

# You plays the game - you takes your chances

## Craig Carnell

1. Carnell defines the Senate as a representative body consisting of professors, faculty members, and five students that is responsible for the internal governing of the university.
2. As an individual senator Carnell feels that it would be his duty to attend Senate meetings and report what had transpired to council.
3. Carnell was unsure what Senate issues were, saying that the Gazette did not give adequate coverage of Senate. He did, however, discuss student issues such as student expenses and "lack of commitment" on council. Carnell assures he will be committed to the position and promises that he will not resign. He expressed concern about the university bookstore prices, the necessity of the current student drug plan, and rising transit costs. Carnell is opposed to the referendum on disarmament. He disapproves of "any kind of referendums that don't affect students in a personal way" because they "tend to distract their attention from important issues."
4. Carnell perceives financial constraint as a "very complex issue". The problem, as seen by Carnell, is that the university is being squeezed into a corner by both the provincial and federal governments. Carnell sees that financial constraint is having a negative effect on the student population. Higher tuition costs result in a "lack of accessibility" to education and force students to take out loans to finance their studies. Carnell feels strongly that "the burden of constraint" should not be placed on students. He recommends freezing tuition hikes at six and five per cent, in line with recent government policy.
5. Carnell surmises that the majority of students do not know very much about the Senate. He attributes this in part to a "failure of the media" to inform students about the Senate. "Maybe the Senate just isn't an interesting thing to report on," concluded Carnell.

Students may also be more concerned with their studies than with university politics. Others, said Carnell, may have to work to support themselves and do not have enough time to get involved.

## Elias Letelier-Ruz

1. Letelier-Ruz says the Senate is a body made up of faculty members and six members of the student body. One of these members is the Student Union president, while the other five student members are elected students. He says that its function is to discuss and find solutions to academic-related problems.



Craig Carnell, Fred Kamperman, James Warner Martin Tomlinson, Elias Letelier-Ruz, Don McInnes.

### Senate

1. What is the Senate?
2. Do you know what being a Senator entails?
3. What are Senate issues? Which of these do you feel to be the most important?
4. How has the administration been dealing with financial constraint?
5. Do students know what the Senate is? Why or why not?

2. Letelier-Ruz says he considers the role of a student representative on the Senate to be to represent the academic interest of the student body. He sees a senator's role as being to listen to the issues being discussed, to analyze it in how it relates to students, and to be prepared to actively see that the students' interest is considered in any decisions made.
3. Important Senate issues are the large university deficit, cutbacks in spending by the administration and also student tuition costs, says Letelier-Ruz. He feels that spending cutbacks is by far the most important issue.
4. Letelier-Ruz says there is a definite need for financial cutbacks in spending by the administration. He says that careless financial management by the administration in past years is the cause for this need for cutbacks and is not entirely due to inflation as the administration maintains. He says that this need for cutbacks is now directly affecting students and the cost and quality of their education, although the deficit is no fault of their own. He says the Senate should study the repercussions this will have on the students.

He adds, however, that he knows the administration has the students' best interests at heart, and say the administration, faculty and students should look to and work for the future

for Dalhousie together.

5. Letelier-Ruz says that most students do not know what the Senate is or does. He says that most students lack this knowledge because those who have served on the Senate in past years have not made too great an attempt to communicate what happens in the Senate to the student body. He says that Senators should somehow be able to make such communication to the students through the student council office.

## Donald McInnes

1. The Senate is a body consisting of about 320 people, the vast majority being faculty, with six student reps including the president of the DSU, and administration reps, according to McInnes. He says Senate's purpose is to control academic matters. "It's there to choose what courses will be taught," McInnes says, indicating that a shortage of profs in one department might lead to needed faculty being hired on. McInnes says one thing Senate hasn't been doing is cutting down on staff in "programs not relevant to today."
2. McInnes says being a Senator

would require sitting on Student Council and attending council meetings aside from those of Senate. On Senate, he says he will voice council's opinion together with other student senate reps. "I'm not there to be speaking what I feel personally," he says. McInnes also says he will sit on several Senate committees, which he considers crucial to the university's management.

3. One issue which McInnes says is important in Senate is that of obsolete programs. "A lot of money is spent hiring people or taking on staff that aren't being used," he says. McInnes says arbitration with profs and cutting down salaries were another important issue, although "some staff (assistant or full-time profs) are paid less than public school teachers."

Student aid and bursary problems also generate concern from McInnes, especially in light of recent high tuition hikes limiting accessibility. At Dalhousie, McInnes says school bursaries and awards aren't publicized enough to the general student. He also would like to see a unified marking system implemented. The different per cent grading systems currently vary from prof to prof, he says, and, "There's no standard of equivalency."

4. McInnes says the university's financial problem began in the late 60's and early 70's when the university began expanding. Lack of foresight not only left the university with little money for new buildings' upkeep, but also resulted in inefficient buildings to heat and maintain, he says.

McInnes is pleased with the administration's attempts to cut costs — specifically in cutting back staff, limiting pay increases, and selling its real estate.

5. McInnes feels most students know the Senate is concerned with Academic affairs, but said

beyond that, most were uninformed. "It should be more publicized — what Senate is, and what the student's role is," he stated. McInnes also lays some of the blame at the feet of the average student. "There's a big fault at the students for not trying to find out," he says.

"If they really cared they'd be getting in touch with their student representatives on Senate and in council," says McInnes.

## Martin Tomlinson

1. Martin Tomlinson sees the Senate as an administrative body that meets to discuss academic and disciplinary matters.
2. Tomlinson believes that the purpose of the student representatives on Senate is to act as "watchdogs" of student opinion and present this view in Senate. While Tomlinson admits that the meetings may appear long and boring and seem only to deal with trivial matters, he maintains that the Senate plays an important role in the functioning of the university.
3. Important Senate issues, according to Tomlinson, include academic planning, security, discipline, honorary degrees and tuition. He feels that the most important Senate issue is academic integrity. While admitting that financial constraint is needed Tomlinson warns that "we should work against those things which are going to compromise academic integrity and which are going to cause the administration to look for more money from students."

Tomlinson said he realized that the Senate has little actual control because the final decisions lie with the Board of Governors. As with all democratic institutions, things often progress quite slowly. For these reasons Tomlinson says that a student senator must be patient.

4. On the issue of financial constraint Tomlinson feels that the government should follow the increases in bursaries, loans and tuition suggested by its advisory board, the MPHEC. The government, said Tomlinson, has "a history of ignoring the recommendations of the MPHEC." Tomlinson believes that the MPHEC should be given the authority to enforce its recommendations.
5. Tomlinson is of the opinion that most students "have a general idea" that the Senate exists. We have a tendency, remarked Tomlinson, to assume that the Senate is doing its job efficiently and ignore it.

Tomlinson defined politics as part of "everyday life". He feels that students should not look for "brave new promises" but rather someone who is "aware" of what is going on in Senate. Tomlinson pointed out that he was appointed unanimously to the Senate by council last

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