

Anoushka Courage - VP (University Affairs)

By Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

"Increased university morale" is the prime goal of the only candidate for VP University Affairs for 1996-97.

Anoushka Courage, who currently holds the position of student-at-large, often returned to the topic of students' spirit and participation in an interview with *The Brunswickan*.

"There's not much university spirit, which we can see from previous elections. I'd like to see more student involvement within the Student Union and within the university. [The SU] would ask for input, and sometimes it was like hitting a brick wall. There's only so much 5 people can do; the more input we have, the greater we'd be."

To accomplish this, Courage suggests starting "from the bottom up. Start with the first year students, since it's hard to get those who've been here for a while [to get involved]." This could be accomplished, she said, through changes to Orientation, including a day for students to meet with administrators. "I'd also try to make sports a bigger thing. Within four years, you're going to have a pretty high spirit."

Courage, a third year political science student, would also like to see that "students get better relations with the administration" and that the SU "help students and be on their side" with, for example, appealing marks.

As someone who sat on the Enrollment Management Committee, Courage also hopes for better and more extensive attempts at recruiting.

Courage has many thoughts on how to improve the SU. "The honouraria system needs to be redone." She proposes a maximum, which individuals will have to justify, in terms of hours or accomplishments, to receive. "Maybe councillors should have honouraria again. It's sad that it comes down to monetary compensation, but student fees increase." She hopes no one will get involved just for the money, but also hopes that those with ideas and enthusiasm won't be prevented from contributing because their financial concerns won't allow it.

She also addressed a concern that arose out of the difficulty of contacting certain members of the executive. "Executives should have regular office hours, three to four a day, during business hours so people can contact you. They should be set and posted, because we are there for the students."

This she relates to the proposed course restrictions for members of the executive. She believes that four courses is appropriate for a VP, but, for a capable President, "one is probably limiting. They should be allowed two or three."

These changes may be set if the SU is restructured, which she feels is a good idea, but one that "would go underway in the summer, if it happens." Otherwise, she says, people are too tied up with meetings and other time limits.

Courage would also like to see "more of a tie between executives and councillors" to "get the councillors more involved." As well, she believes plans and progress reports for the expanded SUB should be released to students. "Some are angry because they won't see the building, [others] because they don't know where their money is going."



As for SU accountability, she argues that the SU "should be very open to the students. People make mistakes, but they should be out in the open because rumours make things worse." She added that all students are welcome to attend SU meetings, but that closed session is necessary for things like contracts. "It's valid as long as it's used in moderation, which isn't necessarily how it's always been used."

Finally, in reference to the overlap in the portfolios of the executives, Courage said "If you made each position tighter there'd be more of a problem; things might get left out. Everyone's ideas are valid, and different opinions lead to better solutions. If we work as a team there shouldn't be a problem."

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