

PRESIDENT □ VICE-PRESIDENT □ PRESIDENT □



Timothy Daley

TIMOTHY DALEY president

1. Directly with student council, I have little or no experience. I am not an insider in the political sense. I have been involved as president of Sodales, which is one of the societies under the student union, and also Dalhousie's Model United Nations society. So I have had a lot of experience working with societies but little practical experience working with the student union, and I think actually that can be a benefit considering my partner's experience. They can balance each other out quite well.

2. The word crisis brings about the notion of the Royal Commission on higher education, to begin with, and that for me is the most important thing to be addressed for all students and not just at Dalhousie. That issue and the many sub-issues involved in it have to be dealt with very quickly. Overall one could say that the primary crises are the attitude centers on the government and the public that education has now become an expense rather than an investment in society.

I think if we can address that issue as well as the specifics of this Royal Commission, inevitably they will come. We must begin to address the overall problem of people's perception of post-secondary education.

3. To begin with, I would say that that need not be assumed and that we would begin to pressure, as best we can, all the ministers of government to maintain the bursary program. If it is eliminated then we have to begin to structure a student loan program which inevitably would replace it, that will be fair and equitable to all students and not discriminate as does the one suggested in the Royal Commission, against those students who can least afford it. It has to be structured on a more equitable basis such that as a married student for example can manage to continue to be able to continue their education without mortgaging their future and such that wealthy students who can afford to pay off the loan immediately are not unduly given the advantage in

getting a start in life and that's the thing that had to be addressed. Yet I do believe that the bursary program can be maintained. I am convinced that it is a necessity and that it is an investment in education.

4. Well some people have a very negative attitude toward SUNS and some people have an open positive attitude towards it. My perspective on it is that to belong to SUNS is essential in the sense that it does speak for the vast majority of students across Nova Scotia. However, like all student organizations it has some political, internal pettiness. This should not be considered a reason for Dalhousie to avoid SUNS. In fact, it should be Dalhousie's role, I believe, to act as the largest university in the capacity of leadership within SUNS. It is the role of the DSU president and particularly the vice-president as well to help with SUNS in bringing about more fairness within its policies and to make it more effective mechanism of pressuring government particularly with the Royal Commission. I think that it has been effective in the past but we are going to need 110 percent effectiveness in the next twelve to eighteen months to guarantee the security of education for students and that I think is a key role for Dalhousie as a leader of SUNS.

6. The Canadian Federation of Students again is another organization that has been put down to a great extent but one must see it from a national perspective and understand from the perspective of the federal government that as a lobby group it has a very important role. The federal government is addressed by hundreds upon hundreds of organizations, and if Dalhousie, for example, were to pull out of CFS and were to expect to get the kind of response CFS gets it would be naive. Regardless of the CFS problems the Canadian Federation of Students must be perceived as a very effective lobby group in addition to the obvious benefits of a service-oriented organization. We have to look at it from a broader perspective, more than just the services it offers. To abandon it



Barney Savage

BARNEY SAVAGE V.P.

1. Yes, I have been involved in the student council in my capacity as vice-president external of Dalhousie Student Union. In this capacity I have not only been looking over external affairs but I have also been sitting on the executive committee. I have come to an understanding of the importance of the executive, particularly when there is not a council around to make decisions. I have also seen the importance of staff decisions and the necessity of the executive in dealing with staff to help the general managers. So I think my experience is not only directly with external affairs but were generally with the student union. As external vice-president I have come into contact with a lot of services-related work and I think that will help.

2. Well, I certainly do. It depends of course on what services you are talking about. I will deal first with entertainment. Often we have the problem with entertainment, particularly in functions like orientation and winter carnival. We have people thinking that they are Dalhousie administration events and it should never be forgotten that these things are being put on by the student union.

In other services that the student union provides, of course we look to administration cooperation, but I would hope that the administration would greatly encourage better use of student union services. I am talking about the second-hand bookstore the exam registry and the course evaluation.

3. I think the answer to that is probably a sociological problem as much as it is financial. I think that generally students have been going elsewhere for their entertainment needs. From the experience we have had so far at Howe Hall, we have discovered that a lot of people are not even thinking of Dalhousie Student Union when they think of their entertainment needs. They are going downtown. Whether this trend can be reversed I do not have an answer right now. I think the only way to see if that trend can be reversed is to retain the ambitious entertainment proposals that have worked in previous years but not be hesitant about abandoning entertainment events that are being revenue losses. We have the mandate as a student union to care for recreational, social and cultural needs of Dalhousie students. We do not have the mandate to throw away thousands of dollars of revenue because that's students' money.

4. I would be inclined to say yes. This is a very odd answer coming from a candidate for executive vice-president which is totally service-oriented. But one of the reasons why I want to be executive vice-president is to bring the services and the political wing of the student union closer together. One thing that I have noticed is that student union staff are almost totally employed

in services, which is quite natural and politics is handled by the students. The trouble I have with what I am seeing is that often politics is considered something slightly irrelevant or something which is not important at all. It should never be forgotten that the role of the student union is to represent students, that is the first mandate of the student union and if that means political representation, which I think it does, that should be important. Of course we cannot abandon services.

5. The role of the executive vice-president in the handling of student services is mostly a supervisory role. Examples are: the exam registry, the second-hand bookstore — those have co-ordinators appointed by student council. It is not the executive vice-president's role to directly manage those things. It is the executive vice-president's role to supervise, and to ensure that things are getting done. More importantly the executive vice-president handles any problems the co-ordinators may be having. The role is not so much to actually deliver the services but to personally make sure those services are delivered.

6. Well, the executive vice-president has a very direct role in societies. There is no argument that societies are very important.

I think the importance of societies increases with the size of the university. We have got about 100 societies listed with the student union. That's a lot of people and that's how students become involved in the university. This is very important at Dalhousie. There have been accusations that there is not enough opportunity for student participation, but nothing brings forward more student representation than societies.

The executive vice-president's role is to co-ordinate those students' societies relationships with the students. No society can work on its own and every society has an important relationship with the DSU. A lot of student societies come to the DSU for grants and a lot of them get them. It is the vice-president's role to make sure that there is proper communication between the societies and the student union. The VP has to make sure that the societies are not afraid of approaching the student union.

7. I anticipate that I will be quite highly involved — as much as time will permit. I don't think the line between services and politics is quite as thick as many people think it is. I would like to see if I could bring them together, perhaps we could better advertise SUNS and CFS to help educate students about our services. I see SUNS and CFS as being very important in the role of the executive vice-president. Therefore, I see politics as something which cannot be divorced from the executive vice-president.

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