

Dalhousie University
Transportation and Security Committee
TEAMS Meeting
TUESDAY, March 21, 2023

Attendees: **P. Jones** – Sexton Campus Representative (Chair)
M. Burns - Director of Security Services
S. Spracklin – NSGEU (District #77)
T. Ryan – NSGEU (District #77)
S. Huybers – DFA representative
P. Bourgeois – Carleton Campus Rep
J. Aguinaga – Environmental Health & Safety
K. D’Souza – Office of Sustainability
M. Hill – recording secretary

Regrets: **P. Coutts** – Assistant VP, Facilities Management
DSU VP Finance

Absent: DPMG representative - TBD
Studley Campus Representative - TBD
AC Campus Representative TBD
NSGEU (District #99)
Senate Representative, Halifax Campus - TBD
Senate Representative, AC Campus – TBD

1. Call to Order

Teams – online - meeting called to order by Peter Jones at 10:01 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 2022 was reviewed and approved.

3. Business arising from previous minutes:

There is nothing to report at this time.

4. Security Items

Mr. Burns reported on the following items:

Parking:

- There have been 2,700 parking permits sold thus far for this academic year. By comparison, in 2019-2020 roughly 4,000 permits were sold. This decrease is due to the impact of people on a hybrid or completely remote work schedule.
- Parking enforcement is in full force, trying to keep space available for Dalhousie members who have paid for their permits. Fifty-five vehicles meeting the threshold of five or more tickets, have been booted so far this year. One vehicle has been towed which was a relocation, as a vehicle was parked in a barricaded area with signage posted. The

reason for the barricades was that a large Irving crane was arriving that day. The parking violation delayed the planned work and was very costly.

- HotSpot Application – It's been almost a year now that HotSpot has been used on campus. It has worked well with permit sales, and we are seeing a greater reliance on the HotSpot app for short term parking.
- The Security Office is working with the ancillary, prepping for housing and conference season. This year, Dalhousie University Housing is expecting a big crowd for the North American Indigenous Games. At least 1,200 athletes and administrators are expected to stay on campus. Not all events are held on campus, but Dalhousie is being heavily used for housing.
- Arena Construction – There is work being completed to prepare the site, but the actual construction is on hold. There are no plans to turn that lot back into a parking area.
- Snow – Mr. Burns noted that hopefully the snow season had ended, as the snow removal budget limit has almost been reached.
- Regarding snow clearing priority. Mr. Burns added that the emergency exits of every building would be the top priority, followed by residence stairwells and steps and athletics. Mr. Burns will check with the grounds team regarding the bicycle racks.

Security Report:

- Saint Patrick's Day was a big event, however the scale wasn't as large as the previous year or the fake homecoming in the fall. More importantly, no one got hurt. The Security Office's focus is the security and life safety of our students that are on campus. We consider it a success when no one is hurt.
- Since September 2022, the Security Office has responded to 108 first aid calls on campus, 50 of those being drug and alcohol related. Substance abuse seems to be an issue for the 17-18-year-old cohort.
- Shout out to the student society from the Dalhousie Community Medical Response Team. These are motivated, high-energy students that helped by working with the Security Office to provide emergency first-aid care during this special event as well as on residences during the weekends.
- As we approach the end of the year, we anticipate the number of first-aid calls to move from being primarily related to substance abuse issues, to being related to mental health issues. Two thirds of our officers have certification in St. John Ambulance's mental health first aid. This has become a bigger portion of the work as we approach the end of semester and the start of exams.
- Dal Safe App – There is now over 32,000 subscribers to the app, and 18,500 subscribers to the SMS messaging. Compared to four years ago, we had roughly 5,000 people subscribed to both. Another feature that was added to the app, is a button that allows users to listen to the notification as opposed to reading the fine print.

5. Transportation

K. D'Souza reported on the following items:

- E-Pass has 250 sign-ups. These numbers are not fully back to where they were prior to the COVID pandemic, as there are less people taking the bus or coming to campus on a regular basis.

- Electric scooter usage is up at the AC and Halifax downtown campuses as well. Kareina would like to know if there are any regulations or rules that we should be following, as there are more people bringing them in and charging them on campus. Mike Burns advised Kareina that this is not something that his department will be stepping into. Dalhousie - or students' tuition, will not be responsible for providing electricity to recharge any vehicle or scooters. Jerry Aguinaga added that individuals will want to find an easy way to charge them, though bikes/scooters are valuable items to be left parked on a rack outside the buildings, so this would mean additional thought would have to be given to infrastructure. Mike Burns and Jerry Aguinaga agreed that there is not going to be anybody centrally to deal with it, however there is a safety concern. Dalhousie can't allow people to put them in hallways, or by exit doors and they may even create fire hazards. This might be something that Faculties will need to get involved with. Jerry Aguinaga's suggestion is to send the Transportation and Security Committee Chair Peter Jones to the Dean's Council to advise and inform that we are aware that this will become problematic. The expected trend is that we are going to see more e-scooters and e-bikes. If the deans are aware of and support this method of transportation, they will likely want to dedicate an area within their buildings, or a warehouse, that Dalhousie community members could use to bring in and charge their scooters/bikes. Peter Jones agreed that this would be a good plan.

6. New Business

There is nothing to report at this time.

7. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 10:36am

The next scheduled meeting: May 16, 2023

Meeting will be done virtually through Teams meeting @10:00am.