



TTRAVEL CUTS
Your Campus VIA
Representative

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Dalhousie SUB
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Space

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He thinks student organizations should have more of a right to use space in the SUB, than non-student organizations.

Both the Mature Students and the DSS criticize the DSU for allotting space to the Second Hand Bookstore and non-students run organizations such as Beaver Foods and Student Services.

Wells contends that although the SUB is a building operated by and for students, it doesn't follow that societies have more of a right to space in the building than other organizations. For example, Wells says that while Counselling Services is not student operated, it should be located in the SUB to be most accessible to students who need it.

She adds it is reasonable for Beaver Foods to have an office in the building because they are responsible for all the food and catering on campus.

"If we take away Beaver Foods, then we can't run the building," said Wells. "The income is needed."

Furthermore, the SUB follows a plan which states that specific amounts of the building's space is to be used for offices, meeting spaces, the cafeteria, and lounge space.

Though the DSU is a non-profit organization, it is still responsible for securing funds to pay for the operation of the SUB. Wells describes the problem of allocating SUB space to meet the different demands of all different groups as being caught "between a rock and a hard place."

To complicate things further, Wells says she is engaged in discussions between the DSU and the Administration concerning the use of the SUB. According to Wells, the Administration would like to have more control over the building

Though the recent debate over room 314 has focused attention on the SUB, the bigger picture is that there is a lack of space for student groups on the whole campus.

MacNeil says when the MacDonald Science Library was recently converted to office space, none of it was offered to students and the DSU didn't lobby for student groups.

MacNeil says the problem of space for student groups must be addressed quickly.

"Peter Pottier keeps talking about wanting to recognize the grass roots; that he wants to represent the individual students and groups," says MacNeil. "We're a lot closer to the individual students than the DSU. We represent B societies, and the B societies are the grass roots."

Both the DSS and the Mature Students see the disagreement over office space as a barrier to good relations with the DSU. Booth groups would prefer to direct their energies to more pertinent matters.

"We've got better things to do than argue over a room," says Pevlin.