

***The Constitution of the***  
***Dalhousie Medical Students' Society***

**Revised May 8, 2023**

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## **ARTICLE I** **THE SOCIETY**

### **SECTION 1 - Identity**

This society shall be called the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society, hereafter referred to as the DMSS.

### **SECTION 2 - Objectives**

The objectives of the DMSS shall be:

- a. To promote the interests and welfare of the local and global community as well as the undergraduate students of the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University with respect to their educational, professional, social and extracurricular endeavors.
- b. To serve as a liaison between the students and Faculty of Medicine.
- c. To maintain affiliation with the Medical Societies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.
- d. To ensure adequate and continuing student representation in all matters affecting undergraduate students with attention to both local and national issues.

### **SECTION 3 - The Crest**

The DMSS crest is shown in the accompanying design.



The pinecone symbolizes Hippocrates' pinecone which was believed “to possess great healing powers” and to be used by the king's physician to revive his royal master from fainting spells. The cone is placed in the hand of Aesculapius, the God of Medicine. The crest motto “Each one to Instruct Others” is taken from the “Seal of Cause” given by King James IV on October 13, 1506 to the Guild of Surgeons and Barbers of Edinburgh. The torse is added to put the whole insignia in the heraldic form of a crest.

### **SECTION 4 – The Logo**

The DMSS logo is shown in the accompanying design.



This logo shall serve in addition to the DMSS crest. While the crest remains the official “mark” of the DMSS, the logo was created to modernize DMSS branding, and may be used on letterheads, posters, or in any other fashion the DMSS Council deems fit.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1 - Identities and Definitions

The members of the DMSS shall be known as:

- a. **Executive:** shall include the President, Past President, and Vice Presidents.
- b. **Council:** shall include the voting members of the DMSS, including Executive members above.
- c. **Advisory members:** shall include the non-voting members of the DMSS.
- d. **Active members:** shall include the members of the DMSS who participate in one of the standing committees, who are not required to attend Council meetings.
- e. **General members:** shall include all students in the Dalhousie Medicine Undergraduate program.
- f. **Honorary members:** shall include the President of the University, the Dean and the members of the Faculty of Medicine, and such members as may be duly elected by the Executive of the DMSS.
- g. Membership of the DMSS is not limited by age, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, religion, country of origin, skin colour, physical and mental ability, or social class.

## ARTICLE III RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, OBLIGATIONS AND FEES OF MEMBERS

### SECTION 1 - Rights and Privileges

- a. Each member of the DMSS has the right and/or privilege to make, second, or support any motion of amendment, to raise questions of privilege, points of order, questions of appeal, or any other points of parliamentary practice at any general meeting of the DMSS.
- b. To vote at the annual election of officers, and on any and all questions affecting the DMSS, its members, or interests, at any general meeting of the DMSS.

- c. To hold any office within the DMSS having met the prerequisites for that office.
- d. To attend any DMSS Council meeting and to have the floor when recognized by the Chair.
- e. To have the member's membership fees for the Canadian Federation of Medical Students and Doctors Nova Scotia paid by the DMSS on their behalf.

### SECTION 2 - Obligations

- a. Each member shall be expected to pay any membership fee levied by the DMSS.
- b. Each member shall be expected to know and obey the rules and regulations of Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine, and its affiliated hospitals.

## ARTICLE IV ORGANIZATION

### SECTION 1 - Executive

The Executive members of the DMSS must be members of Dalhousie's Undergraduate Medical Program and shall consist of the following<sup>1</sup>:

- a. President
- b. Past-President (if applicable)
- c. Vice-President Medical Education (VP Med. Ed.)
- d. Vice-President Internal Affairs (VP Internal)
- e. Vice-President New Brunswick (VP NB)
- f. Vice-President External Affairs (VP External)
- g. Vice-President Communications (VP Communications)
- h. Vice-President Finance (VP Finance)
- i. Vice-President Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (VP EDI)

### SECTION 2 - Council Members

The Council members must be members of Dalhousie's Undergraduate Medical Program and shall consist of the following members<sup>1</sup>:

- a. The aforementioned Executive (9)
- b. Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Representative (1)
- c. Sports & Wellness Representatives (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  - i. The two representatives serve as one (1) total vote
  - ii. In the case that both Sports & Wellness Representatives are present, they shall come to an agreement between themselves, and one person will submit the vote
  - iii. For quorum purposes, the Sports & Wellness Representatives count as one (1) member
- d. DMNB Treasurer
- e. New Brunswick External Liaison
- f. DMNB Technology & Communications Representative

- g. Members-at-Large (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  - i. The two representatives serve as one (1) total vote
  - ii. Shall be Med 1 students
  - iii. In the case that both Members-at-Large are present, they shall come to an agreement between themselves, and one person will submit the vote
  - iv. For quorum purposes, the Members-at-Large count as one (1) member
- h. Global Health Liaison (GHL) Srs. (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  - i. The two representatives serve as two (2) total votes
  - ii. For quorum purposes, the GHL Srs. count as two (2) members
- i. Humanities Representatives (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  - i. The two representatives serve as one (1) total vote
  - ii. In the case that both Humanities Representatives are present, they shall come to an agreement between themselves, and one person will submit the vote
  - iii. For quorum purposes, the Humanities Representatives count as one (1) member
- j. Co-Presidents of the Med 1 to Med 4 classes (8; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS for each class)
  - i. The Co-Presidents of each class serve as one (1) total vote, where both are present, they shall come to an agreement between themselves, and one person will submit the vote
  - ii. For quorum purposes, the Co-Presidents of each class count as one (1) member

### SECTION 3 – Advisory Members

The Advisory members, who are non-voting members, shall include members of the DMSS as outlined in the DMSS Terms of Reference: Society Members' Roles and Responsibilities.

### SECTION 4 - Proxy

- a. Each member of the Council (i.e., voting member) shall be entitled to their own proxy should they be absent. The DMSS Chairperson should be notified of this in writing prior to the meeting.
- b. The GHL Jr. may vote as proxy for the GHL Sr., should the GHL Sr. be absent, without the requirement of prior notification.

## **ARTICLE V**

### NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FROM COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

### SECTION 1 – Schedule for General Elections & Appointments

- a. As outlined in Section 2 of DMSS Terms of Reference: Elections, Appointments, & Voting

### SECTION 2 – Responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

- a. The CRO shall be the VP External or another DMSS member as appointed by Council should the VP External identify a conflict of interest.
- b. Shall run nominations and ensure elections procedures are followed as per the requirements of this constitution and of the DMSS Terms of Reference: Elections & Appointments.
- c. Shall arrange for electronic voting to take place.
- d. Shall communicate with all nominees and candidates, and must provide information regarding deadlines, speeches, written submissions, and the DMSS Terms of Reference. The DMSS constitution must be made available to all candidates.

### SECTION 3 – DMSS Council Elections Process<sup>1</sup>

- a. Announcements of Election and Call for Nominations
- i. Announcement of each election and call for nominations shall be made concurrently to members of the DMSS (i.e., all medical students at Dalhousie) via email at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
- b. Nominations must:
- i. meet the eligibility requirements for the position.
- ii. be submitted nine (9) days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
- c. Voting Period
- i. The voting period shall remain open for 72 hours.
- ii. Voting shall be conducted electronically by secret ballot and shall conclude by the following dates at 11:59pm at the latest:
1. The 15<sup>th</sup> day of September annually (for fall elections).
2. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April annually (for spring elections).
- iii. In the event of a disruption to the electronic voting period, the CRO should be notified as soon as possible in writing. This shall be rectified by the CRO as soon as possible. The voting period will then be extended by an amount of time approximating the duration of the voting period lost to the disruption. This approximation of additional voting time shall be made by the CRO.
- d. Candidates
- i. For each position, all nominees who meet the eligibility requirements shall be

notified by the CRO of their nomination, via email, by 11:59pm eight (8) days prior to commencement of the voting period.

- ii. To be considered a candidate in the election, nominees must then indicate their intention to run in the election by responding to the CRO via email no later than 11:59pm five (5) days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
  - iii. The CRO shall then send a list of candidates out to the members of the DMSS by no later than noon the following day.
  - iv. Candidates then have until two (2) days before the commencement of the voting period to submit a paragraph of no more than two hundred and fifty (250) words outlining their speech to the CRO. These paragraphs will then be compiled by position, and then alphabetically, and emailed out to the members of the DMSS no later than 11:59pm on that same day (two [2] days prior to the commencement of the voting period). Submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted. These paragraphs will be re-emailed to the members of the DMSS during the voting period at a time chosen by the CRO.
  - v. Candidates are not permitted to send electronic campaign messages directly to any or all students. Any communication that is not approved by the CRO may result in disqualification.
- e. Speeches
- i. Candidate speeches shall then be held either one (1) or zero (0) days before the commencement of the voting period.
  - ii. Speeches shall be video conferenced between the DMNB and DMNS campuses.
  - iii. For all positions aside from DMSS President, speeches shall be limited to five (5) minutes in length and shall be followed by a two (2)-minute question period mediated by the CRO.
    1. Candidates for DMSS President shall be limited to five (5) minutes of length and shall be followed by a five (5)-minute question period mediated by the CRO.
    2. Timing of question responses shall begin as the candidate responds to the first question, paused for the duration of the further questions asked, and resume when the candidate begins to speak again.
  - iv. All candidates running for Executive positions must give a speech and answer questions from the general membership.
  - v. With the exception of those running for Executive positions, as per the above, any candidate running unopposed for a Council position is not required to give a speech but may do so if they wish.
  - vi. Candidates for appointed positions shall not be allowed an opportunity to have a speech and their paragraphs will remain private between only those who have a vote.
- f. Eligibility Requirements
- i. All returning active members of the DMSS are eligible for the positions as



Executive members in the DMSS.

- ii. Candidates for the positions of VP Internal and VP Finance must be students from the DMNS campus. Candidates for VP DMNB and Treasurer DMNB must be students from the DMNB campus.
  - iii. Candidates for the positions of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island representatives must be students sponsored by the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, respectively.
  - iv. The nominees for VP External and VP Medical Education must be a medical student who will be in their second or third year during office. The elected individual will then serve in an advisory capacity during their third or fourth year at the medical school.
  - v. Any member of the DMSS who wishes to run for another elected DMSS position in a by-election must resign from the position they currently hold prior to the start of the election campaign.
  - vi. Members of the DMSS cannot run for two voting positions (excluding the position of Past-President).
- g. Positions without Candidates
- i. Any position at the close of the nomination period without a nominee shall be advertised by the CRO to the members of the DMSS as an "Open Position" This advertisement shall be sent by 11:59pm eight (8) days prior to the commencement of the voting period and shall be sent immediately after all nominees are notified of their nominations (see above).
  - ii. Nominations for these open positions shall then be held open for an additional three (3) days following the advertisement and shall thus close at 11:59pm five (5) days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
  - iii. During this additional period of nomination, students are only entitled to self-nominate, and such a nomination shall constitute acceptance of said nomination. These new candidates must then follow the remaining portion of the election timeline (e.g. with regards to paragraph submission).
  - iv. All class eligibility requirements become void for the "Open Position" for that particular year.
  - v. The election procedure for the other positions is to proceed as previously outlined, notwithstanding this open position.
  - vi. If the position remains unfilled after DMSS Terms of Reference: Elections, section Candidacy has been followed, then the newly elected DMSS Executive can appoint the position to any DMSS member at its discretion.
  - vii. Should a position become vacant prior to voting, but after an Open Position call of available positions has already been shared and can no longer be fulfilled in the appropriate timeline a subsequent Open Position call must be made. This Open Position call is to be held no later than fourteen (14) days after the closure of polls.

#### h. Uncontested Positions

- i. When only one qualified candidate exists for a given position, a “No Confidence” option is to be placed on the ballot alongside the candidate. These candidates must obtain a greater number of votes than “No Confidence” votes on the marked ballots to be awarded the position. In the event a candidate fails to achieve this margin, the position is considered an “Open Position” and the nominations are reopened for this position. A re-election for that position is to be held no later than fourteen (14) days after the closure of polls.
- ii. Candidates who have run previously for this position and was not elected, based on a vote of no confidence, is not eligible for re-nomination.

#### i. Voting

- i. DMSS Elected Positions that shall be elected via General Members' Majority Vote (outlined in Terms of Reference: Elections, Appointments, and Voting) shall consist of:
  1. DMSS President
  2. Vice President Medical Education
  3. Vice President New Brunswick
  4. Vice President Internal
  5. Vice President External
  6. Vice President Finance
  7. Vice President Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
  8. Vice President Communications
  9. Dalhousie Student Union Representative
- ii. DMSS Elected Positions that shall be elected via Campus-Specific, General Members' Majority vote (outlined in Terms of Reference: Elections, Appointments, & Voting) shall consist of:
  1. Sports and Wellness Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  2. Humanities Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  3. DMNB External Liaison
  4. DMNB Technology and Communications Representative
  5. DMNB Treasurer
  6. Global Health Liaison Jr. (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  7. Member at Large (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  8. Government Affairs and Advocacy Representative Jr. (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  9. Everest Co-Chair Jr. (2; 1 DMNB and 2 DMNS)
- iii. DMSS Elected Positions that shall be elected via Campus-Specific and Year-Specific Majority Voting (outlined in Terms of Reference: Elections, Appointments, & Voting) shall consist of:
  1. Class Council Co-Presidents (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  2. Class Council Vice Presidents (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  3. Research in Medicine Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  4. Skilled Clinician and PIER Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  5. Service-Learning Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
  6. Lounge Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)

7. Euphoria! Co-Chairs (3; 1 DMNB and 2 DMNS)
8. Orientation Week Committee (5; 2 DMNB and 3 DMNS)
9. Graduation Representative (2; 1 DMNB and 1 DMNS)
- iv. DMSS Elected positions that shall be elected via Mixed Majority Weighted Voting (outlined in Terms of Reference: Elections, Appointments, & Voting) shall consist of:
  1. Class Council Treasurer/Secretary
  2. Class Council Curriculum Representative
  3. Class Unit Representative(s)
  4. Class Elections Officer
- j. Election Results
  - i. The results of the electronic voting process are to be reviewed by the Chief Returning Officer and the DMSS President.
  - ii. The successful candidate for each position shall be the person receiving the most votes for that particular position.
  - iii. Following the aforementioned review of results, the CRO will then release the list of successful candidates, via email, to the members of the DMSS.
- k. Appeals
  - i. Any unsuccessful candidate may make an appeal of the election results within forty-eight (48) hours of the release of results by the CRO. The candidate must make a written or electronic submission to the President outlining the reasons for their appeal. The President shall at once call a special meeting of the Council to review the appeal. The Council shall decide if the appeal is valid based on the regulations outlined in this document and in the DMSS Terms of Reference: Elections. If the appeal is valid, the results of the elections for that position will be declared void and the position will be declared an "Open Position". A by-election shall be called immediately.
- l. Incoming Council
  - i. The Council so elected, except for the Class President(s), the Member-at-Large, and the Global Health Liaison Jr. representatives, shall assume office at the adjournment of the annual general meeting.
- m. Incoming Designate in Repeat Status
  - i. Should the successful candidate for a position be required to repeat the year, the candidate must meet with the DMSS President, Past-President and the outgoing position holder for their position. Should the designate be the DMSS President, the VP Medical Education will attend this meeting. The meeting should discuss the feasibility of the designate continuing the position or resigning given the context of the situation.
- n. Vacancies
  - i. Vacancies or resignations shall be filled by secret ballot at a general election of the DMSS held within fourteen (14) days after the vacancy or resignation occurs.
  - ii. Nominations must be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours before the election.

- o. Resignation
  - i. Council members must submit a formal letter of resignation to the Chair of DMSS, who shall then share this letter with the DMSS Executive.
- p. Modified Elections Process
  - i. Class elections officers can appeal in writing to the DMSS CRO should they need to modify their class election process citing their specific class circumstances. This shall be agreed upon, in writing, by the Class Co-Presidents, the Class Election officers and the DMSS CRO prior to the beginning of the elections period.

#### SECTION 4 - Impeachment

- a. Active members of the DMSS may be considered for impeachment if the member:
  - i. Neglects their duties as outlined in the regulations of the DMSS Terms of Reference: Council Members Roles and Responsibilities, or the constitution or,
  - ii. Misses three (3) meetings without prior notice and justified cause, three (3) absent reports or three (3) consecutive “nothing to report”. Those members who miss two meetings of the DMSS Council will be officially notified by the President, that upon absence from a third meeting they will be subject to a removal vote.
  - iii. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the DMSS members present a written request to:
    - 1. the DMSS Chief Returning Officer (VP External)
    - 2. the President if the subject of the request is the VP External.
- b. Those members who are at risk of failing in their duties will officially be notified by the President that they will be subject to a removal vote.
  - i. Prior to a removal vote, the member in question will be given an opportunity to speak in their own defense at a DMSS Council meeting.
  - ii. General members will vote on the motion of impeachment by secret ballot.
  - iii. The motion to impeach must pass by two-thirds majority (2/3) in order for the active member to be impeached.
  - iv. The DMSS may then declare the office vacant and act according to the above Section 3 – Elections Process.
- c. This same process outlined above can be conducted for the removal of Class Council members where only the pertinent class's general members will vote.

## ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

#### SECTION 1 – Council Meeting

- a. The Council shall meet at least once a month from August to May inclusive and should attempt to meet during the summer if able to satisfy quorum.
- b. A quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Council membership.
- c. Motions shall be voted on by Council members (i.e. voting members) and passed based on majority

vote. The business shall proceed as outlined in Section 3 – Rules of Order (below).

- d. Council shall assemble at the request of the President, and advance notice of all meetings will be sent to all eligible members (See Article II – Membership) of the DMSS. When possible, this notice shall be given one (1) month for monthly meetings and five (5) days for other meetings.
- e. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the VP Communications and retained by the VP Communication for at least three (3) years. They shall be made available to the entire DMSS membership.

### SECTION 2 – General Meetings

- a. One general meeting shall be called annually at a date between April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> for the presentation of annual reports. Changeover of the DMSS Executive occurs at the adjournment of this Annual General Meeting.
- b. A quorum of any DMSS General Meeting shall consist of twenty-five (25) students. The DMSS Executive must ensure the quorum fulfills the requirements of passing amendments at the DSU level for any particular year.
- c. If quorum is not present for any General Meeting, the Executive is empowered to conduct the business on the agenda for that meeting.
- d. The agenda and purpose of the General Meeting, and the constitutional changes to occur at the General meeting shall be advertised at least five (5) days in advance of the general meeting.
- e. The General Meeting shall be called by the President, whenever the Council or twenty percent (20%) of the active members of the DMSS, by written request, deem it necessary.
- f. General members will be given the opportunity to approve society financial statements/budget and goals/objectives for the coming year.

### SECTION 3 – Rules of Order

- a. All meetings of the DMSS shall be governed by DMSS modified Robert's Rules of Order, where the Chairperson is responsible for final interpretation.
- b. The business shall be conducted as set out in the bylaws and regulations.
- c. All notices of motion shall be handed in writing, or via email, to the DMSS Chairperson at or before the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be made.
- d. The Chair shall not vote but shall have a casting vote (a vote cast in the event of a tie).
- e. The Chairperson of meetings will be the Chairperson appointed by the Executive. If the Chair is not present, the Vice-President External will chair the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII** CONSTITUTION

### SECTION 1 - Constitutional Reform<sup>1</sup>

- a. A General Meeting may amend or revise the Constitution, by a simple majority vote of

those present, subject to procedures set down in the Constitution. General members will vote to amend or revise the Constitution by the formal voting procedure set out below:

- i. The vote shall be conducted on an anonymous ballot using the current electronic voting software used by the DMSS.
  - ii. The meeting attendees shall be recorded so as to distribute the ballots to those in attendance solely.
  - iii. The ballots voted shall be reconciled against those in attendance so as to ensure that each attendee, and only attendees, have voted once (1).
  - iv. The provisional results of the vote shall be announced during the meeting, once the votes have been counted the final results of the vote shall be announced, via email, to all general members of the DMSS once vote reconciliation has occurred, no later than 72 hours after the meeting has ended.
    - If the provisional results are within a ten (10) vote margin of either passing or failing the motion, then the provisional results shall not be announced and only the final result of the vote shall be announced.
- b. Proposed amendments or revisions to the Constitution originating from the Council shall not be considered by a General Meeting until:
- i. notice of motion of such proposed amendments or revisions has been given at a meeting of Council.
  - ii. the Council has referred such proposed amendments or revisions for the consideration of the Constitution Committee, which shall consider the amendments or revisions within two weeks of the original notice of motion.
  - iii. the Council has, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present, at least two weeks subsequent to the original notice of motion, voted to refer the proposed amendments or revisions for the consideration of a General Meeting, in accordance with the Constitution.
- c. Proposed amendments or revisions of the Constitution that do not originate from Council, shall not be considered at a General Meeting until a bona fide petition signed by 10% of the active members of the DMSS proposing such an amendment or revision is presented to the President; where after, they shall refer such amendment or revision for the consideration at a General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution.
- d. Provisional Constitutional amendments can be made as needed by 2/3 majority vote of the DMSS Executive members.
- e. Maintenance of this document by updating hyperlinks within the table of contents, and links to DMSS Terms of Reference and other organizations' constitutional documents shall be exempt from the process outlined above and can be made at the discretion of DMSS Council, if approved by a 2/3 majority at a Council meeting.

## SECTION 2 – Terms of Reference

- a. Terms of Reference are meant to guide specific details of Council functioning, act as a form of institutional memory and supplement the Constitution. Though items may be contained in a Terms of Reference and not in the Constitution, the Constitution is what determines the principles of Council. Wherever there is a contradiction between the Constitution and a Terms of Reference, the Constitution's words prevail.

- b. The Council may supplement the Constitution by means of Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference shall deal with such topics and decisions as are not of sufficient importance to be embodied by the Constitution, but which seems desirable to have in a permanent form for the guidance of the Council.
- c. Terms of Reference shall come into effect upon being passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the entire Council. Additions and amendments to Terms of Reference shall be made in the same manner.
- d. Notice of Motion to adopt, amend, or repeal any Terms of Reference shall be given at a meeting of the Council, and such motion shall not be considered until a subsequent meeting of Council.
- e. Terms of Reference may also be adopted, amended, or repealed at a general meeting, but this shall be subject to the same procedure as set out in Article VIII, Section 1.
- f. Please see the following DMSS Terms of Reference:
  - i. Awards
  - ii. Council Members Roles & Responsibilities
  - iii. Elections, Appointments, & Voting
  - iv. Euphoria Charity Selection
  - v. Facilities
  - vi. Financial Policies
  - vii. Interest Groups
  - viii. Standing Committees

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **REFERENDA**

#### **SECTION 1 – Rules of a Referendum**

- a. A referendum shall be held when:
  - i. two-thirds (2/3) of those present at a Council meeting vote to hold one; OR
  - ii. the President is presented with a bona fide petition signed by ten (10) percent of the members of the DMSS, requesting that one be held.
- b. Any referendum shall present two or more options from which those voting must choose, and the form of the questions shall not be such as to request suggestions from those voting.
- c. The Executive shall be responsible for the wording of the question.
- d. The Chief Returning Officer (Vice-President External) shall administer the referendum.
- e. Referenda must be advertised to the general members for at least one (1) week prior to the opening of polls.
- f. Voting shall be conducted electronically, and polls shall remain open for forty-eight (48) hours.
- g. At least twenty-five percent (25%) of general members must vote in a referendum for its results to be considered valid.
- h. The results of the referendum are to be reviewed as per DMSS Terms of Reference: Elections & Appointments.
- i. Council shall be bound by the results of a referendum.

**ARTICLE IX**

## FINANCES

**SECTION 1 – Expenditures**

- a. The financial assets of the DMSS shall be deposited in a chartered bank by the VP Finance.
- b. All expenditures over one hundred dollars (\$100.00) not previously budgeted for or included in the Constitution must be authorized by a meeting of the DMSS Executive.
- c. Only verified expenditures on statements/receipts that have been previously authorized by Council shall be paid.
- d. All bills shall be by cheque or electronic funds transfer. All cheques and electronic fund transfer are to be co-signed by two of the following members: VP Finance, President or VP Internal.
  - i. Should the payee be one of the three members with signing authority, as described above, the cheque(s) or electronic transfer(s) must be co-signed by the other two members.<sup>1</sup>
- e. The use of electronic funds will be documented and co-signed by two of the following members: VP Finance, President or VP Internal.

**SECTION 2 – Accountability**

- a. The VP Finance shall submit a proposed budget to the Council for the current fiscal year. The Council shall review, amend as necessary, and approve the proposed budget by the end of September of that year. This budget presentation shall include the proposed budget for the upcoming year with expenditure breakdown and contributions from each campus.
- b. The annual budget presentation shall be developed in consultation with the Budget Committee.
- c. All written contracts entered into by the DMSS and all purchase orders issued by the DMSS shall be jointly executed by two of the following members: President, VP Finance or VP Internal.
- d. Every effort to maintain full and complete records of expenditures shall be made; they should be entered according to cheque number or electronic funds transfer ID number, full name of recipient of payment, as well as general category. Financial records of the society may be inspected by a general member of the DMSS upon giving reasonable notice to the VP Finance or President.
- e. An audit is performed twice annually by the DSU on the DMSS accounts as outlined by the DSU Constitution.

**SECTION 3 – Management**

- a. The DMSS fiscal year shall end August 1st of each calendar year.
- b. The membership fees shall be paid annually to the Dalhousie Student Accounts at the time



of registration.

- c. The membership fee may be changed only by a referendum, in accordance with Article VII.
- d. Each of the first, second, third, and fourth-year classes will receive a grant of at least ten percent (10%) of the annual DMSS membership fees (less CFMS fees) to cover expenses of the year's activities.

#### **SECTION 4 – Capital**

- a. The DMSS bank account should hold a capital account of no less than \$30,000 at fiscal year end when all expenses have been accounted for. This money is the capital of the DMSS and is not to be spent unless approved at a general meeting.

### **ARTICLE X** RECORDS

#### **SECTION 1 – Maintenance of Records**

- a. All records of the DMSS shall be maintained in an online drive by the DMSS to be accessible for appropriate members.
- b. Any books or records of DMSS may be inspected by any active member upon that member giving reasonable notice to the VP Communications or VP Finance.

### **ARTICLE XI** ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **SECTION 1 – General Duties of the Executive**

For detailed review, see DMSS Terms of Reference: Council Members Roles and Responsibilities.

### **ARTICLE XII** AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

#### **SECTION 1 - Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS)**

- a. See CFMS Constitution
- b. DMSS representation at the Annual General CFMS meeting may consist of (list number corresponds with priority):
  - i. President, who shall hold one of three votes.
  - ii. Vice-President External, who shall hold one of three votes.
  - iii. Vice-President Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, who shall hold one of three votes.
  - iv. Global Health Liaison Sr., DMNB and DMNS (2), who will vote in the absence of

- any of the above positions.
- v. Vice-President DMNB
  - vi. One general member of the DMSS
  - vii. Should funding be available and sufficient to allow for further student attendance at the CFMS AGM, after the students listed above, a call for funding applications will be opened to the whole DMSS.
- c. DMSS representation at the virtual CFMS Spring General Election should consist of:
- i. Outgoing President, who shall hold one of three votes.
  - ii. Outgoing Vice-President External, who shall hold one of three votes.
  - iii. Outgoing Vice-President Medical Education and Outgoing Vice-President Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, who shall share the third vote.
  - iv. Outgoing Past President shall be appointed proxy voter in the event any of the Outgoing President, Vice President External, Vice President Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion cannot attend. Incoming President, Incoming Vice President External, Incoming Vice President Medical Education Incoming Vice-President Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
  - viii. All other outgoing and incoming council members who have a direct relationship with the CFMS shall be encouraged to attend and provide input to voting members
- d. DMSS representation at the in-person CFMS Spring General Meeting/Education Conference:
- i. Shall be annually budgeted to allow for maximal General Member participation
  - ii. Call for funding applications shall be made to the General Members no less than two (2) months prior to the meeting date  
Applications shall be evaluated by the Executive on the basis of feasibility and equity, such that no student is prioritized above another and such that the meeting location and expected costs are taken into account when determining the number of students funded.

**SECTION 2 – Canadian Atlantic Medical Student Association (CAMSA)**

- a. See CAMSA Bylaws
- b. Attendance and voting structure at the CAMSA AGM shall be
  - i. DMSS President, who shall hold 3 ballots to represent DMNS
  - ii. Vice President New Brunswick, who shall hold 3 ballots to represent DMNB
  - iii. Vice President External, who shall hold 1 ballot as a DMNS representative to the CAMSA Board of Directors
  - iv. DMNB External Liaison, who shall hold 1 ballot as a DMNB representative to the CAMSA Board of Directors
  - v. All other DMSS Members are encouraged to attend to provide input to the DMSS President and Vice President New Brunswick on voting

**SECTION 3 - Dalhousie Student Union (DSU)**

- a. See Dalhousie Student Union Constitution
- b. DMSS activities must not infringe upon the Bylaws and Policies of the Dalhousie Student Union.
- c. DMSS activities must not infringe upon federal, provincial, municipal laws or University regulations.

**SECTION 4 - Maritime Resident Doctors (MarDocs)**

- a. See Constitution of Maritime Resident Doctors.

**SECTION 5 - Doctors Nova Scotia and Medical Societies of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island**

- a. See Constitution of respective medical societies.

**SECTION 6 - Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association (DMAA)**

- a. See Constitution of DMAA.

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<sup>1</sup>This has been worded appropriately in order to satisfy DSU constitutional requirements for society ratification. Please review these requirements prior to making constitutional changes in subsequent years.