

Robert Power

1. I presently sit on the student union as a member of council and I represent students on the senate of the university. I also represent students on the subcommittees of academic administration and physical planning.

I was involved in the entertainment program at Okanogan college in BC and at the University of Victoria I was involved in the residences.

Experience is important. I don't think you need a lot of experience - I think you have to have a good grasp of the issues. What's probably more important is the individual. The individual's got to be open to people, has to be an effective communicator, has to be able to deal with a lot of groups and a lot of competing interests. That's probably the most important skill. If the person is competent, they'll be able to do the job.

2. Theoretically, the DSU provides two levels of representation. One is the service interest. The DSU should provide quality services for the money being received that meet the students' needs. I think that's the most important. If entertainment is desired by students, it should be up to the DSU to provide quality entertainment at a reasonable price that the students enjoy.

I think the DSU also must play an important role in lobbying governments to ensure that our interests are met there because if we do not have a lobby force then nobody will recognize your interests in the government. I know the CFS and SUNS is involved in that, but I think the DSU as an entity unto itself and as the largest university in Nova Scotia should play an important role in safeguarding the interests of students politically.

3. SUNS having started in 1979, had a few shaky years getting off the ground, but in the last few years they've got together well and have done some impressive work such as the review of student aid. I think that's an excellent step that SUNS should continue to do and continue to lobby the government. CFS has had some problems historically. To my understanding they've cleaned them up. They're a lot more organized; they're providing excellent services now. But I think both of them, at a minimum, should carry on what they're doing, increase communications to students to let them know what they're doing, and increase lobbying the government with particular reference to the cost of education. That's got to be the most important issue to both CFS and SUNS and to Dalhousie.

4. I think the students should play a very active role in the administration of the university if you take the administration to mean the Board of Governors, the Senate, financial matters and academic matters. I think it's crucial because it's theoretically the students that these services are aimed at so students should at least have a voice to say what student concerns are. If you mean by administration, the internal operations of the university, no - in terms of who runs the registrar's desk. I agree that a student voice would be nice in the selection of the person, but I think that they're quite competent themselves.

Student representation has got to be increased on the Senate as a minimum. When you have over 300 possible senators, the senate is unfortunately a place where strong interest groups can dominate. At present we only have five seats on senate. I've worked on a proposal for senate reform with Jamie MacMullin and the other student senators to increase student representation to hopefully, a minimum of 12. At the moment our effectiveness in senate is limited because we have so few seats there. We do need to increase student representation at those levels.

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Robert Power

Jonathan Tarlton

What we asked the candidates for president:

1. What experience have you had in student politics and how essential is previous experience in student politics for the job of DSU president?

2. What are the most important things the DSU can do for its members?

3. What more can CFS and SUNS do for Dalhousie students and what role should Dalhousie play in these two organizations?

4. What role should students play in the administration of the university?

What we asked the candidates for vice-president:

1. How essential is previous experience in student politics for the job of DSU vice-president, and what experience have you had in student politics?

2. How would students notice it if the DSU were abolished tomorrow and its functions taken over by the university administration?

3. How can the service and political functions of the DSU work more closely together?

4. Should the DSU constitution be changed? and if so why?

5. What is your understanding of the role of the v.p. in dealing with societies on campus?

PRESIDENT

Robert Power

VICEPRESIDENT

Jonathon Tarlton

Jonathan Tarlton

1. I think experience is important, but what is more important is that you have a diverse background of experience.

I have served this year as a representative on the board of governors for the university and I've been particularly involved with the building and grounds committee. I've also in the past been involved at the U of T in various student societies. I've had a political involvement in other affairs at the municipal provincial and federal level.

I think that gives me a variety of experience and different outlooks in approaching problems and finding solutions.

2. I think on one level it could be suggested that they wouldn't notice very much difference at all, and I think that is a problem that has to be addressed. Particularly through the v.p. who is involved with service and particularly entertainment.

On another level however, I think students would very quickly notice. We are here to represent the student body as a whole, we are here to fight for their concerns, to represent their interests to the administration and that's the job I see as the v.p. and as a member of the executive.

3. I think when you are dealing with the student council framework, which is a political body, there is always going to be an interaction between the political side and the service side. I perceive, for example, the full-time staff that is involved in running such things as programming, entertainment, the SUB services as being strictly service oriented. Ultimately, it is the duty at the Executive and Council to make the political decisions and the service side to see that they are implemented effectively.

However the question may be raised what kind of politics and whose politics? And I think it's very important that next year's council brings together a very broad based group of interests. There is no one group or interest that has a monopoly on the right or wrong

view of politics. I want to see a very open and involved student union.

4. Given the recent problems involving, particularly the Inter-Fraternity Council reference, you can see in the Judicial Board's decision, the majority and minority report, that there is a need for some changes. Some of which may be strictly house keeping amendments.

But I think also it is a good idea to look into and examine some of the basic issues that surround the dispute in the IFC reference. What do we mean by the values that the DSU is standing for.

I would certainly encourage next year's Constitutional Amendment Committee to look into that at the earliest possible moment.

5. The v.p.'s role is to take an active-door policy with respect to the societies. At present there is the potential for 150 societies to be recognized. That is not what has happened.

I've read past elections issues at the Gazette (editors note: we were surprised to hear anyone reads election issues at the Gazette) and this is something every v.p. candidate pays homage to. However I think we need to change an attitude. I would very much like to see, if I'm elected, a process initiated where either myself or the president get out to as many societies, contact them, to to their meetings and say "OK here is what we are thinking of doing next year. What do you like about that? What do you dislike? What has the DSU done in the past that has been helpful for you? What has the DSU done in the past that you don't like?"

I think that the most important thing is that the v.p. be a communications conduit with the societies. Get them involved, make them fully aware of all the opportunities and services the DSU provides for their benefit.

Ultimately, the DSU is there for the students, individual students. The societies are perhaps our best link with the grass roots, and I want to strengthen that as much as possible.

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