

Questions for Vice-Presidential candidates:

1. How do you feel about providing office space in the SUB for more of the societies? Should B societies be offered office space?

Beth Beattie, Candidate for the position of Vice President

• 1st year law student

- DSU community affairs coordinator 88/89
- DSU member at large 89/90
- Active in intramurals and varsity sports
- Founder of the DSU clown troupe, annual car-stuffing contest

1. Societies are very important to the quality of life here at Dalhousie. We're in total support of the societies. We realize the role that they play on campus.

In terms of providing SUB space for them ... at this point, there is some available space and we will look towards providing

2. How will you encourage students to take part in DSU sponsored events, like the Winter Carnival? Short of creating a football team, what can the DSU do to combat student apathy?

3. Would you commit yourself to the publication of course evaluations, i.e. an "anti-calendar" for students?

societies with this space in the near future. In the long term, there may be a SUB expansion program.

In the short term, we will look to providing societies, including B societies with a multi-purpose room. This will have telephones, chairs, that kind of thing will be at the disposal of societies to organize special events and such. That's very important, to keep the SUB accessible to societies, that the SUB staff is available. Office services is right there, room reservations are there, DSU staff is there to help provide the societies with assistance.

In addition, we will be giving societies more money to promote their societies, to get more people involved. We realize the essential importance of societies to life on Dalhousie campus.

2. To begin with, we have to, as I said, really promote the societies, to assist them, in whatever way possible, to get more students involved in the society. This year's Winter Carnival went well, especially with regards to societies. But in regards to getting peo-

ple who aren't involved in societies involved in Winter Carnival, that type of event, it's important that we make things accessible to students who don't really know what's going on on campus, which I instigated. I instigated that because students don't have an inlet to a lot of the activities on campus, and this would promote spirit.

For Winter Carnival, it's important that societies continue not only to take part, but that smaller teams can partake. Usually, you need up to 15 people. We'd like to see smaller numbers of people being able to take part.

We can also get more people involved by bringing onto campus better entertainment. For instance, Super-SUBs — there's no reason we cannot get quality acts, really good bands and we will do that. This provides for people, not only members of societies, but for the average student who doesn't know what the DSU and the societies have to offer.

As such, only bits and pieces of courses are handled by the course evaluation. We want to make it mandatory so that there will be better participation by professors. This means that students will have more than just the Dalhousie calendar to pick their course by. They will see what they can get out of each and every course that they are interested in.

By having it mandatory, it will improve the quality of the course evaluation manual. It's important that we work with the administration to see that they are well distributed, preferably through registration packages in the summer.

Questions for Presidential candidates:

1. What are the prominent upcoming issues that will have to be dealt with by the DSU in the upcoming year?

Lara Morris — Candidate for the position of President

- Currently Chair of Students Union of Nova Scotia
- Student rep on Board of Governors
- V.P. External, 88/89
- Member, Dal Advocates for the Physically Challenged
- Chair, SUNS Election Readiness Committee, 88

1. I think that some of the most important issues we're going to have to deal with next year are tuition fee increases, the possibility of a faculty strike, and what the administration plans to do with the athletic fee. All of these issues affect the accessibility of Dalhousie and they also affect the quality of education at Dalhousie.

On the issue of tuition fees — we are opposed to the proposed 20 per cent tuition fee increase. We want to work with the administration to come up with a proposal that will mean reasonable increases that are affordable to Dalhousie students.

2. What is your position on the proposed tuition fee hikes and what is your goal, insofar as finding common ground with the administration?

3. Can Dalhousie depend on government to solve funding problems?

Another factor that affects how affordable Dalhousie is for students is the availability of adequate student aid. We'll be working with the government at both the provincial and federal levels to improve the student aid system and help compensate for tuition fee increases.

With regards to the strike, we're going to keep working and pressing the administration and the faculty to begin negotiations early. It is our belief that all students must be kept informed as to the progress of negotiations. The present contract with the faculty expires at the end of June.

We'll be working with them over the summer to ensure that they are negotiating and hopefully they'll have a contract before school starts in the fall. Students will be kept informed over the summer as well.

2. As I said before, we are opposed to the proposed 20 per cent tuition fee revenue increase. We want to work with the administration and we feel we have the experience to do this: to come up with a proposal of realistic tuition

fee increases student can afford.

We also want to involve more students and representatives of societies in dealing with the administration so that they can get a sense that there are a number of students on Dalhousie campus that cannot afford these tuition fee increases.

We recognize that tuition increases have to contribute to Dalhousie's financial strategy plan and yet improve the quality of education at Dalhousie.

We insist that the administration has to look at other funding sources. Students can't afford the increases that they have proposed, and unless student aid is improved in order to meet the needs of students, we have to keep those tuition fees down.

As far as other sources go, we would look to alumni donations, fund-raising campaigns, and that kind of thing to find more money.

3. Dalhousie students realize the government isn't necessarily

going to fund our education. If you look at what they've done recently, the federal government has frozen established programs financing transfers to the provinces. One third of those transfers contribute to the cost of funding education in Nova Scotia. If they have eliminated \$80 million from the Nova Scotia budget and if you take the education portion of that, that means \$917 per student has been eliminated for the next two years.

Where's that money going to come from?

We realize that the provincial government is strapped for funds, but we also realize that, with the administration, we have to lobby the provincial and federal government to meet the commitment they have made to education. They have made verbal commitments repeatedly to education and they now have to make a financial commitment. They have to realize that education is part of the future of Canada. Together, the students, the administration and the faculty can put pressure on government.



Photo: Rochelle Owen



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Patti Dow — Candidate for the position of Vice-President

- Past SAHPER president (88/89)
- Chair of Fall orientation 89
- Graduation class president 90
- Currently on Senate, representing Health Professions
- Studying towards a bachelors degree in recreation administration

1. The student union building itself is full. Unless you put on an addition or major reconstruction, you can't make available any more office space. We have the McDonald Science Library that is sitting there. It is available. It's not a walking fire hazard. I think that it can be used for the B societies, have that as the "Societies Building". All A societies and B

societies have offices in there. There's plenty of room, and then you have a direct link to the Student Union, you can go over the McDonald Science Library or the "Students' Society Building", and say, "OK, this is where everybody is, I can make contact with everybody", knowing that they are all in one place.

2. It goes on to what Ralph said; the only way you are going to get student participation and student enthusiasm is by letting the students know what you are doing, and by letting them have respect for you as a society and as the student leaders.

Different types of promotion — I mean I've worked in campus activities. I know about student apathy, I know how pathetic it can get. Posters, and flyers and banners, all that is great, but you

have to have internal enthusiasm.

The student union representatives, the reps themselves have to be excited, they have to be participating, they have to be visible in order for the students to say, "Hey, you know, they're crazy, they're having fun. Let's join them. It looks like a good time." You can't expect students to do something you don't do yourself.

3. The course evaluation guide that is available now is very good, the problem being that it's not available to all students. It has only been mailed out to a selected number of students due to cost.

If you are going to do a course evaluation to that extent, again, it has to be available to everybody. Whether it be on reserve at the library or you take the initiative and you take the money and say,

"Look, this is worthwhile, we want the students to know what the courses are like, what the professors are like. They have every right to know."

You get three thousand first-year students coming into the university not having any idea about professors or the courses. They ask their friends and a lot of them don't have friends when they first come, so who do you turn to?

You can come to the Student Union and ask questions but a lot of the time they won't answer them, so you have this course evaluation. I think it's very important that it's kept up and they should know — they have a right to know — what other students think about these professors.



Photo: Rochelle Owen

Ralph Cochrane, candidate for the position of President

- Past president of Howe Hall
- Vice-chair of Orientation 89/90
- Chair of Diet Pepsi Duck Derby for Diabetics
- Chair of Grad Week 90
- Working on a B.A. in Economics

1. The major one would be tuition fees for sure, and a few other ones. The so-called threat of a possible strike, programming and communications is really our focus. I feel that is what is an issue for us because we see that the school wants participation from students only when there's a crisis situation and doesn't take enough initiative to inform students on a regular basis about what goes on.

I'm past president of Howe Hall and as a president of one of the major societies on campus, I

organizational committee meeting once every two weeks. For example, if there's Winter Carnival going on, orientation going on, different activities going on throughout the year, you have one society member representative. Hopefully that will get the societies out. As vice-president, I'd like to go out and talk to each society when they have their meetings. I know there's a great many societies, but I'm going to try to get out as much as possible to get to each society, to talk to them, to advertise leadership weekend, utilize leadership weekend a lot more.

The best thing is to go out and talk to societies first, in person, then send follow-up letters. Hopefully this new committee will — there's one now, but it hasn't met yet this year — I'd like to start it up again — have one member from each A and B

society. Hopefully we'll get more people out.

3. Yes, I would make sure that the course evaluations were published. A great many people ask about it, even when I work at the desk, a great many people come and ask about course evaluations and what kind of courses to take. Trying to get them out to the first year students — we can have the booklets that are published at the Enquiry Desk, so that people can come and ask, they'll be able to utilize it. A lot of people come and ask questions.

Ralph Bastarache — Candidate for the position of President

- DSU executive member — Communications Chair
- Former President — Dalhousie Association of Biology Students
- Member, SUNS communications, special events committees
- Member of various administration and faculty committees

1. There are three major issues, prominent issues that will be affecting students and student leadership in place next year.

One of the most prominent ones is the possibility of a faculty strike occurring next year, in the fall of 1990. The current collective agreement with the faculty expires in June, 1990, which will put them in a legal position to strike. The student union must, absolutely must, get a representa-

tive to observe what goes on in the negotiations so we don't get caught in the middle like last time. Each side doesn't want the other side to take the minutes and report the occurrences of the meetings. The best way to handle that is to have a student there to record and report, unbiasedly, what happens. That kind of observation no doubt will put the students in a favourable position, will keep both sides free.

The next important issue will be the expiration of the Athletic Fee agreement. It's only an eight month agreement now, and I think it should be extended to twelve months for all students.

The last, yet most important issue facing students is that of rising tuition fees.

2. Tuition, at most, should increase by the Consumer Price Index. Students' summer earn-

would get a copy of the DSU minutes whenever they had a meeting and all I would get would be an outline. I had no real idea of what really went on in the meeting. That's all right for me because I have a right-hand man, a representative that goes to these meetings. But what about the average person that lives on-campus or lives off-campus that doesn't know what goes on? How is a person supposed to be involved in a tuition agreement, in this sort of thing, in programming, and communications, if they are not being informed?

2. They told everybody it was going to be 20 per cent and it's not going to be 20 per cent. It hasn't been passed, at the last time I knew of it.

The Student Union has had a past reputation of being very militant against administration.

There has to be a lot more small talk or casual conversation with these people in order to get a constructive agreement.

If you go with a really negative attitude, with the fists up, you're not going to get much of an agreement together. You can sit down and say, "Listen, these are our problems, we can't pay for it, you need the money, let's see if we can work something out together." Rather than saying, "We're not going to pay this, this is the very minimum we're going to go ahead with. If you don't go our way, we're going to make a big fuss." I think if you can work together, then that's positive.

There's the position of lobbying of the provincial government, but that can't be done effectively unless a lot of the students participate. And the students, if they don't know about it, are not

going to go out and do it. It's like they did on the last strike; students weren't aware about what went on before, and then they got hit with a big notice, "There's going to be a big strike!" Then they went home, because they weren't kept in touch all year.

3. Obviously, the government is a major part of funding. There's been an \$80 million cut-back; people have to be made aware in the government that students can't pay that price — students have to get out. You have to rely on that basically right now, but it's a matter of attitude, you have to have the attitude of, "Listen, we have a problem. We all have to work together to rectify it — the administration, the students, and the provincial government."

raise money to help reduce the debt.

3. Presently Dalhousie is \$33.4 million in debt.

Ralph Bastarache's comments are continued on page 12



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Lynn McMichael — Candidate for the position of Vice-President

- Chair — Sociology and

Social Anthropology Student Society (SSASS)

- Coordinator — DSU Second-hand Bookstore
- Official DSU delegate —

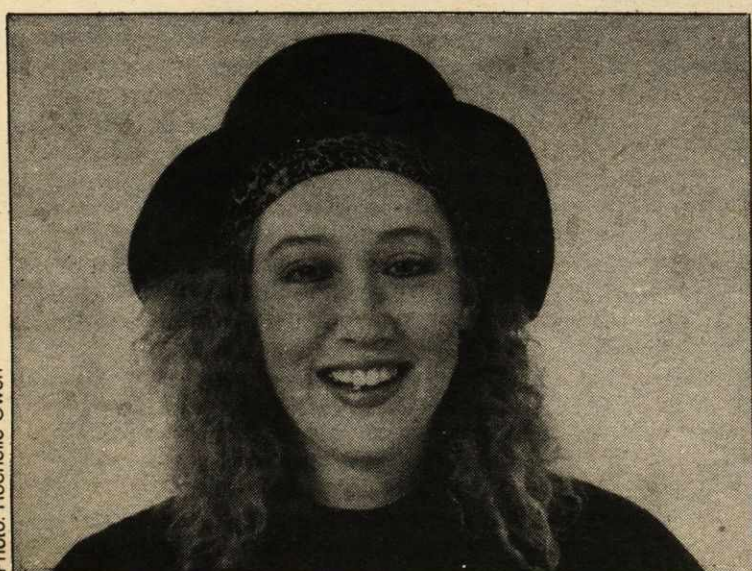


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