



Jim Snair



David Shirley

JIM SNAIR president

1. I don't really think that that's a question you can ask without biasing members of the council. Over the past five years I have been involved in various different societies which are the basis or grassroots of this university. Through experience with those numbers of people I have learned a considerable amount about administering groups of people, and getting new ideas. We have just been through the executive positions on a smaller scale.

2. There are three current crises that the 1986-87 DSU council has to address. The first one is the Royal Commission Report on Higher Education. That's a key problem we face right now. The second crisis is that we need increased society participation and interaction with council. This year there has been a marked decrease in the amount of student awareness and society participation. The third crisis — which is a local crisis — is housing.

3. I don't think politicians can effectively eliminate it without having a large public outcry because a large percentage of the university body relies on the bursary system. We had a very good march a few weeks ago regardless of there not being anyone in Province House at the time. I think the public understood where we were coming from. The public cheered us all the way down and cheered what we were doing. We want an education but we don't want to be paying for it until we are sixty-five. If bursaries are eliminated it could cost upwards of thirty-five thousand dollars to get just an undergrad degree. You could have students carrying a debt load that they couldn't manage once they got out because there are a lot of debts you incur once you start your working career.

4. I thought SUNS was very effective during the recent government lobby and I think a unified Nova Scotia voice is useful to all students. Without it we would become much more of a fragmented society and there would be considerable infighting

or power struggles. As it stands now there is a group of people from different universities working together for the betterment of all student life throughout Nova Scotia.

5. I think that some of the benefits pertain directly to the Royal Commission hearings. We have available to us through CFS statistics from other schools. We have a lot of support from other schools across Canada because we are in a region that has the highest per capita level of universities. We are also in a region that has the highest debt loads and the highest tuition. Students in other parts of Canada look towards Nova Scotia as a rich kids' province and with the help of CFS this can change. CFS makes it aware to everybody that Quebec tuitions are \$600 to \$700 a year and ours is \$1600.

6. I think students have to appreciate that the administration is not our enemy. The students work with the administration towards common goals, the common goals being improved education, improved resource base and improved student life. The university is there for us. I think the administration appreciates us because without us they would have no jobs. We have to work together with the administration in both the field of academic and financial planning. They listen to our requests on academic proposals and they have implemented some of them. They know the problems students face and they appreciate them.

7. The solution to the number one problem — the report on higher education — is that we intend to lobby hard as a group vis-a-vis SUNS and partly CFS, which has been done fairly successfully this year. We intend to go after increased alumni and community support. The alumni is doing a great job and we would like to see it pushed a little harder because there are a lot of them out there. We would also like to increase public awareness,

because the taxpayer ultimately wants to see a good product at the end. The second problem — society participation — we think societies would be improved by being more effective channels of communication. Right now some of the groups aren't represented on council. The international fraternity council, for instance, represents over 250 people on campus but yet doesn't have a voice.

8. One of the main issues we will be concerning ourselves with is the Royal Commission on Post-Secondary education. Being more specific the maintenance of the bursary program and the elimination of any differential fees. We will attempt to do this by working with the administration instead against the Campus unity and spirit is another issue as well as the housing crisis and the high cost of living in South-end Halifax.

9. I think all the student services provided by the university are adequate or better than adequate considering the current budget squeeze. I don't think we can hope to expect new programs to be implemented but we have to strive for the program maintenance we already have. We don't want the library hours cut sometimes they should be extended during exam hours. We don't want to see student health eliminated. Those are key programs which deserve to stay in place.

DAVID SHIRLEY executive VP

1. Like my partner in crime, I come from the society level. My five years at Dalhousie have been spent with societies, learning how they work. I have held various executive positions in each. I think they are more or less a smaller scale of student union. Working with people on any level is good experience. This is a biased question. There must be an appreciation of people's interaction. Together, I think we have ten years of experience within campus life at the level that students come from.

2. This has been really important. As it stands now students are definitely not aware of what is available to them. Societies this year have not utilized, to the fullest extent, grants that are available. There is a lot of money left over that hasn't been touched because the societies do not know about all the services that are offered to them. Again, this gets back to the question of closer interaction between societies and the student union. It is because of a lack of promotion on the part of the student union and the student council in getting their message across to the societies.

The tools are in place to promote what is available. The *Gazette* is by far the most effective tool for communication. There should be a big promotional blitz at the beginning of the year in the *Gazette* about the services that are offered. Student representatives for the societies should be more involved with their societies.

3. Competition downtown probably has a lot to do with it. In the past Dalhousie has been part of a block-booking system, which helped to get the big names and big acts into Dalhousie. I don't know what happened to it. It was an idea that worked well. Three or four years ago we had super-subscriptions that were sold out days in advance. This has to be looked at with more university involvement, interaction with Saint Mary's and Acadia, as well as society input.

4. I think the present vice-president has shown that it is not that difficult to combine the inner workings of the student

union building and also stay active with the politics that may come about. The bus pass issue was resolved, or at least, they have made a great deal of progress on it. There should be something about it in September. The other thing is the march on Province House; that took a great deal of time and effort. I don't think the students have suffered within the DSU. As it stands now there is a good working relationship between the workings of DSU and the external politics.

5. The vice president is externally is to oversee any existing projects and to OK any new projects or businesses that want to come into the building for a certain time. Examples of this are the exam registry, the walk-home service and the second-hand bookstore. It is my job to make sure that these services function properly. I have to ensure that any profit-making business that enters the SUB for example the clothing sales, are all within the guidelines set down by the DSU.

6. The vice-president is extremely involved with societies. This is probably first and foremost on his agenda. He is council representative to the societies. He has to make sure that societies work together as a community — not as it stands now which is different fragments with different ideals and goals in mind. They should also be working for the general well-being of the university as well. Societies want to get the members involved in activities that are being put on by the students' union. I can't personally go chasing and attend every society meeting but I think if I make it clear to the societies' representatives what their job is and how they can get their society members more involved, it will keep the initial burst of enthusiasm maintained throughout the year. This is healthy.

7. The position of external V.P. covers most of that, but if that person cannot handle it or if anything goes wrong then it is my job as the elected representative to oversee and help out with what is going on externally. I am not autonomous from it.

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