



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue  
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2

T 902.494.2140 F 902.494.5185 [dsu.ca](http://dsu.ca) • [@dalstudentunion](https://twitter.com/dalstudentunion)

**Warning: the following contains discussions of sexual violence**

For immediate release.

**May 25, 2020: DSU Update on Council Decisions Regarding Recent Online Disclosure**

On behalf of the Dalhousie Student Union, thank you to all our members for the understanding and concern you have shown this sensitive issue. Your safety and well-being are top priority. An assortment of resources and supports are included at the end of this statement.

Following the May 21, 2020, DSU Council meeting, we would like to provide several important updates regarding the steps taken by the Union to address the recent online disclosure of sexual violence. These steps have been taken in consultation with all parties.

The Vice President, Student Life, was under non-disciplinary suspension from May 7–21. On May 21, DSU Council suspended the VPSL under non-disciplinary terms for another week. This suspension may be renewed for an additional week this Thursday. Council took this step based on input from our members, who have called for a suspension to take place until an investigation can be conducted, as well as the important fact that taking disciplinary measures against a councillor without following proper process leaves both the Union and the survivor potentially vulnerable to legal action.

Council also passed a motion to initiate an investigation into complaints against the VPSL. The investigation will be conducted by an external third party with a strong understanding and inclusion of the DSU's bylaws, codes, policies, and values; the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct and Sexualized Violence Policy; the Purple Folder; anti-oppressive and harm-reduction frameworks; the impacts of sexualized violence on marginalized populations; and the harm-inducing consequences and history of conventional legal investigations of sexualized violence.

The newly appointed Judicial Board will begin training, including sexual violence response training, immediately. They will then review the findings of the completed report and make recommendations to Council.

For more details on the current situation, see the report given to council [here](#).

Finally, in recognition of the importance of trauma-informed responses and practices, and the impact of this situation for DSU staff and elected representatives' mental health, Council passed a motion for [Hardy Consulting](#) to provide consultation and support to our team.

We will continue to keep the DSU community informed throughout this process and provide the necessary supports so that our members are safe, valued and heard. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to DSU President Madeleine Stinson at [dsupres@dal.ca](mailto:dsupres@dal.ca).

Signed,  
Madeleine Stinson  
DSU President

### **Survivor Support & Mental Health Resources**

Survivor Support Centre  
Email: [survivorsupport@dal.ca](mailto:survivorsupport@dal.ca)  
Phone: (902) 425-1066

South House Halifax  
Email: [outreach@southhousehalifax.ca](mailto:outreach@southhousehalifax.ca)  
Phone: (902) 494-2432

Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES)  
Email: [hres@dal.ca](mailto:hres@dal.ca)  
Phone: (902) 494-6672

Dal Student Health & Wellness  
Website: [dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness](http://dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness)  
Phone: (902) 494-2171

Dal Security  
Email: [security@dal.ca](mailto:security@dal.ca)  
Phone – Halifax: (902) 494-4109  
Phone – Truro: (902) 893- 4190