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## **DSU supports Dalhousie Architecture students holding School of Architecture accountable for anti-Black racism**

**September 22, 2020:** In May 2019, an Associate Professor for the School of Architecture at Dalhousie University used an anti-Black racial slur while speaking to a group of students. After attempts made by students at the School of Architecture to address the incident directly with the Faculty of Architecture and publicly through the “Where is Dal Arch?” webpage, students remain unheard and the incident unacknowledged.

By ignoring students’ concerns regarding the overt racism in comments made by the Associate Professor for over 13 months, the School of Architecture has failed to foster a safe learning environment for racialized students. Although Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) has recently stepped in, students still feel there has been little effort to engage or respond to the issue in a timely manner.

Today, alongside the students of Where is Dal Arch? (WIDA), the Dalhousie Student Union is calling on the University and the associate professor in question to

1. Immediately issue a public apology addressing the incident that occurred May 2019
2. Review and implement the calls to action outlined by WIDA, including mandatory anti-oppression workshops for all students, faculty and staff, as well as hiring Black, Indigenous and faculty of colour.

The University has made numerous public announcements committing to act on anti-Black racism on campus. Although the addition of an interdisciplinary major/honors program in Black and African Diaspora Studies will benefit many current and future students, it does not address the anti-Black racism students encounter across all academic programs. When members of the campus community fail to provide students with a safe and inclusive space to learn, it upholds systemically racist values and policies that negatively impact students’ academic experiences.

Dalhousie is an institution with a history of anti-Blackness, as illustrated in the Lord Dalhousie Report. It is imperative that the University actively works in an anti-racist framework to rectify the harm it continues to cause its Black community members. We are calling upon the University to show their true commitment to addressing anti-Black racism by acting on the demands made by WIDA.

Signed,

Madeleine Stinson, President

Erica Seelemann, Vice President External and Academic

Equity and Accessibility Office of the Dalhousie Student Union