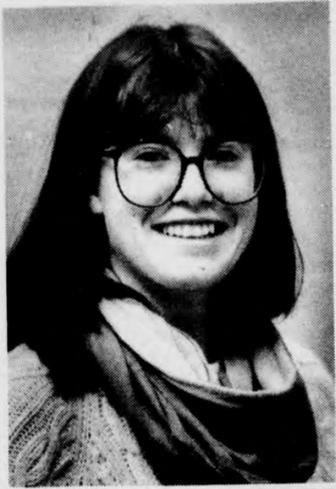


EXCALIBUR GRILLS CYSF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



TAMMY HASSELFELDT

EXCALIBUR: What qualities and experiences do you think you can bring to the job in order to make you an effective CYSF president?

HASSELFELDT: I think I do have the experience. I probably have the most experience of all of the presidential candidates. I was a representative on Vanier College Council and on the CYSF in my first year. In my second year I was President of Vanier College Council. Now in my third year I am External Affairs Director on CYSF which has given me an insight into CYSF even more than the presidency did. I think with what Harry Arthurs is planning to do you will have to have someone in there who understands and realizes that a lot of people have hurt feelings about this.

EXCALIBUR: What proposals have you articulated for your platform?

HASSELFELDT: The main issues are the CYSF constitution and whether or not people support it. I personally support the constitution. I think another big issue is the President's policy paper on what he's planning to do. I think it is good to have a united central student government, but I have a whole lot of problems with his financial formula. I would be willing to discuss it with him, to get the colleges together and come out with a cohesive plan, and if need be go to the Board of Governor's Student Relations Committee. I also think that OFS (Ontario Federation of Students) may be up there on the list of issues, perhaps because my committee's report just came out. If by the fall OFS does not feel that it can change, or show an unwillingness to, I think we should get out.

EXCALIBUR: How would you assess Drew's performance and how would you go about addressing some of the problems that existed?

HASSELFELDT: I think that he came in with a bias. His personality is such that he feels that "that's the way things are and I'm not going to change." I don't think that I am going to come in with those personal biases. I just don't think that that is the character that I am. I think that I am diplomatic and I understand if someone has a different view than mine.

If something is happening internally you can't focus on your portfolio, you have to focus more on the idea that you are an executive

member and part of your responsibility is to help internal struggles. I feel that I could have done more in my portfolio, but I didn't this year because we had all of these problems. I think that if your internal structure is working well then everyone's going to have the time that they need and the time that they should devote to their portfolio.

EXCALIBUR: How close do you think the relationship should be between the colleges and the faculties under President Arthurs' new reforms, and what role will CYSF play in these changes?

HASSELFELDT: I think they have to be very close. CYSF's role is going to have to be mediator, or negotiator, it will have to get in between and make suggestions. I think that if talks broke down altogether we will have a whole lot of problems. It is a hard thing for the colleges to realize that they will be non-existent unless they work together. CYSF has to be in there and willing to help them when they have problems.

It is a transition from the beginning. We have to realize that faculty governments are coming in whether you want them or not. CYSF should be in there to help them when talks break down and maybe initiate talks so that people can get their feelings out.

EXCALIBUR: Drew McCreadie has often said that CYSF currently does not get enough money, especially when you consider the amount of money other central student governments get at other universities. Would you have a referendum to try and get more student money, or do you disagree with his statements?

HASSELFELDT: I think that CYSF does need money and the colleges do too, in order to get over this three-year phase of the President's reforms. I don't think that you can implement changes without more capital. I would be willing to run a referendum. It would, however, depend upon the support of the colleges and the faculties because you can't run a referendum without the support from everyone else. I think it would be a good idea to increase the fee because CYSF has to become more professional if it is to become the central student government.

EXCALIBUR: Calumet has expressed opposition to the new plan which will make them a part of CYSF. How will you deal with this opposition?

HASSELFELDT: They have had a lot of problems with CYSF Presidents in the past. You have to be strong but you should show them that you are willing to listen to what they have to say. They feel a lack of respect. You have to have respect for their opinion and be willing to compromise with them to some extent.

EXCALIBUR: What would you do to raise the credibility of CYSF?

HASSELFELDT: The new Programmes Committee to be set up next year will help. You have to start involving students who aren't normally involved in college councils and student government. Also CYSF should start getting more involved with York athletics by providing transportation to games. It also has to provide more services and increase its profile by holding more events. The problem is that people see CYSF solely as a political body.



ANDREW McRAE

EXCALIBUR: What qualities and experiences do you think you can bring to the job in order to make you an effective CYSF president?

McRAE: This year with CYSF, because it is a new Council with a new structure . . . and there's going to be all new people there, it is important to have someone there with experience. I have experience on CYSF for two years and experience as a leader being President and treasurer of Vanier. I think it is important to have someone to bring the group together. I think the leadership quality is going to be the most important issue in this coming election.

EXCALIBUR: What proposals have you articulated for your platform?

McRAE: Realistically I only decided to run last week and I haven't really given any thought to specific issues . . . There are three reasons why I am running. One is the leadership thing that's going to be important. Second is the experience thing. I think that it is really important that CYSF gain a lot of credibility and you need someone with experience in student government and with the administration who is able to come in and give it some credibility. And the third thing is with all of this happening with Harry Arthurs and with the possible debate over Osgoode going GSA or CYSF, it is important to have someone in there who will speak out for students and who's going to be loud and who's not going to be intimidated by the administration. So there is really three needs that CYSF has that I think I can fulfill. My candidacy is really based on that.

EXCALIBUR: How close do you think the relationship should be between the colleges and the faculties under York President Arthurs' new reforms, and what role will CYSF play in these changes?

McRAE: There's two levels, the first is the administrative level. It looks like Harry Arthurs' plan is to join the faculties and the colleges at the administrative level. You'll give the colleges a faculty theme. What bothers me is at the other end, he is pushing the students away by saying we are going to have faculty governments over here possibly and we will have college councils over there.

What I would like to see is the students moved together as well, and you'd have one council which would

be called a college council but it would be, in a sense, a faculty government, a faculty based on college council . . . It is CYSF's job to ensure that faculties and colleges can work together because obviously CYSF will be dealing with both. Again it is the same thing, you see CYSF as a leader to make these people work together.

EXCALIBUR: Calumet has expressed opposition to the new plan which will make them a part of CYSF. How will you deal with this opposition?

McRAE: First you have to find out who is going to be the chair of Calumet. You have to attend their meetings and convince them that it is not going to be easy. Calumet generally opposes everything. If it's a good plan and if it's got its merits, I think they will see the good side of it. It depends on how you present it. I think they are in, regardless. You have to consult them to get them to believe that it is worth their while to get involved. Just because they are in does not mean that they will get involved.

The point that Drew made is that it is not Calumet's council which is under CYSF, it is the students. What the Council does really has no bearing on it . . . What I would like to see is to convince the Chair of Calumet college to sit on the constituency committee and get some benefit from it because there's benefit there to gain. Calumet would probably have a better argument for a building if they had a lot bigger lobby for it.

EXCALIBUR: President Drew McCreadie has often said that CYSF currently does not get enough money, especially when you consider the amount of money other central student governments get at other universities. Would you have a referendum to try and get more student money, or do you disagree with his statements?

McRAE: I don't think I would try to pass a student levy hike. I don't think that we can get a lot more money. With all the money that is going towards the student centre, I don't know if people would go for it. Obviously what we need to do when this whole process is settled (the referendum over the student levy) and we see what the final role of CYSF is going to be, we can then approach the administration and say we need more money. It is not just CYSF who needs more money, the colleges also need more money.

EXCALIBUR: How can CYSF start addressing its low profile among commuter students, and how is it really going to start becoming the central student government?

McRAE: It needs credibility. That is why it is so important that whoever is elected President, is someone that people are going to perceive as "going to bat" for them with the administration, and who isn't intimidated.

EXCALIBUR: Do you think CYSF should financially support political clubs?

McRAE: No, I think that the parties should support them. We can support some of the events that the students will benefit from, but I think there is a party structure that is supposed to support its youth. It is a legitimate youth group of the party, the party should pay for it.



NICK NITSIS

EXCALIBUR: What qualities and experiences do you have that qualify you to be an effective CYSF president?

NITSIS: I'm a third year student and I will be a fourth year student next year. I specialize in strategic studies and I have been very active in school activities as I have been a member of many clubs on campus. This year I am the President of York International Relations Association, which has approximately 85 to 100 members. During my year as President, I had my eye on the CYSF. I've been watching and going to the CYSF meetings and learning, basically I think I can speak for the typical student attitude. That is why I am doing this.

EXCALIBUR: What are the proposals you have articulated in your platform?

NITSIS: First of all there is the student security issue, which is very traumatizing right now. The security system right now has many holes in it and must be revamped totally. CYSF has to put pressure on the administration to change that. Student security on campus must be increased by a large amount, doubling it even. That would increase student employment on campus, killing two birds with one stone, giving students a job and providing better student security on campus.

Also the administration has to be pressured into more lighting and equipment, a better escort service, and better qualified personnel. If rapes are happening something is being done wrong. The Beaver Foods issue: they have been unfavourable in surveys. The cards they have been proposing, the meal cards, are curbing the students freedom. The convenience of being able to eat in Central Square will be taken away. If you're taking classes in Ross or Atkinson or Administrative Studies, you have to run all the way to the first or second complex for lunch, which is ridiculous.

EXCALIBUR: How would you try and change that, especially since the changes have been entrenched in the new contract between the administration and Beaver Foods?

NITSIS: Why can't the meal cards be accepted everywhere? Or you can stick with the scrip system; it has been working so far. The administration has to change that (the card system). Pressure has to be put on the