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Creating union equality

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 26. On the agenda are amendments to the DSU Constitution including the addition of an affirmative action clause and the addition of a number of seats to the DSU Council. The affirmative action clause has been discussed in Council and a motion was passed to support the amendment.

The affirmative action clause mirrors the language contained the equality provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and will bring the DSU Constitution in line with the general principles of Canadian law.

In essence, the proposed affirmative action clause will promote equality by encouraging the involvement of traditionally underrepresented groups and removing the barriers to their participation in DSU activities. For example, the addition of Council seats for the Black Canadian Students' Association (BCSA), the Dalhousie University Aborigi-Association Students' (DUASA), the Dalhousie Women's Groups (DWG), and the Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie (GLAD) will promote the direct participation of these groups in Council activities without silencing anyone else's voice on Council.

The DSU hopes this will bring their constitution in line with social principles that are reflected in Canadian law and at work in government and private business, as well as educational institutions.

Dalhousie University has a number of programs in place that are reflective of these social principles. The administration has an affirmative action hiring policy and an employment equity policy mandated by the federal and provincial governments. Dalhousie University has

years with the hiring of the President's Advisor on Women, the Black Students' Advisor, the International Students' Advisor, and the Disabled Students' Advisor. In addition, Dalhousie has implemented the Transition Year Program for Indigenous Black and Micmac students, the Indigenous Black and Micmac a Native Education Counsellor.

the DSU to implement affirmative and interests.

demonstrated its commitment to action programs it does make such equality over the past number of programs easier to implement. It demonstrates to members of traditionally underrepresented groups that the DSU is supportive of their attempts to create a safe and supportive environment in which to discuss their concerns, which in turn will enhance these groups' ability to educate the campus about their concerns.

Bringing the DSU Constitution Law Program and provides space for in line with Canadian law can only serve to enhance the DSU's attempts While this policy does not require to represent all students' concerns

THE AMENDMENTS are as follows (the italicized portions represent the changes to the original section):

Whereas the Dalhousie Student Union has demonstrated a concern for traditionally under-represented groups in the past, and

Whereas the Dalhousie Student Union Constitution should reflect the DSU's commitment to protecting and promoting the interests of these groups, and

Whereas By-Laws X and XII provide for the amendment of the DSU Constitution,

BIRT Section 3 of By-Law I (Preamble) of the constitution be amended to read:

3(a) The Union and any organization under the jurisdiction of the Union shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, sex, religion, sexual orientation, political orientation, national or ethnic origin, age or mental or physical disability nor shall the Union or any organization under the jurisdiction of the Union promote or subscribe to such discrimination.

(b) Subsection 3(a) does not preclude any By-Law, regulation, program, activity or group that has its object the amelioration of conditions of traditionally under-represented because of race, colour, sex, religion, sexual orientation, political orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, or mental or physical disability

BIRT 5.3 of By-Law IV (The Council) be amended to read:

3(n) Howe Residence Representative

3(o) Shirreff and Eliza Residence Representative

3(q) Dalhousie Women's Group Representative

3(s) Dalhousie University Aboriginal Students' Association Representative

3(t) Black Canadian Students' Association Representative

3(u) Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie Representative

Whereas the constitution of senate has been amended to incorporate eight (8) student senate members to be elected from their respective faculties, replacing the five (5) student senate members elected by the general membership of the student union;

And Whereas the DSU constitution has not yet been amended to reflect this change;

BIRT By-Law IV - The Council of the DSU constitution which

2.[...] (c) two student members of the Board of Governors

and (d) five student members of the Senate.

Shall be amended to read:

2.[...] and (c) two student members of the Board of Governors.

3.[...](s) Nine (9) Senate representatives; One (1) each from the Faculties of Arts, Dentistry, Graduate Studies, Health Sciences, Law, Management Studies, Medicine, Science, and Education.

DALHOUSIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

MARCH 9- MARCH 15

TRACY HOSKIN - TRACK & FIELD

Tracy had a tremendous weekend at the CIAU Track & Field Championships in Winnipeg. The rookie star had three personal bests and set an Atlantic Record in the 600 meter race with a time of 1:35.6. She was also the Tigers' best runner in the 4 x 800 meter relay, in which her team placed sixth. Her other personal best came in the 4 x 400 meter relay. This is an outstanding performance for the first year athlete and the Tigers look forward to great things in Tracy's future. The 5'6" nursing student hails from Dartmouth where she attended Prince Andrew High School. (No photo available).

ED JAMES - TRACK & FIELD

After a terrific performance at last week's AUAA Championships, Ed continued his consistent performance at the CIAU's in Winnipeg. He set an Atlantic Record in the 600 meter race with a time of 1:21 where he placed eighth overall in a very tough field. He was also the anchor of the 4 x 400 meter relay team in a time of 1:53.5(Atlantic record). He out kicked several more experienced opponents. Ed also contributed to the 4 x 400 meter relay team with a time of 49 seconds. Ed is a fourth year honours student, studying science and is a graduate of Queen Elizabeth High School.(No photo available).





