

# Ask the candidates: what our

## Mark Galley For DSU President

### Most important issue

The biggest issue facing students next year is tuition increases. Tuition has gone up over 100 percent in the last few years here at Dalhousie and this is a trend that can not continue. The situation is particularly dire this year with the state of the province of Nova Scotia finances. Our province is in debt and is facing massive budget cuts. Throughout government, departments have been projecting the impact of these cuts and the department of Education's analysis revealed that if students are to face the brunt of these cuts by having it placed on tuition then this could result in an increase as high as 34 percent!!! Students shouldn't, can't and won't stand for this kind of increase. So now the question becomes what can be done about it. This year as Vice President Student Advocacy with the DSU I presented a plan to the newly elected minister of education that would bring these increases under control. Tuition regulation is the answer. What was proposed in tuition regulation is that the yearly increase of anywhere from 5-8 percent that Dal students have been facing be regulated or in the case of the proposal tied to inflation. With this type of control put in place gone are the 8 percent hikes in tuition, the fears of differential tuition for different faculties and now students would be able to know what their tuition would cost for the four years they are here. If elected we would press both the province and the university to implement this type of control on Dal's exploding tuition.

Some people ask why not a tuition freeze? That fact is that a tuition freeze hasn't and doesn't work. What has happened across the country when one has been put into place is that tuition stays the same, but students are simply charged incidental fees, \$50 fees, fees for tutorials etc... These aren't tuition costs so they can do that but they are still costs we as students have to pay. This actually would make the situation worse for those on student loans, as the amount of money you get is based on tuition costs not total cost. So the prices goes up but your loan doesn't.

### Why are you running?

This is probably what a lot of candidates will say, but I choose to run for this position because I believed that I could make a difference for Dal students. To put this in context I'll look back at some of the lobby effort that I did in Ottawa this year for Dal students. This year I was part of a national campaign for Post Secondary education. We meet with and lobbied over 100 members of Parliament all the way to the finance minister. The four things that we lobbied for were increased funding, GST off text books, lower interest rates on student loans and the elimination of discriminatory tuition. Where this gets into making a direct difference for Dal students is in relation to GST on text books. Some people argued that this was something too small and that we had to ask for more, I disagreed. If at the end of this year I am able to put upwards of \$90 back into the pockets of every Dal student then that is over \$1 million split among Dal students that they see now when they need it the most. So in short yes there are long term issues such as student loans and funding but there are also things that need and can be done to help students now.

### Qualifications

Experience is something that in a political position such as President can be a great asset. For the past year I have worked hand in hand with this year's President representing and lobbying for Dal students. This year I was the Vice President Student Advocacy with the DSU. In this position I spent my last year lobbying in Ottawa and meeting with such individuals as the minister of finance, finance critics, the minister of education, the Executive director of the student loan program, and our own administration.

I have also been a member of the DSU council and the University Senate for the last two years, represent the interest of student at the DSU, Senate and Joint Senate Board committees. In short I bring

\* Experience in lobbying federal and provincial governments

\* Connections at other Student unions across the country

\* Experience representing student interests to the university

\* Knowledge of the concerns and issues facing students.

### New ideas

Although not a new service one thing that I would like to see expanded so that it can be a better resource for students is the Student Advocacy Service. Currently the DSU runs a Student Advocacy service that helps students with such things as grade appeals and represents students on discipline hears of the university for such things as plagiarism. Last year the DSU conducted a service survey and 86 percent of students said that they felt that there should be a full time service to help out with these as well as such things as student loan problems, and other problems that students face. The problem is that currently this department is only allocated \$1600 to run for the entire year, and with a phone bill of almost \$60 a month there is really not much to work with. If elected this department will be expanded and financed properly so that Dal students can get the help that they need. The students have said that they want it and if elected we will provide this valuable service.

### Favourite word or phrase

My favorite phrase would have to be "my cat's breath smells like cat food" Ralph Wiggum. What can I say I'm a Simpson's buff, so remember "Choo Choo Choose" Galley and Kennedy. Even though our signs don't have a train on them.

## Chauncey Kennedy For DSU Executive Vice President

### Most important issue

I think that by far the biggest issue facing students next year is the possibility of an unacceptable hike in tuition fees. A government funding cut is the source and will possibly cause an even greater financial strain on students. Mark Galley has been extremely involved through the VP Student Advocacy position this year plans on dealing with the political aspects of the cuts and tuition raises. As far as the position of Executive Vice President goes, I plan on a couple of different things; the first being providing more opportunities for the students to actually know what is going on. Better utilizing and marketing the SUB is key in raising awareness. Well-publicized forums, with top level university decision makers as well as government officials is key in making Dal students knowledgeable about what is happening to their education. Also, fixing the DSU web page is an absolute must! First of all, the web page blatantly sucks! There is everything from spelling mistakes to the Health Plan link that has no information. This is an avenue of marketing possibility for the DSU and SUB that is infinite. I would like to see a direct link from the Dal homepage as well as just having a complete site. The DSU web page is not known about and can become an easy and efficient way to convey what the DSU is and what we are doing for issues that specific students are worried about.

### Why are you running?

The reason that I am running for the position of Executive VP is a very simple one; I feel my business and marketing experience will be a great asset to the Dalhousie Student Union. Because the position entails the running of the Student Union Building, both general operations and full and part time student staff, an experienced business student is an added benefit. I have always wanted to run for the position of Executive VP as it suits my attributes and personality, which is a laid back environment, full of open communication and last but not least a business. The DSU is a beneficial student voice and representation that needs to better utilize the student population.

### Qualifications

I am currently a third year Commerce student majoring

in Marketing Informatics. The knowledge gained through three years of Commerce/Marketing courses as well as, two co-op work placements has taught me the important aspects of how a business runs and how to deal with all levels of management, personnel and external audiences. I was also heavily involved in the Dalhousie Commerce Society as a third year representative this year, and was a proud Cameron House President in 1998-1999. I have very good personal and group communication skills and feel that I am very approachable and easy to discuss any issues with.

### New ideas

The new ideas and services, which Mark Galley and myself have discuss first and foremost is to improve the services that we currently have! For example, I believe that all of our services are important for a university and for Dal students, but right now some are losing money. This is unacceptable as you the students pay Student Union Fees (approx. \$52.40/year) to fund SUB operations. I want to utilize my marketing experience to make and institute improvements to make them widely used services across campus. With regards to new renovations, I feel something needs to be done to help accommodate the influx of students once the FASS opens up next year, but first we have to find out exactly what the student population needs. There is no sense in making renovations that are not needed or wanted by the student population. One quick idea that I feel will help improve the traffic through the SUB is to open a patio in front of Robins Donuts where student can gain access directly from Robins and can go outside and drink their coffees and just hang out. This is very feasible especially since there are current plans by the Halifax Regional Municipality to close off University Avenue between Seymour and LeMarchant. This will become a walkway for students from the FASS to the SUB, and this area has loads of possibilities! As well, I will work hand in hand with CARA Food Management to prepare them for the opening of the FASS. The DSU gave the Dalhousie 1 million dollars to help build the FASS, but there were stipulations. One of these stipulations was that the FASS would not provide any food services. This will directly affect the amount of students using the Union Market, Grawood and Robin's. I definitely think that changes need to be made in the Union Market but right now I honestly can't speculate what it really needs to be evaluated first.

### Favourite word or phrase

I think that my favorite phrase would have to be the Newfoundland expression, "GO ON." The reason my favourite phrase is a Newfoundland phrase is because my girlfriend and best friend are Newfoundlanders and I have picked up on the lingo. The phrase is applicable in so many different ways and meanings. For example: Disbelief and empathy:  
Me: Hey, how is school going?  
You: Crappy man, I have 14 exams in the next two days!  
Me: GO ON, that's shitty!

### Disbelief and humorous:

Me: Hey bud, what is going on?  
You: Chauncey, I just did an hour long presentation with my fly down and a piece of lettuce in my teeth!  
Me: GO ON! (laughing)

## Steve Cote For DSU President

### Most important concern

My number one concern is with tuition and the quality of our education. As your president, I promise to lobby at all levels of government to ensure that they make it their mandate to support post-secondary education. Federally, we must work with our lobbying organization, CASA (Canadian Alliance of Students Association) to ensure that student interests are not overlooked in everything from scholarships to income tax. Provincially, we must work with other Nova Scotia universities to make sure that the [John] Hamm government understands that an investment in higher education is an investment in the province's future. Perhaps most importantly, we must continue to pressure at the university level, particularly the Board of Governors, to not rely solely on tuition dollars to fund our programs.

### Why are you running?

I am running for DSU President because I think there is a real need for an experienced student leader with a strong voice and willingness to act as representative of the student body. We need representation at 3 main levels of government: the Board of Governors at the university, federally and provincially. There are a lot of issues that students face today: student loan repayment, rising tuition costs and overall decreased funding to post secondary education from the government. The governments MUST understand that

an investment into higher education is an investment into this province's and country's future. I believe that I have the experience necessary to be that voice to represent all students on the issues at hand.

### Qualifications

The qualifications that I bring to the DSU President are four years of experience: two consecutive years on the DSU council as the DSU Vice President Internal this year and as Member at large in 1998-99. I was also a residence house president in 1997-98 and sat on the School of Health and Human Performance council 1998-99. In addition to student politics, I volunteer at the Atlantic Health promotion center with wheelchair programs and participate in many intramural sports and student clubs. I believe that from my experience and knowledge in participating in the DSU for the past number of years that I am the best candidate to represent the needs of the student body both externally and internally to the university.

### New Ideas

I believe that awareness of what the DSU executive does for the student body is an important issue that must be addressed and is ultimately the responsibility of the president. As Vice President Internal this past year, Rose and I ran an awareness campaign in which we spoke to classrooms about what the DSU actually does for the average student. As DSU president, I would continue to promote overall awareness of the DSU to the student body by having Focus Forums (two per term) in which there would be an opportunity for an open discussion on how the DSU executive are doing their jobs.

Also, news of assaults and stabbings has further put the spotlight on the safety of our campus. However, security issues differ from one end of Dalhousie to the other. To deal with this, I would form a Campus Security Committee that would consist of representatives from all three campuses. Its mandate will be to assess risks and dangers with student input and tours with security. Together, we can create a real solution to a very real problem.

### Favourite word or phrase

The DSU is like toilet paper, it plays a small role in your everyday life but it would sure make a big difference if it wasn't there!

## Rosanne Cousins For DSU Vice-President Executive

### Most important concern

I think if I were to say there is one main issue, I would be leaving a lot of people outside the ring. There are the obvious ones as Cote mentions as being rising tuition and lack of funding both of which we will lobby against if elected. I think there are other issues as well including student awareness of our services (DSU) and opportunities available within this organization that all students are automatically members of. The Health Plan is of concern and though there were problems this year with distribution and implementation, I believe they can be rectified by again inserting Health Plan information in the registration packs as well as having Health Plan Stations in both the A&A registrar's office and the students accounts and services office at DalTech.

### Why are you running? / Qualifications

I am running because I believe I am the only candidate who truly has the right experience for the position. I've been at Dal for five years, graduating last May. In that time I have been involved in varsity athletics, in club sport, in residence as an orientation leader and a Residence councillor, as the Dal/DSU Orientation Week Co-ordinator, as President of the Student Association of Health and Human Performance, as a Tiger Patroller, a SUB Staff and this year as VP Community Affairs. I have an immediate working knowledge of the services of the DSU and the parts that make them up such as budgets and staff. It is of benefit to me that I have worked in so many capacities and that I have the ability to see things from many perspectives: student, employee and employer. I am running because I have a wide peripheral vision enabling me to see what is happening in many different places at one time and because this is what the VP Exec needs. You need to be a good manager, a good listener/speaker/communicator, a decision maker while taking the time to find out what new things are needed and that existing things are constantly monitored.

### New Ideas

I have my new ideas for the Health Plan so that's one. As for the other services of the DSU I could say that it would be nice to have many other services but before that is considered I think it best to evaluate the ones that exist to make sure they are being used and monitored for productivity. What I would like to do is get a student opinion from focus groups and the DSU

Services Survey so that I get student input and the decision isn't solely mine.

### Favourite word or phrase

COTE AND ROSE are the BEST and ONLY candidates for DSU President and VP Exec so put a check in my box!! (wink)

## Zac and Jarrod Crouse For DSU President and Executive Vice-President

### Most important concern

The biggest issue facing students is the distinct lack of free alcohol. We will solve this problem by giving beer to everyone who votes for us.

### Why are you running?

If we are elected, we'll each make \$18,000. That's a lot of money for a job that has no pre-requisites. Seriously, all we really want is your money. Also, Jarrod feels that such a highly publicized job will greatly increase his chances of picking-up.

### Qualifications

We had a lemonade stand once when we were kids. We think it'll be just as challenging.

### New Ideas

We want to install an army of winged helper-monkeys to do our bidding, and erect a monument to Peter North (Nova Scotia's greatest export).

### Favourite word or phrase

"First you get the money, then you get the women, then you get the POWER."

## Leon Thomas For DSU President

### Most important concern

University access and success: tuition fees that are outpacing growth in family incomes and inflation; wide disparities between the needs of DalTech and Dalhousie students; and continuing and increasing isolation for off-campus, international, and minority students. Quality education, inclusion, and equity on campus are not only rights, they are fundamental to the University! My focus will be on creating a fair, accountable, and efficient DSU administration, with a more proactive approach in dealing with student issues. We will initiate more partnerships, dialogues, and forums (within and outside the university) to create a greater exchange of information and a broader base for dealing with the issues. It is crucial that we revive the political will of policy-makers who have the ability to facilitate the futures of students. Moreover, the DSU must challenge the university to be open about its spending and priorities.

### Why are you running?

The DSU has become a system of misrepresentation, which has left many students feeling alienated. "Its time to get the students back!" Running for this position allows me to help create a more responsible student union that concerns itself with the needs of off-campus, graduate, and international students. The DSU is in need of sound leadership, offering fair representation to their constituents.

### Qualifications

Thomas & Macfarlane offer the best alternative to a new DSU administration. It is time for a change; to act more coherently than the DSU has in the past. My qualifications and experience include; Political Science and Sociology major, organizer of many public forums, constitutional and Board member of the North American Student Forum, and former DSU Councillor. Serving as your President, I can provide a critical review, analysis and dissemination of emerging and existing policies, protocols and legislation pertaining to University students. The change Thomas & Macfarlane offer is new, vibrant, and exciting.

### New Ideas

Leadership is essential to any Presidential position. Therefore establishing a vision is firstly in order to move the DSU in a clear direction. More practically, opportunities exist to improve the look, feel, and flow of an efficient and representative DSU administration. Let's develop partnerships between faculties and the S.U.B for student placements to foster and promote student entrepreneurship and business, arts and drama, and science and technical skills. Let's expand the usefulness of the Grawood and other DSU facilities by encouraging more diversity and programming for students. We need to establish more person-to-person contact to get people excited about DSU activities and aware of services the DSU offers.

### Favourite word or phrase

## THE QUESTIONS:

1/ What do you think is the biggest issue facing students next year and how will you deal with it?

2/ Why are you running for this position?

3/ What qualifications and experience will you bring to office?

4/ What new ideas/services will you bring to the DSU?

5/ What's your favourite word or phrase and why?