Election nominations closed
         1. Thomas: I’m awesome because I love teaching and teachers. I would like to decide awards. Marine biology student.
         2. Ola: I love teachers as well. The chemistry society has nomination for good professors.
      5. Ola and Thomas elected as Faculty of Science Award for excellence in teaching committee by unanimous consent
9. **Election and installment of officers**
   1. DISP Rep
      1. Position elaborated by Mitch: A liaison between Science and DISP
      2. Mona nominated by Meagan, accepts, seconded by Emily
      3. Election nominations closed
         1. Mona: Really likes the sciences and is very outgoing, in DISP and wishes to get involved
      4. Mona elected as DISP representative by unanimous consent
   2. King’s Rep
      1. Position elaborated by Mitch: A King’s student council member who will liaison between Science and King’s
      2. Motion by Meagan to table the election of the King’s representative, seconded by Thomas, passes
         1. Allister: Was this position advertised? Meagan: No, but we had an applicant respond through Paul.
10. **Business of the Executive** 
    1. President’s report
    2. Vice President’s report
    3. Director of Finance’s report
    4. Director of Communication’s report
    5. Director of Student Life’s report
    6. Director of Marketing’s report
    7. Chairpersons Report
11. **Reports of Committees and Societies** 
    1. Finance & Grants
    2. Environmental Affairs
    3. Curriculum Committee
    4. First Year Rep
    5. DISP Rep
    6. DABS
    7. DAMS
    8. DAPS
    9. DBSS
    10. DOUGS
    11. DUESA
    12. DUMASS
    13. DUPS
    14. DUUCS
    15. Dawson
    16. EPSS
    17. SIMS
    18. MSSDU
    19. UNS
    20. DSU Rep
        1. Bike lane
        2. SUB renovations
        3. Committee for improving DSU constitution
        4. Fall reading week
        5. Board of governors meeting in 3pm in McDonald on October 20th
        6. Aaron’s previous question about leaving CASA, Allister: since the other school did not abide by CSF constitutional they were fined, however, we left correctly
12. **Question and Answer Period** 
    1. Thomas: What societies are allowed to advertise events? Can we advertise drinking events? Tori: DSU rules from risk management state that you cannot advertise drink prices, otherwise you can advertise as you please.
    2. Hugo: When is the next Finance and Grants meeting. Ola: Next Monday, October 5th, 2015 at 7:30pm in Health Professionals Lounge.
    3. Hugo: Until when will you accept homecoming photos? Tori: Tomorrow, Tuesday October 20th at noon
13. **Announcements** 
    1. Tori: send photos for Homecoming competition.
    2. Tori: next meeting, on November 2nd is a Halloween themed meeting. There will be a prize for best costume.
    3. Kasey: At next meeting we will discuss a sweater order.
14. **Adjournment** 
    1. Motion by Nic to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emily, passed