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|  | **Dalhousie Medical Students’ Society**  **Meeting Minutes for 16-02-2017**  **6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**  Halifax Location: Room 2L7, Tupper Building  Saint John Location: Room 221, DMNB Saint John |

Present: Fiona M, Willem B, Leanne D, Mary P, Courtney G, Niko M, Meghan P, Kelcy M, Chad L, Emma B, Patrick H, Melissa P, Chansey V, Ola K, Matt Le, Matt Lo, Brent Y, Sam A, Rob D, Emma C, Landan M, Sam B, Tess R, Rosa K, Anna D, Russell C, Sarah L, Sarah B, Mike V, Amber M, Saif S, Sarah T, Alexandra T, Marissa L, Henry A, Anna M

*\*Samantha Bland voting proxy for Laura Faulkner*

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approve agenda**

Motion to approve agenda by MV, seconded by RC, motion carried

1. **Approve of last meeting’s minutes**

Motion to approve last meeting’s min by MV, seconded by MM, motion carried

1. **Approve Officers’ reports**

Motion to approve Officer reports by MM, seconded by ST, motion carried

1. **Question period**

none

1. **Unfinished business**
   1. **Discussion re. NB skilled Clinician and Electives Rep** *(tabled from last meeting)*

*Robert Dunfield*

RD: Approached by James Fowler in 2nd year without a NB Clin Skills rep. This is the year when we need it. James found out a couple months ago about Skilled Clinician consult meetings occurring over the years with students over the past 4 or 5 months and that there hasn’t been an NB student but James Kiberd has been there and hasn’t been seeing the NB experience. James thought it’d be a good idea to create an elected position every year. Also no position for NB Electives Rep so perhaps this position could be tied together. Could we get guidance about how this can happen?

MM: What are these meetings?

RD: James K knows more about the meetings.

CG: The meetings that exist around Skilled Clinician – Dr. Miller chairs a monthly Skilled Clinician meeting, I read the minutes and the reps go. I assumed there was an NB rep going, but you’re right that it is what James has been doing. I thinking adding an NB rep is the best idea! There is a Skilled Clinician working group in the fall every year, and James Fowler was there for that one so perhaps that is why I thought he was going to the NB meetings. That is a discussion about portfolio changes. There is also an IPE meeting that is linked to Skilled Clinician chaired by Dr. Miller, and there is an NB rep on that one.

RD: James has been doing this as a non-official position too so it’d be nice to get some credit for that.

CG: Was James the first year rep?

RD: He was elected in 1st year Class Council, but no rep in 2nd year

CG: NB faculty thought he continued as a Skilled Clinician rep, so it must have been a mixed message

RD: Can we say that the first year rep is a 2nd year rep?

MM: Courtney, can you say what those two things are again?

CG: There are monthly Skilled Clinician meetings as well as once a year small working group where invites are sent out for etc, as well as IPE meeting (but that is a separate position).

NM: There isn’t a position in NB in second year, so adding that as a 1 year position will work

MM: I’ll fire the Terms of Reference and we’ll vote on it at another date

RD: When will the elections take place?

MM: End of April/beginning of May

ST: If elections are before next meeting, we can do an e-vote

* 1. **Motion re. DSU motion to boycott Halifax Pride – Brent Young and Mary Purcell** *(tabled from last meeting)*



MP: Late fall or early winter, someone brought up boycotting Halifax Pride due to events occurring at fall meeting that year (saying they created an unsafe space for Black & Indigenous individuals) – they asked for a list of things for Halifax Pride to improve on until they can join them. Myself and other counsellors disagreed with it, but it was voted on so DMSS has boycotted. It was a bit uncomfortable and he outlined things they did to mediate/move forward for issues they had as a board (hiring an executive director by an external HR person, not someone internally to deal with executive decisions; a new board member representing transgender; and outlined they are continuing to work with communities that are affected). It was not received at all by the DSU to work collaboratively with them. I think DMSS should make it known in writing that we do not support it.

BY: Speaking to this, the person who brought the motion forward to DSU who consulted constituency of Gay and Indigenous people at Dal, which I don’t think was correct so I agree with Mary

WB: I was chair of Halifax Pride for the past 2 years, and Morgan Mason took over for me in October. If anyone knows about the queer community, you hear a lot about lots of movement and shaking and we were at epicenter of that back at Halifax Pride AGM in the fall. These disputes have led to an overall theme that the greater queer community is not representing QBIPOC and trans communities as we should be. These are legitimate concerns. We expect an atmosphere of collaboration. We’ve had lots of meetings, but those things are part of the course for us. We have forged a certain segment of the community that don’t agree with what we’re doing but still maintain an open relationship with us to collaborate. The DSU meeting was difficult, and it is posted online for anyone to watch. There was a fair amount of hostility at the meeting, so I am happy to be approached for an approach of DMSS towards the DSU. I think other colleges are doing the same thing. I am happy to give any more background from my perspective.

RC: This is great. I remember being involved and knew this was happening. I was wondering as DMSS if we can step it to show the DSU how wrong they are by participating in Pride assuming this motion passes today.

CL: Aside from the symbolism of boycotting Pride, what is the DSU providing? Was there space or financial agreement?

MP: There was no financial support DSU gave Halifax Pride, it just meant they wouldn’t put a float in the parade, etc. In terms of who follows this up, there is a new DSU Executive, so there will be new people not involved with who do this. I will bring it to the attention of the new President.

**MOTION DETAILS**

**Brent Young and Mary Purcell:**

WHEREAS the DMSS appreciates the important role Halifax Pride has played in the LGBT2Q+ community since 1988;

AND WHEREAS the DMSS acknowledges that Halifax Pride was involved in a situation that caused considerable pain to the Queer Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (QBIPOC) community;

AND WHEREAS Halifax Pride has apologized and developed a plan to provide a more inclusive space for the QBIPOC community;

AND WHEREAS the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has passed a motion to boycott Halifax Pride indefinitely;

AND WHEREAS the DMSS recognizes the importance of a timely resolution of the conflict between Halifax Pride and the DSU;

BE IT RESOLVED that the DMSS opposes a boycott of Halifax Pride by the DSU;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the DMSS encourages the DSU to play a more collaborative role in the reform of Halifax Pride;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the DMSS calls on the DSU to provide an inclusive space for all parties and seek a resolution to this matter before June 2017.

Motion seconded by CG, motion carried

1. **New business**
   1. **Terms of Reference Amendments**

*Mike MacGillivary*

MM: See DMSS Constitution 2017-2018 – If you have any questions as we go along, we can discuss throughout or as they’re finished.

SB: For Global Health Liasion, please change it from 1 to 2 total votes (1 Halifax, 1 NB)

MM: Thanks! I have been talking to Henry. It used to be VP External as VP External Junior & Senior – now VP External Junior is VP External and VP External Senior is Past VP External; the vote will switch from VP External Senior to VP External Junior

RC: Wouldn’t it make sense for a 3rd year to be represented on Council as VP External Junior?

HA: Would the VP External Senior be a better position to deal with issues from the past?

MM: Sometimes the third year may not be able to get to the event and would have to pass off their vote anyway so then VP External Junior would take the vote. They are the ones who go to the CFMS meeting.

AT: All emails are sent to both VP External Senior & Junior and you can see when they have replied. The first year position would be well supported and still able to vote.

MM: That has changed throughout the document to reflect that change.

CL: Since some positions cannot apply for 2 DMSS positions anymore, how does that work for Class Council positions? For example, if they are a DMSS position, can they not be Class President?

MM: That’s correct, one person cannot hold two voting positions on DMSS. The only exception is the Past-President may also hold the co-President position of the Med3 or Med4 class, therefore giving them 1.5 votes on Council. The reason being voting positions normally have a robust portfolio; managing two such portfolios may be overwhelming.

RC: Regarding Euphoria charity selection, Terms of Reference says all DMSS members can vote but that was misconstrued that only the Council can vote. However, when we wrote on it, we said that everyone can vote.

MM: Do you think having general members of the society should be privy of financial makings of those societies that are applying? Is that fair to put that to all students?

RC: I think it said for people who attend meetings to do this.

LD: I had this issue this year because it wasn’t fully clear in the Terms of Reference. It was clear anyone could nominate a charity but it was not specific on who gets to vote (whether it should be voting members only or all DMSS members). Several of the charities had indicated that they wouldn’t want the budget/sponsorship/other confidential information circulated to a lot of people, so I didn’t think that was fully appropriate to forward it to 400+ people. I’m not sure how to move forward regarding updating the terms of reference.

MM: Perhaps move it to an Off-Camera discussion at the DMSS meeting and then not have it in the minutes to satisfy both criteria.

LD: It’s also a 3-2-1 ranking form. It’s unclear.

RC: We did it in the meeting and ranked on a paper ballot. Whoever leads that next year can do what they like, but it may be better to do during the meeting.

LD: There were a lot of charities and application pages are 6-7 pages each.

SA: In-camera also means only council can vote on it.

MM: There is a rank order about who can go to the CFMS meeting (Spring General Meeting in April of each other). The outgoing president, who has knowledge of school and inner workings of CFMS< would have 2 votes. Outgoing (Past) VP External would hold 2 votes, etc.

RD: VP DMNB has been funding themselves to go. This year, we had both VP Global Health Senior attended with VP DMNB, but we can send 1 person if we don’t have enough funding.

EC: At least 1 person can attend.

HA: Student Diversity Inclusion Rep, how does that work?

MM: That will be in the ToR document.

Motion to approve Constitutional Changes to be brought forward to AGM by MM, seconded by RC, motion carried

* 1. **Discussion – Environmental stability at Dal Med**

*Anna McLean*

AM: This year, the Global Health Advocate theme is environmental stability. Schools across country have been trying to identify if we have enough representation or things going on in environmental sustainability world. I’m bringing this up as a preliminary step to see if Dal needs environmental sustainability as a position or perhaps interest group. There hasn’t been anything going on in NB, and I’ve heard similarly in Halifax. I’ve brought this up to get a discussion ongoing and to see if any ideas about how this could look. This has been suggested as other an Interest Group or a role of Environmental Sustainability representative.

CL: On a society level, I’m unaware of any environmental sustainability rep. In 2007, we had a Environmental Sustainability Office in the DSU, and students can be involved with that and it works with Environmental Sustainability across the whole campus.

MM: If that office is open on Halifax side, I wonder if someone can check it out and see what the office offers and see how we could fit in on that as a society. Not sure about UNB.

AM: What does the office do?

CL: See their objectives online. They are funded out of the DSU budget, and they have office space in the SUB.

RC: I know the CMA released a policy statement on Climate Change. I wonder if this is out of the scope of the DMSS with unclear goals for position. Interest Group is a great idea and it may be funded, but I don’t think it’s in current scope & practice for a position.

RD: I wanted to add that I think this is something – I was surprised we didn’t have anything like this coming into Med 1 especially since Environmental stewardship is something we should promote and work towards. If we do end up moving forward with position, there should be both NB and Halifax perspectives and thus those needs should be met. I do have a question too – is there any movement or position at all through the CFMS that addresses environmental concerns?

RC: Moved by Henry, there is a position for this. Seconded by Kit and Manu. The CFMS is going to create a CFMS Task Force on Environment and Health.

RD: Do we need to create positions since this just passed through CFMS? Will they need representatives through each medical school to create positions anyway?

AT: Nothing is forced, this is just a Position Paper

SB: The idea is to see what is needed, not a requirement to make mandatory positions

AT: Anna, I’d suggest looking at Manu’s paper and contact both Manu and Kit to see if they’re interested in starting something.

AM: This was on the National Officers Human Rights and Peace – a collaborative effort between HART and seeing whether Dal needs something like this. I can get in touch with Kit about this and we’re going to discuss it. Some people have suggested we could have a role to address, this being relevant to DMSS, to increase awareness such as composting initiative for Dal Med facility as well as recycling (ie. involved in those logistics and pioneering those). I haven’t seen much interest about an Interest Group at this point, and I don’t think we should force something but I figured posing it to you to see what should constitute a role on DMSS.

ST: Contact other schools to see if they have any positions like this or what they do for sustainability on campus. I can help you out with getting contacts.

AM: Everyone across Canada in Global Health Advocate positions are in the preliminary phases, but that is a good point!

CL: I agree with Russell, I can’t envision a role for someone to be involved with sustainability in the council. If we can think about ways to promote it. People who are interested in that could work through the DSU Sustainability Office to make changes effective.

HA: University of Calgary has successfully created a position on their council as well as University of Alberta. University of Toronto is going towards Interest Group road. I was wondering, SB, is there maybe a role on GHI that someone could sit on?

SB: All the positions on GHI mirror what is done at CFMS level. Since there is not currently a CFMS position for Environmental Sustainability, I’d be hesitant to create a new role not fitting in National format. However, GHI has funding to support a group (position, Interest Group etc) or alternatively it could be written in ToR in several GHI positions to consider Environmental Sustainability etc. In terms of position, it doesn’t fit format we have now.

* 1. **Discussion – Class Ring – developed by the DMAA**

*Sarah Tremaine*

ST: I was at a DMAA meeting, and they have a vision to make a faculty-specific ring for all graduates if you want to buy it. These are pictures of other programs’ rings and the prices of their rings. We want to see if this is something we’re interested and what type of price we’d want to pay? The cheapest ring is $250, most expensive is $1600.

RC: If DMAA wants to create something for us, guaranteed people will be interested in it.

ST: Design is also up for discussion.

SA: We had them in Pharmacy, and a few companies came in to display rings & prices. However, it sounds like it’s just one ring.

ST: You pick the size you want, but they’d all be the same. If there were a ring, how many people would consider buying a ring? (Some hands raised)

* 1. **Discussion – ISA added to the Dalhousie Medicine Website**

*Sarah Tremaine*

ST: I was approached by Dean Anderson about posting the ISA on the Dalhousie Medicine website. University of Calgary did this last year, and it’s been used as a resource by us and other schools going for accreditation as well. Concerns would be anecdotal comments within ISA but there are certain sections of ISA that would have smaller numbers of students responding and putting comments in, so that I think would be the main concern. Realistically, it was an anonymous comment but it has been made public by other schools.

MM: Can Kit take those comments out to ensure it is anonymous? The chance would be very low that these comments would identify someone, but eliminating them would assure anonymity.

* 1. **DMAA Student Funding and DMNB**

*Robert Dunfield*

RD: I met with Dr. Steeves, president of DMNB DMAA, and we were trying to find connection between DMAA and DMSS. He said that every year that DMAA has a Gala that raises funds for students and those funds go to the DMSS (went from $12,000 to $14,000) and it is kept in the Halifax pot. He was concerned that there has never been an NB student who has received money through this pot, as none of the students have been invited to the Gala. I was hoping to see if portion of funds could be transferred to DMSS DMNB, not sure what that number would be but it would help us out a lot when crunching the numbers.

SS: This is part of an ongoing discussion about distributing funds between the two campuses. It appears that Halifax receives the bulk of incoming funding, but there is also funding coming to DMNB that just stays in NB as well. Emma and I have been discussing ways to collaborate the budgets from the campuses to see where incoming funds come from both places. We want to find the number to see where funding is the same but we still haven’t determined that number yet.

EC: A per person amount of funding for Interest Groups makes sense to make it equitable between the two campuses, but the main goal that I’m in charge of is money from DMNB Admin and it covers gas & accommodations for traveling to Halifax. Looking at per person basis, we would have more but excluding that it would be ideal to have us at a per person same amount of money.

RD: My question is how do we move forward in transferring some of the DMAA meeting to make it available to DMNB students since right now it is not available.

CL: I was wondering if DMNB and Dalhousie Halifax fees pay the same student fees.

EC: At DMNB, we may $10 to DSU as satellite campus student but the rest of our fees go through Dal and UNB SJ to see where our student fee money goes. We as DMNB DMSS don’t receive any fees that they’re paying back to us. Only income is admin gives us a bit of money at beginning of the year with the goal to fund travel between the two campuses and then letting things happen with some wiggle room but not a lot.

MM: In terms of funding, to have it just for Halifax students is not fair; getting that a bit over to DMNB is fair. I’ll talk to Saif to use in my report to DMAA but maybe we’ll continue this conversation offline.

LD: In terms of Interest Group funding, why don’t we add our DMSS NB counterparts to the Interest Group committee and have all those interest groups run under the ToR written here. There are some interest groups in NB not in the same format we have here, so perhaps we can put call out for Interest Group applications for the whole school and then add NB constituents to the Committee to divide funds appropriately.

RD: It would be double the work due to duplicate number of Interest Groups and it’d make reimbursement a bit more complicated.

LD: You only are allowed a certain amount per capita, but otherwise we just decide it fairly across all groups.

SS: There will be logistic issues for 1 centre for all Interest Group decision making. We put a limit on how much we want to fund food, for example, which may not apply to NB. Similarly, trying to get people money from NB when we’re here in Halifax; if we play a more central role, it’ll further compound that issue.

EC: For amount of money that we receive for Interest Groups, we can try to be more cohesive between 2 committees (1 NB, 1 Halifax). But it is difficult to send cheques back and forth.

* 1. **Discussion – Food Services**

*Mary Purcell*

MP: I got about 220 responses so far, 91% response rate is unhappy. Food Services rep contacted Dean Anderson to see who put this out, and I’m meeting with them tomorrow. 1 option is extending menu at Starbucks (ex. yogurts, salads, etc) as well an addition of a lunch-type office where the vending machines are located. Any thoughts about this? I’ll also bring up about possible food in the CHEB.

MM: Greg McNutt and the Dean said there’d be something across from Starbucks. The Dean said Pete’s, but I’m not sure. We do have the IWK across the road for anyone concerned.

MP: Would people rather have a presentation from Heather Sutherland or through me? Okay I’ll just report back.

* 1. **Discussion – Personal Days in clerkship? Is there a policy? Do students use them or have trouble getting them?**

*Meghan Plotnick*

MP: I’m on the CFMS Wellness Committee, and we’re working on a Position Statement trying to get all schools to have the same Personal Day policy. One of the things that we’re trying to do it figure out what is going on at every school. In pre-clerkship, the policy says you can take a Personal Day any day but it was removed last year with understanding that Clerks could take days off if they wanted but it’s not in formal policy. I wanted to know if this policy was explained in Peer, and is there stigma against using them?

ML: There used to be 3 personal days in Clerkship that you could take for what reason you wanted to. A lot of people took them the Friday before an exam, so they removed them because it wasn’t realistic that we could randomly take 3 days off in a year. I thought this wasn’t right since you can have vacation hours in a job. Now it is you can have sick days and no explanation needed unless 3 days in a row. The issue is that people are using Sick Days as their own personal days. Most students have trouble doing that, so half of the class will do it for a day off and the other half won’t do it because it is not the rule. We’ve approached Student Affairs many times, and they keep saying they’ll look into it. If you have to go to a wedding, it’s up to UGME to approve it or not. I got to go to my partner’s graduation, for example, but you need a reason to apply for a personal day (ie. 6 weeks in advance) unless it is a Sick Day. It will be sent to the Program Directors for Clerkship to approve the day off. If you feel like you need a Personal Day for whatever reason, you can take a sick day (but perhaps it can be a Mental Health day).

MP: Do people use them?

MM: It depends on how informed you’re are. There’s no information about this. I know people took 3 personal days during surgery and it affected their evaluation.

MP: What about a conference or something academic?

MM: Submit 6 weeks in advance and get approval from UGME to send them out to departments for approval before you are granted for the leave. With Dr. Sutton on board, it’s a bit easier to get time off for these types of leaves, but there’s less policy about Mental Health or personal days. Perhaps drafting something on UGME side of things would help with this. There are people who took days and others play them by the book (perhaps discrepancies between campuses that we want to sort out).

ML: Student Affairs is aware of the concerns and hopefully they’ll bring it up to UGME. Speak to Dr. MacDonald for more help.

* 1. **Motion for in camera discussion**

*Matt Lowe*

Seconded by MM, motion carried

Motion to come out of in-camera discussion by ML, seconded by CL, motion carried

k. **Discussion – Professionalism Working Group – appointed position by DMSS, or role encompassed by existing position?**

*Michael Vaculik*

MV: I sit on the Professionalism Working Group, and we discuss all things professionalism going on with school (ex. ITERs, problems with Staff or incidence, etc), and we discuss how they integrate professionalism into our curriculum. They want a student to ask questions to. I was asked to take on this position by Vicky Smith, and they are asking for it to be a solid DMSS position to continue into the fall. Does this working group warrant a DMSS position?

ST: We have a Professionalism Representative who has no meetings to attend currently.

MM: Mark Bartolacci has this position. Does anyone from NB sit on this committee?

MV: Dr. Hall is there, but no NB students are on this. There is also a Professionalism Committee. Does anyone know who sits on that?

CG: I think it’s just Halifax, and I don’t think there’s a student on the committee (just as needed).

MV: I’ll write this in the Terms of Reference as part of the Professionalism Rep role.

HA: The ProComp reps don’t sit on this correct?

MV: This is institutional professionalism, not education (ie. ProComp Rep).

1. **Announcements?**
   1. **Accreditation update**

*Sarah Tremaine*

ST: I met with Dean Anderson. As far as Faculty is concerned, Accreditation went as well as it could have gone. They were very impressed with our school and, even more so, students who were thriving, happy and very engaged with school. I wanted to give you a low down; there were 6 points that the accreditors brought up about areas that need improvement to show more proof of changes we made: 1) faculty (looking for more diversity within Unit Heads, it’s very male dominated); 2) 1 particular Clerkship area that needed improvement; 3 and 4) career counselling and reporting of mistreatment (big changes made in our school over the past year but we don’t have the data to backup those changes); 5) availability of supports (moreso to do with wellness resources, a lack of evidence that they weren’t shown yet). These are quite minor things, and Dean Anderson expects nothing less than a full accreditation but we won’t have the final results until the fall.

* 1. **THANK YOU MEGHAN FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE MOST AMAZING/SUCCESSFUL WELLNESS WEEK!**

*Sarah T/Everyone*

ST: Virtually, all credit goes to Meghan Plotnick. She did an outstanding job. The team worked with her, but she did it all in a very nice way. For anyone lucky enough last Thursday night, the Mental Health Monologues event was one of the best events I’ve ever seen and I hope it continues next year!

* 1. **Informal DNS event (Brewery tour? Dinner? Any thoughts?)**

ML: DNS wants to fund another event. If you have any ideas, let me know.

* 1. **Congrats to Marissa LeBlanc (Med4) on winning the IMPACT Award for the Faculty of Medicine for this year**
* **Congrats to DMSS for winning the IMPACT Award for best Faculty Society for this year**
* **Congrats to Matthew To (Med4) for winning an IMPACT Award for community involvement**
  1. **Library doors**

MM: CHEB doors that go into the Tupper should be addressed by end of March…I will talk to other faculties about this (nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, etc). Also speeches tomorrow night at 6:30pm!

1. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by MV, seconded by ST , motion carried