

# DSU councillors acting out of self-interest

I have read the article "Students suing Traves, Ugursal" printed in the latest issue of the Gazette (vol 130, #25 - April 2, 1998) and wish to express my disappointment with the 1997-98 DSU council.

As a graduate student and member of the DAGS council (though in this letter I am in no way expressing or representing the opinions of DAGS) representing the Faculty of Medicine, the fees that I pay to the DSU come with the expectation that the DSU council will represent my interests or the interests of the majority of students. However, during the DFA

strike, it was made obvious that the present DSU council is representing not the interests of the majority of students but the interests and opinions of DSU councillors.

During the early phase of the strike, the DSU official position was of a neutral stand. However, its actions spoke louder than its words. The DSU's actual position was with the university and the Senate and not with the students. Of all the students who played a supporting role in the strike, the vast majority stood on the DFA's side and not the Admin's. The DSU

chose to ignore this. Indeed, this amateurish student government chose to ignore the will of the majority. Was it a simple political manoeuvre to stay "best buddies" with the Admin? Or did other self-serving issues come in?

The decision taken by the DSU council to pay for the legal costs associated with small-claims suits filed against Dalhousie president Dr. Tom Traves and DFA president Dr. Ismet Ugursal illustrates my point. The wishes of 18 students are in no way representative of the wishes of the majority of students and thus do not constitute

justifiable reason for the actions undertaken by the DSU. My money and the money of many other students is being used to represent the wishes of a small minority. I am morally opposed to the use of my money to support this position, even if done as a political manoeuvre seeking to increase public support and thereby pressuring both sides to settle quickly. A university education is not about how much it costs, but about growth, personal development and fulfilment. No price tag can be placed on such items. I believe the majority of

students feel that paying a bit more in tuition is better than receiving a mediocre educational opportunity.

In closing, due to the lack of representation on the part of the DSU during the DFA strike as exemplified by the financial support given to 18 students for the legal fees associated with the small-claims suit brought against Drs. Traves and Ugursal, I demand a full refund of my DSU fees for the 1997-1998 academic year.

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