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June 19, 2020: Dalhousie Board of Governors, hear our call, Students Reject The 3

As our members are aware, Dalhousie University has decided to continue with their four-year plan to increase tuition by 3%, with international students bearing an additional \$1473 per year. Through the survey we conducted and recent advocacy efforts, the DSU and its membership have made it clear that the temporary financial aids the University have implemented do not compensate for the increase in tuition.

The Board of Governors, Dalhousie University's highest decision-making body, has the power to reassess this decision and hear students' call to Reject the 3 at their meeting on June 23, 2020.

In their strategic priorities, the Board aims to "increase retention and degree completion" and "strengthen student experience, leadership development and additional support for our locally diverse and international students." However, increasing tuition and disregarding the mental and financial burden students are under directly contradicts these aims.

Currently the Board of Governors has two student representatives who will be in attendance to voice our demands; however, they have only 10 minutes allotted to voice the concerns of over 18,000 students. Students' concerns are legitimate, and we deserve transparency and accountability in decisions that affect us. In addition, the Board is currently denying access to students interested in attending the meeting and have not made the appropriate accommodations to allow for general students to virtually attend, violating section 6.3 of their own bylaw which mandates that Board meetings are open to the public:

"Subject to the Act and section 6.22 hereof, all meetings of the Board normally shall be open to the public and no person shall be excluded therefrom except for improper conduct provided, however, that admission to persons who are not Members or resource persons will be on a first come, first admitted basis subject to the limitations of available space."

Despite the restrictions to public gatherings, the Board of Governors have not taken the appropriate steps to ensure the meeting is accessible to students.

Students at Dalhousie demand better. It is crucial that the administration not only take the appropriate steps to consult with students, they must also implement the demands outlined in #RejectThe3 in order to protect and enhance the learning experience and welfare of students.

For more information on our #RejectThe3 campaigns, visit our website at dsu.ca/RejectThe3.

For media inquiries, please contact our Communications Coordinator Holly Edmonds at dsucomm@dal.ca.