

Dalhousie Student Union

CHECK THIS SPOT OUT EVERY WEEK FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE DSU AND THE GOINGS ON AT DAL

Dalhousie Varsity SUBWAY Day




Saturday, September 20, 10am - 10pm

Participating Branches:

**Spring Garden Road
and
Corner of Quinpool and Robie**

Subway will donate \$1.00 off each Footlong Sub to Dalhousie Varsity Athletics.

Athletes will be making the Subs.

SOCIETY STUFF

Society Ratification deadline

October 15th @ 1pm

Mandatory society roundtable

September 22nd @ 7pm

Contact DSUVPCA@dal.ca for more info

Free furniture for societies

Contact DSUVVP@dal.ca for more info

Come visit us!!

Student Union Building
6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J2
DSUVPCA@dal.ca
HTTP://is2.dal.ca/~dsu

Union bid axed

BY SHELLY ROBINSON

A union bid by Dalhousie student workers in the Student Union Building has been scrapped.

The Student Union Part-time Staff Association (SUPSA), representing all part-time staff employed by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) — except Grawood and Corner Pocket staff — withdrew its application to join the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) following questions of which part-time staff would be included in the union.

Last March's union drive was organized by SUPSA for SUPSA members. However, the Grawood and Corner Pocket employees also voted.

As a result of the participation of non-SUPSA members in the vote, the Labour Relations Board of Nova Scotia was to determine the appropriate bargaining unit and determine whose votes counted.

However, instead of going before the Labour Relations Board, SUPSA's bid for union status was withdrawn.

Last year's SUPSA president Andrew Younger describes why the bid was withdrawn rather than allowed to proceed through the Labour Board.

"What the board would have ruled, most likely, is for Grawood and Corner Pocket staff to be included. That would be fine, they would be included — but then there was some debate as to whether the votes [by Grawood and Corner Pocket staff] were ill-informed or were coerced or anything," Younger said.

Local CUPE representative Kelly Murray said that the job conditions of SUPSA members are similar enough to those of the Grawood and Corner Pocket staff that any attempts to unionize should be done jointly.

"They're all students...[SUPSA] was adamant to organize and [the Grawood and Corner Pocket] were adamant not to...the one was excluding the other and it doesn't

work that way.

"They'll have to get together — and not exclude each other — to apply [for union membership] again," Murray said.

DSU president Chris Adams says the dissolved union push will not significantly change how the student union deals with part-time staff.

"We carry on business as has been conducted, and will be conducted, with this council's mandate...the way we operate the building is the way we will continue to operate the building," said Adams.

"If there are concerns [from part-time employees] I hope they will be brought to our attention, and they will be addressed."

SUPSA president Meg Green said whether or not another union attempt is launched, the concerns that led to the attempt last March still exist, and SUPSA exists to help student employees.

"If the majority of staff say, 'We really want to try this unionization thing,' then that's what we'll do," said Green.

"And if they say, 'To hell with unionization,' then we'll say, 'What would you like?' There are other levels staff can go to, but the only people who are going to help [staff] are fellow workers," she said.

"I have my suspicions that this year a majority of people are going to feel differently than the majority of people felt last year...there's more new staff...coming in saying, 'Everyone's so cool, they're so nice,' so you can't really say, 'O.K. let's unionize,' because they'd be like 'Why?'"

Despite the optimism of new part-time staff, Green says she is not without apprehension.

"You always try to feel a certain amount of confidence in the beginning because it's a new [DSU] executive, new ideas...I don't know — we'll see what this year brings...we'll see if I'm still here by Christmas."

DSU ready for year

BY ALEXANDRA BONNEY

Preparation for the academic year began during the summer for this year's Dalhousie Student Union executive.

Last Monday was the first council meeting attended by the full compliment of student councillors. The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executive took this opportunity to report their activities over the past four months to the council at large.

Among their activities were the usual potpourri of expensive conferences, charity fund-raisers and renovations to the Student Union Building.

DSU President Chris Adams reminded the new council that its numbers would be augmented by a delegation from the Sexton Campus (Daltech) due to the consolidation of Dalhousie and TUNS.

These new positions are expected to give full representation to the entire student body. Adams explained that one of the new members, Jim Bayersford who is the Vice-President Academic of the Daltech Student Union, will have a double responsibility in the Dalhousie government.

"We're having a representative on the senate, and because he's a

representative on the senate, he will also sit on the [student] council," said Adams.

The floor was then turned over to Vice-President Academic/External Kevin Lacey. The VP introduced a plan which is designed to assist students in becoming more aware of the activities of his portfolio.

"This year I want it to be one of the more active committees in the university," said Lacey.

"I want to get students to get involved by bringing forth a series of campaigns, and have them get involved by new activities rather than the protest ways of the past."

Lacey went on to explain that historically student unions have encouraged protest. His plan is to rally students through information campaigns with the hope that they will become more aware of the issues facing them.

"Campaigns have been very effective in other parts of the country [UNB] has the best example, where they've had a lot of success this past week with their campaign. I'm pretty excited about the fact that students will finally be able to politically see what the Student Union is doing."