





International Students

The present DSU hierarchy has much to answer for my first encounter with the President and Vice President was at an Elections Candidates' Forum last spring. The past President of the International Students Association, Shanazz Gokool, asked Ralph Cochrane for his position on differential fees. Cochrane could not even muster a response.

After the elections I was made aware of some very racist comments made by Patti Dow, the Vice President. I set up a a meeting with Cochrane and Dow to discuss this issue. Dow acknowledged her error and was very apologetic.

I asked her and Cochrane to state their apology publicly in the SUB cafeteria. They both declined saying that there were too many students who might have been offended. They said that a better idea was to issue a statement in the course registration material sent to students.

When I received my registration material I saw no explanation or apology. Clearly Dow was not as apologetic as she pretended.

At the International Students' barbecue Dow was present, and interacted with many of the students there. This seemed like a sign of good things ahead.

There was an International Students Concerns committee meeting at Mount St. Vincent. This committee is part of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) and thus comes under the direct mandate of Lynn MacMichael, VP External. As President of the ISA I received no formal notification of the event, which indicates a very relaxed attitude on the part of MacMichael. She casually told me about the meeting as I was waiting to see Patti Dow about another matter.

I attended this conference to find that not one member of this committee was an international student.

Since the meeting MacMichael has kept me informed of new developments, and communications have improved tremendously. However, this communication should have been present from the beginning.

The DSU Societies Leadership Conference was a good idea, but the section on planning an event was poorly organized. The event chosen had nothing to do with the concerns of international students. Overall the conference was informative and well organized.

The biggest event of the 1990 academic year for the ISA was the international students' reception and dance. The VP External was told about this event and personal invitations were given to the President, Vice President and Treasurer of the DSU.

Dow personally told me that she and Cochrane would attend the event. They did not show up and I have yet to receive any formal or informal apology for their absence. Other people sent regrets in advance. Such an irresponsible attitude towards interna-

tional students demonstrates clearly that we are not as important as other groups in the eyes of the DSU hierarchy.

I see Cochrane having dinner at Howe Hall cafeteria as he keeps his ties with the residence crowd. However I haven't seen him at any of the ISA meetings, or those of the regional societies. He doesn't even stop by the International Students Centre to say hello.

The people in the DSU hierarchy must realise that they represent a vast cross-section of students. They are paid handsomely to do this job and they take very light course loads so that they have the time to fight for student interests.

I was pleased that Dow accepted my idea to allow international students who were unable to go home for christmas to phone their families for ten minutes. The execution of this idea left much to be desired, but the fault for this rests within the ISA.

We are pleased that those thirty students who were able to call did so. This an example of how the DSU should be working for international students. It is an idea we shall persue in the future.

The last issue, and perhaps the most pressing one, is the ultimate betrayal of student rights concerning tuition fee increases.

The DSU tried to convince everyone that such an increase was not that bad. International students already pay the provincially instituted differential fee. That means that we pay twice as much as a Canadian student to sit in the same classroom. Thanks a million Ralph Cochrane and Patti Dow.

With respect to the International Students of Dalhousie the DSU deserves, at best, a D.

John Burchall President ISA The views and opinions expressed in this "report card" are not necessarily those of the Gazette or its staff.

DSU talks back_

We, the Executive of the Student Union, would like to take this opportunity to tell you some of the things that we have done for you this year.

The increase in tuition fees was passed at the Board of Governors; even after the two-and-half hour debate that the student representatives presented. We did, however, gain from this decision 925,000 that will be allocated for bursaries and 200 student on-campus job opportunities, the focus centring on international students.

The area of programming was of great concern to us because Dal students needed to spend more time together making use of our great facilities.

- created the concert series
- promoted bands in the Grawood
- enhanced the lecture series
- Homecoming Weekend
- · Varsity Week

Special programs include:

• an open forum for the tuition fee increase;

supported the Gulf Crisis Teach-In;

 holding our first ever Dalhousie Student Union Charity Ball (we are hoping to raise \$3000 to support the Literacy program at Veith House);

• held the annual Dalhousie Student Union Children's Christmas Party

Other Activities

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development of the Buddy Program for first year students

• establishment of a Dalhousie Student Union resource centre and have hired a full part-time researcher (in the past none of the Dalhousie Student Union records have been properly fitted and often were thrown out);

• We will be hosting the 1991 COCA National Conference in June.

• SUB space allocation project — one year ahead of schedule; renovations done on the Beaver Foods facilities, on campus, the SUB Gardens, Shirreff Hall, Howe Hall, and the Tupper Building Cafeterias;

• through the help of ISA, the Dalhousie Student Union arranged for international students that were not able to go home during the December break, an opportunity to call their families at no charge.

increased the amount of lighting on campus (for safety);

• CKDU is on a budget

• The Students opposed to Strike (SOS) became an extension of the Dalhousie Student Union and worked together to get information out to the students;

• the SUB was listed in "A Reference Guide of Outstanding College Union Facilities" as one of the top facilities in North America.

Items of issues that the Dalhousie Student Union is currently working on:

• extending library hours, by allocating the newly created student employment

• developing a student Foot Patrol/Walk Home service;

a university Policy on Student Rights during a labour dispute (strike or lock-out);
offering self-defence classes

- a review of the DSU constitution and developing a Policy Manual
- a National Student Affairs Symposium;

• developing a University Policy on sexism, racism, sexual orientation, and the physically challenged;

supporting International Development Week
supporting the creation of Indian Studies Program

• increasing communication between Lower Campus and the DSU.

Our goal is to give all students an opportunity to enhance their learning experiences and to increase the level of participation and pride at Dalhousie. (Most importantly to HAVE FUN!!)

| Report Card Name: Dalhousie Student Union Declared Major: Student Government Year of Study: 1 | | |
|---|-------|-------------------------|
| Subject | Grade | Comments |
| Student Aid | B+ | Good |
| Black Students | F | Needs improvement |
| Athletics | В | Nice work |
| Women | F | Needs improvement |
| Residence | A | Excellent |
| Environment | D | Meets min. requirements |
| Entertainment | A | Excellent |
| Gays and Lesbians | D | More effort required |
| Physically Challenged | A- | Good |
| Internal Organization | F | Try harder |
| Budget | В | Good work |
| International Students | D | More effort required |
| Labour Relations | F | Needs improvement |
| | | |

DSU budget

The Dalhousie Student Union has been running a remarkably tight ship this year. Their expenses are down from last year, and their revenues are up. In fact, there has been a 32 per cent increase in income from August to September over last year.

Last year's DSU budgeted \$17,580 for furniture. This year, the DSU made money from furniture sales. Honoraria are down from last year, and administrative wages dropped off slightly.

Last year, students paid \$114.10 each in Student Union fees. This year, the fees climbed to \$128 per student, with \$36 of that going to the university health insurance plan.

The 15 per cent increase was well over the seven

Student aid

Mark: B+

SUNS (The Students Union of Nova Scotia) has saved the DSU's butt on this one.

In last year's election campaign Cochrane and Dow showed limited concern with government Student Aid programs on which 50 per cent of Dal students rely.

The only recorded reference to it was Cochrane's statement "lobbying the provincial government can't be done effectively unless a lot of students participate." When asked about this, Cochrane could not point to any particular improvements in this area.

SUNS has had considerably better success. Persistent lobbying efforts resulted in an increase in the Nova Scotia bursary from \$2000 to \$2300 at the start of this academic year.

As well the results of a province wide survey of student finances conducted by SUNS are to be released at an upcoming press conference. SUNS received over 3500 responses from campuses across the province to a questionaire about student loans and summer earnings.

Geoff Phelps, Chair of SUNS, anticipates the sur-

vey "will give us the concrete evidence we need to make the most effective arguments".

Lynn MacMicheal (V-P External, DSU) is hopeful the results can be used to turn up the heat on politicians. Said MacMicheal, "A lot of people are looking forward to these results including Alexa [McDonough, NDP Leader], Joel [Matheson, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training] and Mary [Clancy, M.P. Halifax-West].

One aspect of Student Aid the DSU has been involved in is the establishment of a new bursary program run by the Dal administration.

Part of the increased tuition fee revenues (set to rise 22 per cent next year) will be used to create a bursary fund for those students who cannot afford the increase. The DSU has succesfully argued to increase the amount of this bursary from \$775 000 to \$925 000.

Tom Digby Second Year Law student

Former V.P. External (DSU)

per cent cost of living index, but has not shown up in salaries or student group funding.

DSU Treasurer Peter Pottier calls the current financial situation of the Union, "very, very healthy". The DSU also raised all SUB staff salaries last semester, a positive step.

Societies and groups on campus have not seen much of this money. There were few increases in the grants student organizations received, despite more available money.

money. On average, group funding climbed by only two

per cent. Pottier says it is "very likely" that groups will see an increase in funding over the next year.

Revenues from traditional money-makers like the

Grawood, the Games Room and functions have dropped off in recent months. Pottier attributes this decline to the current recession. "I looked through some old figures from around 1980, and they went up, and suddenly dropped off."

Pottier said the Grawood was also spending more money on entertainment, which lowered revenues.

I give the DSU a "B-" in finances. While they are clearly managing their budget, it seems the increases in student fees are not being passed along to student groups as much as they might be.

Alistair Croll

Lower Campus

"There is, has always been, and probably always will be a division between upper and lower campus," a Med student explains, and this year's DSU seems to be doing nothing to lessen the split.

Ralph Cochrane and Patti Dow promised, during their election campaign last year, to increase communication with students. However, only a few lower campus students could name anyone on Council. None of them had ever seen a Council member, other than their faculty, on lower campus, except last year during the election campaign.

While there are a few posters on lower campus advertising DSU events, like athletics or bands at the Grawood, most of the students do not know what goes on during Council meetings, and have no idea what decisions are being made on their behalf by Council. Lower campus issues are not adequately being dealt with by Council. Tuition fee increases were a major campaign issue according to Cochrane. Med students, who were particularly hard hit because of their already high fees, felt Council did nothing to fight the hikes. This may have been because Council is not in a position to stop a hike, but there should not have been a promise made to act on something Council could not achieve.

The DSA strike is an important issue to many students on lower campus because of the numerous lab courses staffed by DSA lab technicians. No one had any idea of Council's position, or what kind of action, if any, DSU plans to take to deal with a strike.

Lower campus is a separate entity with little or no contact with the rest of the university. DSU has not dealt with this problem, or even with lower campus at all. One student complains lower campus, "might as well be Acadia", as far as the DSU is concerned. Grade "F".

Shannon Gowans Second Year Marine Biology



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Residence.

Walking into Howe Hall, you might notice Vivek Sood working at the front desk. As a member of the DSU, and the Vice-President of Smith House, he told us he believes the current President and Vice-President of the DSU have made real progress in meeting the needs of all social calendars belonging to Dalhousie students. Not only are the bands who perform here top notch, but Sood feels the guest speakers and lecturers, whom the DSU invite, are really worth while.

Brent Jay, the DSU Male Residence Representative, made a lot of comparisons to last year's DSU Council. He remembers a silent hostility between the 1989-90 Council and Residence Houses; he says there was a lack of communication and consideration on behalf of that Council. As a result, there seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm on behalf of Residence Houses to participate in any of last year's DSU functions.

In contrast, this years' Council is definitely more open and communication seems to be a major concern for Cochrane. Because of this new-found trust, and the obvious personal qualities Cochrane and Dow, Jay says there is more residence turnout to DSU events, thus making this year's social itinerary very successful.

While travelling across campus, you might run into Tanya White, who is the Female Residence Representative. White also says she finds this year's DSU is showing more leadership qualities than last year's Council. She says that this year's meetings are professional social events themselves, which boost everyone's morale and improve on everyone's outlook on their jobs. Because of Cochrane's "round table" conduct at these meetings, and general easy-going personality, White believes there is more communication between the societies and Council. She says there is a stronger motive to excel in her job. "I'm pleased with my job this year because he [Cochrane], makes me motivated to do my job. He makes me want to participate at the meetings and at home here in Shirreff." When asked how Cochrane makes her feel personally, White said, "He makes me feel my job is just as important as anyone else's".

So there you have it. The DSU is receiving an "A" for effort is the eyes of the Presidents of the Residence Councils at Dalhousie University.

Courtney Fouts

Dalhousie Gazette