

Supplement

by
Gazette
Staff

Senate Candidates

Shannon Crowell

Q: What are the responsibilities of the Senate and what do you think your role will be on the Senate?

A: As a student, I am prepared to make sure that the academic policies that affect Dal students are fair to Dal students. Also, in case Dal students have anything against the academic policy, it is my duty to bring it to the Senate. As a Senator, it is my duty to represent the academic needs of students at Dalhousie and not be biased. In other words, I wouldn't have an Arts bias or a Science bias or whatever.



ate was, I guess, that I've always been involved in the extracurricular part, and I want to get involved in the academic part, also.

Q: What is your experience in student government in the past? What made you interested in applying for this position?

A: In my last three years in high school, I was involved in the student council. I held positions such as Treasurer — and actually, we had sort of a mock parliamentary system, so I was Minister of Finance — also, I was Deputy Prime Minister, which was like VP. I was Deputy Chairperson, Vice Chairperson last year. I held the chair on the Dal Science Society. I was the Constitution Chair.

And what made me want to get involved this year and run for Sen-

Q: What do you have to contribute to the Senate this year?

A: Rationalization is sort of a big issue around, and I want to represent the students fairly and I want to make sure that the students do benefit academically. Anyone can feel free coming to me with their opinions, and I guarantee that I will voice their opinions.

Q: Tell me about the effect of downsizing the Senate from 430 to 60 voting members. Do you think it will make it more effective?

A: Very much so. Chances are that you are going to get the

same opinions, I guess, from 60 as you would from four hundred and some odd. Just as a personal experience, I've found, it's like the expression too many cooks spoil the broth. If you have 60 people that are hard-working, they tend to be more able and open to express their opinions. Also, it makes it closer to work together, in the sense that, like I said before, you are more willing to speak your mind, and you probably have more chance to make your point with ten people with their hands up as opposed to 100 people with their hands up. Less people, less stress — more things get accomplished. That's how I like a meeting run.

Q: Describe some of the Senate committees which interest you?

A: One committee I would likely be involved in is the Academic Administration Committee. Basically, what that is if someone is unfairly dismissed, they would come talk to me, and the Senate would present their case. Academic Appeals have to do with plagiarism and things like that. If someone has been accused of plagiarism, they come to us for help. These are the committees I'm most interested in.

Drew Campbell



Q: What are the responsibilities of the Senate and what would your role be in the Senate?

A: The Senate is responsible for academic matters on campus and my role would be to represent the students at the Senate. I would be the students' voice.

Q: What is your experience in Student Government in the past and why are you interested in taking this position?

A: My experiences are as a DSU representative and treasurer for Eliza Richie Hall, one of the residences on campus. At the same time, I was the DSU representative for the Science Society. I have been very involved in student politics over the past four years that I have been at Dal. I am interested in taking the position because I want to make some sort of difference, especially along the lines of education and communications.

Q: What do you have to contribute into the Senate this year?

A: My experience and having an idea about how Dalhousie thinks because each campus is different. Jokingly, myself and my intelligence.

Q: Tell me about the effects of down-sizing the Senate from 430 to 60 voting members.

A: The effects of that would be that it would seem as if we have less representation but proportionately because it is a smaller Senate we actually have a greater percentage now. It used to be 8% out of the several hundred and now it is 4% out of a smaller number. Another thing is that when there is a larger group, it is harder to reach a consensus. The smaller group is not necessarily the best either, but it will help to make decisions quicker. In this way, we will be more responsive to the external world beyond the campus.

Q: Describe some of the various Senate committees and which of them interest you?

A: Two of the biggest ones are the Committee on Academic Administration and the Academic Priorities and Budget Committee.

One is a bit more academically oriented. There's also the Senate Financial Planning Committee, the Senate Steering Committee and the Senate Committee on Committees. These would be the ones that I'd be kind of interested in.

The Committee on Committees is essentially responsible for appointing faculty members to committees. It's kind of an odd name. That would be good until, say, you get to know a lot of senators quickly, which I don't know. The other ones as I said, the biggies if you will, are usually the ones that have the most interesting issues on campus, the issues that are more interesting to students and deal with student issues right off. So those would be the ones that I would be interested in sitting on. However, I'm probably going to end up sitting on a good number of them, mainly because there are a lot of them, and as I said before, there are fewer students representing students right now. However, that does have to be that senators represent the students.

There are a lot of committees right now where student senators, if you will, do not sit on those committees. I sat on one last year, the Board of Excellence in Teaching Committee, so that's an example where I was on the DSS at the time and got in that way. Things like that will probably happen a little more, hard to say how that's going to work. As I understand, there's people elected from each faculty now because there are no faculty senators any more; they are elected now and they are going to be coming to talk with Chris Lydon, myself, Shannon or whoever else is going to be, in theory, senators. Hopefully that dialogue will be there. I am a little worried about that because I know how confusion works on campus and I don't know how effective we would be at telling people about that so I'm kind of hoping that with very limited funds make people aware, somehow, of what's going on in Senate. There won't be a lot of issues to make people aware of so hopefully that won't be all that difficult to do.

DSU president Cox on SUNS

How would you recommend that the Dalhousie student body vote on the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) referendum question?

I took office on May 1 and I told the people at SUNS that the referendum was coming in October and that I would weigh, in my personal opinion, what I would recommend to council and students after SUNS' efforts during the summertime. Up until the end of July, it was going really well. The big thing that I wanted to come out of SUNS was student-oriented lobbying, in that they actually got back in touch because I think a fundamental problem with the student unions everywhere is they've lost touch.

If you went to a classroom and asked how many people there know about SUNS or have ever seen anything from SUNS, the response would be poor. So I told them to get out and orient their lobbying. But, by the end of July, we (DSU) had decided that it (SUNS) was pretty rocky — there were internal problems and a lot of internal bickering. But we managed to agree that we'd meet at Dal for two days to come up with student proposals like CASA does, where we would come up with proposals about rationalisation, block funding, student aid, and reforming SUNS internally. I booked off the Student Union Building (SUB) for these people, told them we'll have a mini-conference here, we'll sit down and try to come up with some student policies. No one showed up.

That's been the interest of SUNS, and they never did anything since then, and the way (former chair) Hal MacLean was made to resign; I found that was all done behind Dal's back and I don't feel very comfortable now trusting SUNS to represent Dalhousie's interests in these crucial times.

Now Chris Web has taken over and he's really keen on turning things over but three weeks of trying to do things differently isn't enough for me. I've seen four months where it's gone downhill and noth-

ing's happened. Maybe Chris can pull it back together over the year, maybe we can have a referendum in March and maybe I'll change my viewpoint. But after four months, I don't see the value of SUNS. I don't think it's working for students, I think it's lost touch with the community.

What does SUNS say it has to offer students?

They say that they have the ability to lobby and represent our interests better than what we could do on our own. My argument is that there's problems internally where arguments are done behind Dal's back and that I've never seen SUNS do any effective lobbying. But I have to give Chris credit — he's done a lot of work since the changeover from Hal. In the last month he's had some successes with the single moms issue and single parent students where they had student loan problems. Maybe he's turning it in the right direction but I'm still pessimistic enough to say that it's not worth it and that I would recommend to Dal students to pull out.

What does SUNS say the levy goes towards?

The \$2.60 goes towards research that they do, towards salaries for the executive and the executive director, and towards any of the programs they want to provide during the year.

Do you think we could do it on our own as cheaply?

Dal's overall contribution to SUNS is \$26,000. Suppose that council came up with a position on student loans. There could be a number of innovative ways to do that. We could create a fifteen thousand dollar research portfolio and solicit due tenders on any groups of students on campus. There's a lot of grad or undergrad students that would love to do a research paper on student loans and how changes impact students. That's the same thing that SUNS does-hire someone to write their own papers.