

Board of Governors candidates

Board of Governors

1. What is the Board of Governors?
2. What do you think of Board of Governors meetings being *in camera*?
3. What Board of Governors committees do you think are important and which would you try to get on?
4. What do you see as the important issues raised in the Board of Governors this year? What do you see as the important issues coming up next year?
5. Do you think students should pay a greater percentage of the university's operating budget?
6. What do you think the Board of Governors priorities should be when discussing cutbacks due to the deficit?
7. How would you communicate what goes on in the Board of Governors to the students?

Jay Doucet

1. The Board of Governors is the highest authority in the University, said Jay C. Doucet, candidate for the Board of Governors. The 42 member Board delegates authority to the Senate in dealing with academic matters, and to the student union in dealing with student affairs, but retains the role of financial management of the university.

2. Doucet agrees there are reasons for confidentiality on certain matters the Board deals with. However, Doucet thinks there should be more communication between the Board and students, something this year's representatives did not achieve satisfactorily. He said the Board finds it easier to take out financial problems on students as opposed to faculty. It is not fair for students to pay for a large part of the university's financial difficulties through higher tuition and residence fees, when they played no part in creating the problems. Doucet wants to ensure cutback decisions are applied fairly, so

that services are not cut before other areas are examined.

"I don't hear much about revenue" Doucet said, referring to all the discussions of cutbacks. The administration should be going on a huge campaign for more funds, getting more contributions from alumni, and ensuring a good return on its investments.

3. Doucet wants to sit on the student relations and residence committee. This is a personal interest of his, he said, as a Howe Hall resident, where fees are amongst the highest in Canada.

4. Important issues this year and next year are tuition and residence fee increases. It's distressing Doucet said, that President MacKay thinks students can pay more than an inflationary increases in their tuition next year. Whereas your basic student loan doesn't cover the cost of a year at school, and while student aid and minimum wage are not increasing at a rate higher than inflation, there is no indication that students can afford this increase.

Another issue that concerns Doucet is housing. Dalhousie does not have much in terms of



Jay Doucet and Atul Sharma

residences for students, yet no private interests want to build low-cost housing in Halifax. As enrolment increases, the university should find more places for students to stay, Doucet said.

5. Although post secondary education is a great burden to taxpayers, it is important for the Board to consider what students can afford to pay.

In discussing the Board's priorities with respect to cutbacks, Doucet said the student union can have valuable input as to the worth of various courses through carrying out course evaluations.

7. Doucet felt that council was kept in the dark this year on important matters, and intends to give regular reports of a general nature as to what's going on. "I would spout off at the mouth," he said.

Atul Sharma

1. Atul Sharma candidate for reelection to the Board of Governors has served two years on

the Board of Governors, the ultimate decision-making body in the university, where all financial and academic decisions are eventually ratified.

2. Sharma had originally objected to the practice of holding Board of Governors' meetings in camera, but since then he has seen the necessity for some issues - for example, the final offer on staff contract negotiations - to be kept confidential. However, he would like to see restrictions lifted on some issues, particularly those that are important to students.

3. Sharma has served on the Building and Grounds and on the Student Relations and Residence Committees, and would like to sit on both again. The Student Relations and Residence Committee is particularly important because, under a proposed scheme, it will join with the Finances and Budget Committee to determine tuition levels. He would also like to sit on the budget committee.

4. Important issues are how the Board sets tuition fees, dif-

ferential fees in faculties, (especially important this year with the possibility of implementing lab fees for science students), and cutbacks in services. Tuition fees must be compared to student resources and their ability to pay, Sharma said. If student resources are not increasing, it's unrealistic to raise tuition fees. Sharma was and is adamantly opposed to differential fees for different faculties. The major objection is that imposing lab fees gives the departments a means of increasing tuition without accounting for it. Such increases should happen at the Board level or not at all, Sharma said.

5. Again, if students' ability to pay - connected to minimum wage levels and student aid programs - does not increase, then tuition increases will limit accessibility. This must not happen, Sharma said.

6. The priorities when discussing cutbacks due to the deficit must be to cut administrative costs, and achieve better management, Sharma said. He would like to see the Board of Governors demanding adequate academic funding from the province. You can't address a nine million dollar deficit by cutting varsity sports and the art gallery, Sharma said. It has to come down to increased funding.

7. It is difficult to communicate what goes on in the Board meetings to students, Sharma said, because at every meeting it is stressed that proceedings must remain confidential.

Sharma would like to see more information on the Board in the **Gazette** and **Dal Dispatch**. This would be the job of the elected representatives, he said.

Childhosen/Dal Photo

Beth MacConnell

1. MacConnell said the Senate was a body made up of faculty and five students, where students can make their needs known and have a vote. The Senators, to be effective, should attend all meetings and be aware of the student's wishes so they can get this across.

2. MacConnell was interested in representing the student body. She felt that these years have brought her into contact with a wide variety of students and have sensitized her to their needs.

3. MacConnell felt that the report pointed out that because of Dalhousie's eight million dollar deficit, students have to be 'realistic' with regards to finances. The primary goal of the university is academics, she said.

4. The Senate is effective with regards to academic matters, she said, but not as effective in financial matters. "The Board of Governors is probably going to do what they decide." She saw budget matters as a priority in the Senate.

5. Amongst the means of communication that MacConnell thought were important was regularly attending council

Senate

meetings to keep council abreast of Senate affairs, and supplying the **Gazette** with information or possibly writing about Senate in the **Gazette**, to keep students aware of important issues. Suggestion boxes were another potential idea.

6. The Senate's priorities are in determining what cuts faculties can afford, according to MacConnell. She saw "programs that aren't being used" as the first items to go if cutbacks were needed.

7. According to MacConnell, finances will be the background when considering all issues in the Senate during the coming year. New academic programs and their formulation was another concern of MacConnell.

Colin Hames

1. Senate is the academic decision making body, said Colin Hames, candidate for the Senate. It is responsible for changes in the degree programs and curriculum, and it confers honorary degrees thereby promoting the university to the outside community.

2. Hames is running for Senate mainly because he is

Senate

1. What is the Senate?
2. Why do you want to be on the Senate?
3. What is your reaction to the report of the Senate Financial Committee?
4. Is the Senate, as it is run right now, an effective organization?
5. How would you communicate what goes on in the Senate to Dal students and Council?
6. What do you think the Senate's priorities should be when discussing cutbacks due to the deficit?
7. What do you think are important issues in the Senate for the upcoming year?

concerned about the quality of representation next year on council and Senate. He believes he is capable in doing this, aided by his experience as a Commerce rep two years ago.

3. Hames reacted to the Senate financial report saying it is an irresponsible move to suggest cutting faculty positions. He pointed out that in the commerce department, where he is a student, 20 sections of one course were cut this year, increasing the number of students per class substantially.

4. Hames said he could not comment on Senate's effectiveness as, like other students, he was not informed much about what goes on in Senate. He criticized the **Gazette** for not being more informative on issues that concern Senate.

5. Hames would communicate

what goes on in Senate through the council meetings. Since not many students go to council meetings, it is up to council to make Senate reports in the **Gazette**. He said **Gazette** coverage of Senate was not effective, and complained about the lack of communication between council and students.

6. Hames isolated the number one priority for Senate next year as ensuring the quality of education is not cut back, before examining other areas.

7. The obvious issues coming up next year are cutbacks, maintaining the effectiveness of programs in the face of these cuts. Students should benefit from what the Senate does. "It's there for us." Hames is concerned that in the future, Dalhousie degrees will lose their value.

Chris Hartt

1. The Senate is a body of 310 people whose purpose is to deal with academic priorities and principles, and through its committees deals with both financial and academic matters, said Chris Hartt, Senate candidate.

2. "I want to do a good job." Hartt feels there hasn't been good student representation in the past. This representation is important, there being so few students on this body, he said.

3. Hartt disagrees with the Senate report's conclusions that growth in faculty must be restricted to save money. "We need a good ratio of professors to students." Hartt said there are already problems with fewer teaching assistants in first year writing classes this year, where students are no longer asked to submit the same quantity of assignments.

4. Senate is not an effective organization as there are too many people on it. Hartt promoted the Graham report (by Dalhousie professor John Graham) which advocated cutting the number of Senators from 310 to 185.

5. Hartt would make use of the **Gazette** for communication purposes. The only way the news will be reported is if