

Election platforms

Next Friday is voting day for students' union executive positions

Presidential candidates

Dennis Fitzgerald



Dennis Fitzgerald

Dennis Fitzgerald is a fourth year arts student who has served U of A students in these capacities:

Students' union treasurer 69-70; students' council science rep 68-69; Faculty of Science Council 68-69; students' union Housing Commission; SUB Expansion Commission, Student Health Committee; GFC Housing and Food Services Committee, Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee and worked on The Gateway and Evergreen and Gold.

The direction of the students' union isn't a matter of action or services because none of these are exclusive concerns. The services must be provided and we must look to continuing action oriented programs in the next year.

There are many issues to be dealt with and your choice on Friday should depend on who can deal most efficiently with those issues, and I offer you my experience to deal with them.

SUB expansion has become a reality with your overwhelming affirmative vote in the recent referendum.

But we need a strong lobby with the government to obtain the PUB. We must ensure that the financing, design, management and tendering necessary to ensure a building to meet your needs, are completed as soon as possible. This is the kind of experience I can offer.

A similar situation exists with the students' union housing development. We've got a well planned project to meet the drastic shortage of decent housing on campus, but it will be a fight to negotiate government money for the necessary loan. I will fight to get the loan for the development.

General Faculty Council is the centre of our university involvement. We need greatly increased representation on GFC to voice our views to the rest of the university.

It is time we examined which university government committees we sit on. We should assess which committees we need the strongest representation on, and then do our utmost when the efforts can do us the most good.

Special considerations are tenure committees. Teaching should be the principle priority for hiring. Students should have an equal say in this matter.

Programming

- More teach-ins (topics like pollution, American Domination of Canada—Part II);

- More forums on relevant issues;
- Support of social action programs in the community;

- Strong voice to the government on summer employment and the lack of jobs for graduating students.

Communications
This area has been sadly lacking. It is not the structure that counts but people who are willing to work for goals through projects such as:

- Special council bulletins to students as to how major projects are progressing and what students' council is doing;

- Publishing a booklet on students' assistance and a booklet on the legal rights of students.

These are the things I stand for and if you feel as I do, then vote for me on Friday.

Tim Christian

Students' council as it presently exists is irrelevant. This observation, I'm sure, won't be considered news by anyone, especially if they've attended any council meetings recent-



Tim Christian

ly. Don't be misled by glib slogans though, reorganization won't make council relevant—a juggling of the bureaucracy is not the answer. Nor will a more efficient administration of council affairs make it a worthwhile body. The only way council can become relevant is if it begins to deal with relevant issues, its perspective must change. We must use the resources of students' council to educate ourselves about the nature of the complex and interrelated social questions like poverty, pollution, and racism which directly face all of us.

In this campaign there are two major questions which must be dealt with. The first I would like to discuss is the Law and Order Committee. The students' council has no position on this issue. I think that it should be abolished. Here is my reasoning. The role of the university in society should be to function as a critical servant of the community. Students and faculty in the university should be engaged in examining and evaluating the assumptions upon which our society operates. We must question whether the predominant values are valid and ask if the institutions of society are just. We must raise critical questions when those in power advocate "law and order."

Our commitment however should not end with questioning. Whenever we find an injustice we should expose it and work for its removal. This sort of dissent should be recognized as one of the university's

most valuable contributions to society.

The role for the university which I have outlined is obviously not acceptable to those groups in society that have a vested interest in preserving the status quo. It has always been to the advantage of the power holders in society to stifle criticism and dissent.

The intent of the interim report of this committee is blatantly obvious—to prevent students and faculty from upsetting the establishment applecart.

For that reason I think it should be abolished. The university should nurture dissent—not repress it.

The second issue which I think should be focused upon in the campaign is the hiring and firing of professors. The Ted Kemp case is one example of how students' interests are overlooked. Despite the fact that Ted Kemp is considered an excellent teacher by both past and present students he has been denied tenure because he has failed to comply with the criteria dictated by the university as the requirements for permanent positions. We must change the criteria emphasis from the "publishing syndrome" to the importance of good teaching.

The basic question that arises is: who shall control the hiring and firing of professors. I believe that control should rest with students and faculty at the department level.

In closing, I would like to state that my major reason for running in this election is to ensure that critical issues are a central part of my campaign.

Don McKenzie

Don McKenzie is a capable and conscientious student leader. During the past few years, he has made a substantial contribution to campus life, including experience in the following positions: Coordinator of Student Activities, student representative to the Board of Governors, chairman of the Students' Union Reorganization Committee, and director of High School Visitation. But more important than his extensive administrative experience, Don is very much concerned with students and their problems and very committed to developing an effective students' union.

In seeking your support, I feel that it is most important that I tell

you something about my philosophy and approach to student government. I say this because in many ways, the platforms of the candidates are similar. It is in the approach that the important distinctions are to be made.

The fundamental purpose of the Students' Union should be to serve student needs. This will require a new openness in student government, a new approach to the problems which confront us. But most crucially, it will require a resident who is genuinely concerned with student needs, who is responsive to student opinion, and who is committed to student goals. We can no longer afford a Students' Council which pretends to be representative of students, yet refuses to be responsible to them. New channels of communication must be developed so that you are able to keep truly informed on what your representatives are doing. We must place new emphasis on meaningful involvement of students in the processes of student government in order to re-establish it as a strong and viable organization.

Accessibility. Responsibility. Accountability. These will be the hall-



Don McKenzie

marks of the new student government I hope to lead. Taken in total, they will mean a Students' Union which is genuinely committed to the welfare of something which

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