

Kelley Mackenzie – Student Advocacy

- 1. a) a career, affordability & an opportunity for growth.
- b) quality, acceptance, life-long friendships & respect.
- c) honesty, accountability & support.

We as students don't ask for a lot, but what do ask for should be taken seriously.

2. That's a great question, and it has to begin with understanding exactly what students need. The only way someone could effectively do this is by reaching out to the students through their societies, in their classes and around campus to find out their personal viewpoint on different issues. Dalhousie is a great community with a lot of diversity. Understanding what students want comes by communicating at the lowest levels. To get what students want it takes persistence, professionalism, and tact. The student population has a lot to offer government and the community just as they have a lot to offer us. Lobbying can be a great tool for the VP student Advocacy, but only works when we all take part. Apathy is no longer an option.

3. I'd like to think that I have a lot to offer this position. I have a lot of experience and tons of ideas. However, ideas are only worth the paper that they're written on unless they are put into action. I would love to be given the opportunity.

4. I might work for a year, go back to school, begin my Master's and stay involved, sell t-shirts on a beach with a drink in my hand and my diploma hung up in my grass hut! Even if I "lose," I can't lose, it's a big world out there, the possibilities are endless.

Jeff Myers – Student Advocacy

1. a) We want the knowledge necessary to excel in the world, something which is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain in this era of inadequate funding of post secondary education. We want an academically, socially, culturally and politically enriching environment to learn in. But mostly, we want the degree which confirms that we went to and graduated from one of the best schools in the country.

b) We want a quality education and the knowledge that we picked the right university. We also want to be kept informed about things like faculty disputes, and the DSU's response to them. Also, I think we all want to feel confident that the University is always acting in the best interests of the students and not those of politics and patronage, profits and losses.

c) We want adequate funding of post-secondary education to

avoid enormous loans, watered down education, and skyrocketing tuition. I know I personally would like to see a grant system be put into place to compliment the loan program. This would make it easier to pay back student loans more quickly, avoiding superfluous interest payments.

2. By beginning to pressure government at the provincial level with Nova Scotia's other universities. We have a short but distinct window of opportunity right now as a provincial election is about to happen and student issues have taken centre stage and will remain there for a short time after the election. I intend to build on this opportunity by organizing a coalition of Nova Scotia University Student Unions. There is also enormous potential to get our future students, who are now in high school, involved in the process. Lobbying will be important, but so will protesting. We must prevent universities from becoming elitist because of high tuition and the only way to do that is to work together and to work now.

3. Because I have the experience and the ideas to provide students with effective representation both here at Dalhousie/Daltech and externally. Having been a DSU Councillor and Dalhousie Senator for nearly a year now, I have a firm grasp on the issues which are affecting students. Knowing the "ins-and-outs" of Dalhousie Administration and the DSU is essential to doing the job.

4. I'm graduating in May with my BA and I am intending to go on to Law School in the field of Environmental Law, this year or next depending upon the election results! The environment has always been a great interest of mine and luckily, Dalhousie offers one of the best of such programs in North America.

Ted Chiasson & Brian Kellow – President / Executive VP

1. a) We believe students want an extraordinary experience and a topnotch education that will develop them intellectually and personally. We also believe that students want their education to give them practical skills and valuable connections for their transition from school to the workforce.

b) Students want their University administration to assure them that programs begun in first year are around in third year. They want their University to assure them that their tuition affords them access to the courses, labs, materials and facilities necessary for the completion of a marketable degree.

c) We believe that students want the government to be accountable for the promises they make on the campaign trail (i.e. the promise of a Nova Scotia tuition freeze). Students want both levels of government to address escalating tuition and student debt immediately. We believe the Governments of Nova Scotia and Canada should pursue tuition reduction programs to deal with student debt, such as income-based payment plans and tax credits. We think students also want the Provincial and Federal Governments to seriously address the disproportionate amount of youth unemployment and underemployment.

2. We will take legal action to guarantee our right to participate in

Student Advocacy

ATTITUDES ON CAMPUS

BY JOHN CULLEN

The legitimacy of student politics has been a hotly contested issue for years. Do student unions represent their students' interests? Does this whole election bonanza mean anything to the average student?

If one looks at the statistics for last year's voter turn-out, the answer would appear to be a resounding "no". Twenty per cent of Dalhousie students voted in the election. This may seem like a paltry figure, but Stacey Purcell, chief returning officer for this year's election, doesn't think so.

"[Voter turnout] has been increasing. There's better awareness on campus and [a] better electoral system. 20 per cent is pretty average at most universities across Canada."

Although the numbers may be increasing, some students like Natasha Pardy, a fourth-year French major, feel the DSU itself is important, but poorly advertized.

"[Student government] represents us. They're kind of like our voice on campus. There's obviously no chance here for every student to have a voice, so we have to have someone make sure everything is running smoothly like with societies and everything. If we didn't have them, I think societies would be completely ignored and there would be nothing here for students except classes.

"But the elections are next week — who knows about it? There's not a lot of publicity."

Purcell is aware of this, and is trying to inform more students about the election while making the voting procedure easier for a larger percentage of Dalhousie's population. One of her initiatives will enable students to vote via the Internet.

"There's a large number of students working in co-op programs so if they're not going to be on campus at the time, they still have the ability to vote. On our webpage, we're going to post candidates' speeches from the forums — if they provide them — so that students can educate themselves."

But for some students, these initiatives won't kill apathy or lack of information.

"I won't vote, because I don't know who's running, and I'm not really involved with what goes on with student politics," says James Gilbert, a third-year history major.

Another common argument is summed up by graduating theatre student, Alex Burroughs.

"I don't think the DSU represents me that well, but that's also my fault because I'm not getting too involved in what it's doing. Although at the same time it pisses me off because we do pay fees, right? So I should be getting my money's worth." she said. "I think they need to figure out a way to be more 'in your face', or at least bring up issues which are relevant to everyone.

"[Right now] it's just like regular politics. It's all scattered, you don't know who to vote for, and it depends on who makes a good speech or who doesn't. It seems like a bit of a scam, but all politics are like that."

Lack of faith in politics aside, other graduating students are not interested in their union.

"I'm planning to graduate this year, so I'm not particularly concerned with [the election] as I won't be here for their term," said Chris Kent, another potential theatre grad.

Despite low turn-outs in recent years and the low visibility, Purcell feels it is the student who should inform themselves about their government.

"You have to be proactive. You have to keep your eyes open."

NICK MURPHY
Is RUNNING ✎
FOR V.P. INTERNAL



"Bridging the gap between the DSU and YOU"



On March 11, 12, 13 Vote
CHIASSON & KELLOW
For DSU President and Executive Vice President