

Caroline Zayid

1. I've had a number of different sorts of experiences in the DSU. I was vice-president external before so I've worked with the CFS and SUNS which is an important part of the president's job. I was also community affairs coordinator so I've been involved with the student union's profile. I've also been grants committee chair so I've had a chance to deal with societies and get an idea about what sort of things they do.

Most of the work I've done at the student union has been to do with external issues and with tuition fees so I've spent a lot of time doing behind-the-scenes work, research, writing press releases, and lobbying.

I think that experience is important because you know where to start, you know what things are possible to do and what things aren't. I have a bit of an idea about what things work well and I think I have a pretty good idea what things students care about and what they don't.

2. There are two sorts of things the student union can do. One is represent students and I think that's the most important. It is important that when student representatives sit on committees that they know what's going on and they have a pretty good idea of what the student position should be and that they're speaking out for student interests. I think that can make a lot more difference than a lot of people think and that can have an impact if you use it properly.

The other thing you can do is try to create student community on campus, have a building that's open to students, that people can use and people can get together to eat and do the things they want to do and a place where people can have parties and that sort of thing. That's the function entertainment plays - getting students together to meet each other and be a student community.

3. I think that Dalhousie should be a very active member of both the CFS and SUNS. I think that Dalhousie can be quite an influential member of both, especially SUNS because it's the biggest university in the province and because it's got more resources than any other student union in the province. It can also make a difference in CFS because it's one of the biggest schools in the Atlantic and because it's been reasonably middle-of-the road politically: it hasn't been as conservatively bureaucratic as the some of the big Ontario schools but it hasn't been as far on the fringes as some of the BC schools. So it has been able to be quite influential in keeping CFS concentrating on the things it should be doing but doing them in an activist kind of way.

They should concentrate on making the government and the public aware that funding universities and funding students to attend universities isn't some sort of charity or isn't something that's a drain on the taxpayers: it should be looked at as an investment that will be good for the whole community. I think that's something that government people don't realize enough.

4. There's been a development that has students on the committees and on all the decision making bodies of the university that's happened over a period of time and now it's something that we take for granted.

I think this year has been a bit of a falling back as far as student representation and the student role in the administration is concerned with the new president and with the new switches around in the way the university is administered.

There have been some ways in which students have really lost out, particularly in the budget process. The student union, by sitting on the University

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Ian McCarthy

What we asked the candidates for president:

1. What experience have you had in student politics and how essential is previous experience in student politics for the job of DSU president?

2. What are the most important things the DSU can do for its members?

3. What more can CFS and SUNS do for Dalhousie students and what role should Dalhousie play in these two organizations?

4. What role should students play in the administration of the university?

What we asked the candidates for vice-president:

1. How essential is previous experience in student politics for the job of DSU vice-president, and what experience have you had in student politics?

2. How would students notice it if the DSU were abolished tomorrow and its functions taken over by the university administration?

3. How can the service and political functions of the DSU work more closely together?

4. Should the DSU constitution be changed? and if so why?

5. What is your understanding of the role of the v.p. in dealing with societies on campus?

6. The campus entertainment program has lost a lot of money this year. What do you plan to do about it?

PRESIDENT
Caroline Zayid

VICEPRESIDENT
Ian McCarthy

Ian McCarthy

1. I don't know if essential is the word, I think experience is helpful. I don't necessarily see a problem with someone coming from outside the DSU with fresh ideas, a student card, and a desire to get involved. I think one of the most important things you can bring with you is just common sense. If you have experiences from just surviving from year-to-year at university, I think that is one of the most important things you can have.

I was vice-president of Howe hall, the men's residence, my first year. I followed that up my second year as president.

I've worked for the university in the summertime in accommodations at Howe Hall. Last summer, I did the summer orientation at Howe Hall. In the residence itself, I got involved in everything from the Winter Carnival to Orientation and entertainment was very much a part of that. So as far as that goes, I've got a pretty good perspective of this campus as a whole, the societies, how they interact and how they work with the DSU.

I was pretty close with most of the teams that have been elected in the last few years, the ones that have taken office, and I was brought in on a lot of the issues. They've often used the residences in the past as a sounding board or just as a way to support their events.

So I think exposure is more important. There are a lot of informed and very well exposed students out there who have never held office.

2. I think certainly they'd notice in the way the decisions are made on campus. I think you'd find that a decision is being made by the administration with absolutely no input from the students. There would be tremendous sense of frustration for students not to have a voice or not to have a facility through which they could cry out if something is going on that they don't approve of or think is going wrong.

3. Services deal with students' lives every day when they wake up in the morning and step on campus or go out

to their classes, whereas the political side of the DSU is something that many students might never encounter or touch before they leave the university.

I think what the DSU has to do is decide what issues are important to students as a whole, try not go too far to one side or follow things that are only of their own personal ideas. Services are something that have to be maintained and kept up to a minimum at the very least. As far as the political side, they should be contacting students and finding out each year what kind of issues and interests are important.

4. That's a difficult question. constitutional reform is always difficult. When we looked at our constitution in residence and made changes, we realized that you really have to be aware of the changes that you're going to set in motion by changing your constitution.

I think the DSU constitution is representative of the students at Dalhousie. I don't have anything specific that I have problems with.

5. The most important that a vice-president can do is go back to a grassroots direct contact with students and with societies on campus. If they know you, they've had contact with you, they trust you, then you're not going to have to twist arms to have them send a team to Super Societies or to have a strong show from the residences.

6. I plan to keep Judy Guthrie doing what she is doing because I'm impressed by the range of entertainment that she's provided. When Dalhousie loses money in entertainment, I believe that it's on liquor sales, but that's because the events have low attendance. In the last few years, it's almost become vogue not to go to support events on campus, no matter how good they are.

The role of the vice-president is to promote events on campus, talk to people, and convince them that it is vogue to have a good time on campus and take a strong hand in the advertising and promotion of the events.

It's also important to realize that

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