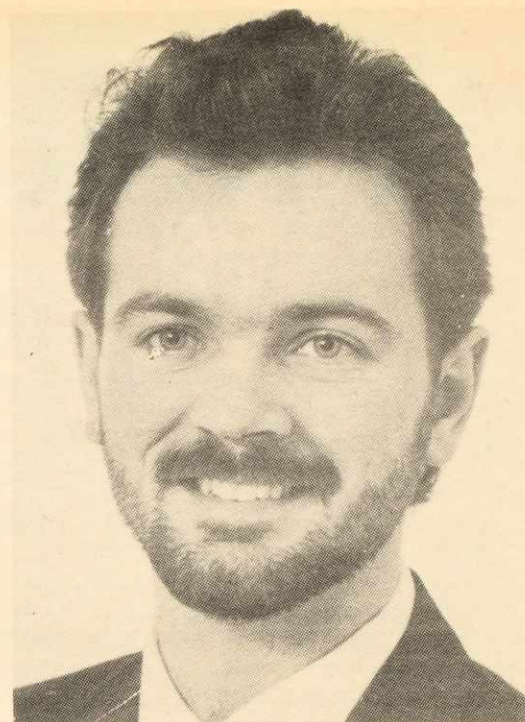


Executive Vice President



Terry CRAWLEY

What is your experience in student politics and how has it prepared you for this position?

Firstly, I was president of the student union at University College of Cape Breton, which gave me an outlook towards overseeing and operating an entire student union. Unlike Dalhousie, we did not have a support staff, therefore my office had to direct and manage all the services. As well, I had to guide the Board of Governors and so forth, as there were no support services whatsoever there. This gave me a really good of what a student union is like as a whole, as I had to touch all these bases, not staying specifically within a political realm. I was very much the chief administrator as well as being the chief politician for the student union.

That gave me a wide range of experience which I have no problem in applying to Dalhousie. This year I've served on the DSU External Affairs Committee. I was also a representative on the Canadian Community College's Board of Directors which gave me much contact with administrators, faculty and support staff across the country. This enhanced my understanding of where administration and faculty come from and what their perspective is.

The biggest things I learned came not from doing everything myself, but in learning how to delegate and how to get students involved in the process. If they are not involved in the process, then you fail. You can be the greatest leader in the world but if they don't have people working for them then it doesn't work.

I've had experience from just being a student in the background to working up to holding what may be termed as the top position in the student union, and every experience in between. That, for me, gives me an idea of what students are about and I look at myself as an ordinary student and have always tried to maintain that attitude.

How do you think the proposed renovations will benefit students?

The Grawood will be moved downstairs into the basement, which will create a larger facility and which will also be more successful, as it will have an entrance out on Seymour St. The fact that it will be larger will do two things; firstly, it will generate more revenue because more students can be there. Secondly, it will allow different groups on campus to use it as a meeting place, and this alone is a positive thing. The fact that there will be food service provided there, there will be a large tv screen, there will be a dance floor, etc. will mean that rather than taking our whole entertainment life and moving it downtown, we can start marketing the new Grawood to students to compete for that revenue. This will indirectly keep students on campus, which will keep them more involved.

Another thing I noticed over the march break was that a number of students have circulated a petition in the games room, receiving almost a hundred signatures on it. Their concern is that the facilities are going to be cut in half. Instead of 12 pool tables there will be six. There are a large number of people who use them and it is usually full. What happens to that large number? Do we alienate that segment of the student body? This has been a problem in the past with some students feeling alienated. This is something we have to address, and especially in my office, as my job is definitely going to have to be getting out and getting students involved in the process. This is part of it, listening to people such as these ones down in the games room who are signing this petition.

What changes would you make so the Grawood could start turning a profit?

I think the renovations will help. Also, we have not taken a really good marketing strategy. With the number of students who attend Dalhousie, there is no reason why we should not have one of the more successful establishments in Halifax. One of the comments about the renovations was that we will have one of the top three revenues in this market. We must take a very serious look at our marketing strategy, which includes the on-campus residences and what the societies want, as they have a large influx as well.

We will have this brand new facility built by september, that's fine, but it can't work on its own. The DSU has to go out and find out what the students are looking for. In this scene, we must provide a more business-like attitude. We have a great facility, let's take advantage of it.

What is the role of societies on campus?

Societies are a major part of student life, there's no doubt about it.

The DSU, like any student union, cannot satisfy everybody, at all times so societies play a role by getting into the more integrated subgroups on campus and directing services towards them. Dalhousie has approximately 100 societies, which says a lot for what people call school spirit and so forth.

One thing in my role as Executive VP is to reinforce the existence of societies, to let them know what services are provide be the DSU partly by contacting them early in the year, face to face and not just by letter. We should do an orientation to let them know what the SUB provides as for as services, as well as what the DSU provides. That will enhance the abilities of the societies who will have to go back and service the students. Without question, societies are a major part of any campus and their successes are all students successes and therefore DSU's successes.

Do you think it's a problem that so few students are interested in running as constituent reps?

Anytime that you don't have students involved, it is a problem. It becomes a sad commentary on the student body. Not necessarily is it completely the fault of the students who don't participate because many don't know what is happening. Whose fault is this? The DSU must take responsibility.

This is also damaging to the process of what the DSU is all about. Therefore, I definitely want to focus on the student body out there - getting people to run for office, sit on committees, etc. Not only must I do a good p.r. job, I must also get those people working

with me to get out and acknowledge the students and educate the students as to what is going on. If we can increase only slightly the number of students involved in the process, we are sure to see an increase in the productivity of the student union.

One thing that can be done to make sure that once you do have reps that they do their jobs. Councillors oftentimes expect the executive and staff members to do all the work without realizing that they ran for a position, were elected by their constituency and are responsible to carry out the duties.

Do you think the DSU is too service oriented?

No, I don't think the DSU is too service oriented. There are a number of things coming out of the Community Affairs office; a number of guest speakers on campus, and there are other services such as the wordprocessing available, counselling and help with study, techniques, etc. What we have to do is market these things even more.

The DSU has done a very good job with its restructuring, internally, and is beginning to work well with the new administration.

My position will be to get those students out there who haven't used these facilities before and begin to use them. That's what our job is, to get them to take advantage of us for us to serve them.

Some people might have the opinion that being an elected official is simply something for your resume. However, I have always taken all positions in student politics seriously. When you are elected, you serve. That's the bottom line. And I definitely think that Juanita and I look at it totally as if we are servants with a job to get done, while at the same time getting students involved.

What would you like to see come out of the President's Symposium on Undergraduate Education?

One thing that has been unfortunate is that traditionally students play a passive role - we sit in the classroom and someone comes up and lectures to us. From what I have understood from students and faculty, who are very much interested, is that they want to change that to an active role. I hope that this is one thing that will come out of the symposium - that if you want an undergraduate program that will work into the 21st century, it has got to be active. This makes students more aware of what is going on, the learning process is enhanced and we are probably going to find answers to social issues much easier.

Hopefully, the symposium will realize that a university can, using its own resources and faculty, as well as student's and administration's interests, come up with answers locally.

As far as responsibilities, I would hope that the new administration of Dalhousie takes from this symposium that students have something to offer. When it comes time to be involved in committees on the Board or on the Senate, that not only do they welcome students but they ensure that the students are educated not only from the student union side of looking at things but also that they give as much information as possible. Therefore we could work together more as a community.

All Senate Seats Acclaimed

Senate

Patrick PERIS

The President's Symposium held last week proved to be a good opportunity for students to provide feedback with respect to the education system at Dal. Many questions and doubts were raised with particular reference to the teaching ability of faculty members. It was asserted that there is a cleft between the undergraduates who expect to be taught and professors for whom promotion and tenure hang on research and publication. It is my opinion that most professors at Dal are committed individuals with great responsibilities

besides academic life. Thus, the "professor-bashing" may not have been entirely justified. As students, we must distinguish between the symptoms of the problem and the problem itself. In this case, the problem to be tackled would be educational policy as a whole.

It is my desire to reinforce the constructive issues that arose at the symposium — for example, the concept of contract grading, whereby a student will have more control of his/her grades, will be stressed.

I firmly believe there must be more dialogue between students and administration to ensure that we can all benefit.