

2016 DSU Candidate Questions

1. What have you done to support the Ladle in the past? The Ladle is on track to get their own dedicated cooking and serving space in the upcoming renovations. How will you support this space? Please give specific examples
2. Chartwells, part of the Compass Group, is the largest food supplier to prisons in the world and made over 40 billion Canadian dollars last year. What are your thoughts on the prison-industrial complex, and having such a corporation in the Students' Union Building?
3. What do you think food service in the Students' Union Building should look like? How could you help make that happen? Please give specific examples
4. What would you do to create safer and more accessible DSU events and programming, especially for the diverse population of international students at Dal? Please give specific examples
5. In an elected role at the DSU, what would you do to address and expel rape culture from our campus? What barriers to addressing rape culture do you think currently exist at Dalhousie and within the DSU? Please be specific

The following candidates did not respond to our questionnaire:

President

Derek Moreau
Anthony Saikali
Kalab Workye

Vice President Internal

Amr ElKhashab
Nikunj Kachhadiya

Vice-President Academic & External:

Dhruv Bhatia
Jad Sinno

Vice President Student Life

Kenyan Nagy

BOG Rep

Kati George-Jim

2016 DSU Executive Candidate Responses

President:

Kaitlynn Lowe

1. This year I have worked hard to support levied societies to expand their outreach and services to Sexton Campus. I have done this through the monthly Sexton Society Fairs, but also in the Monday morning coffee program with the Ladle specifically. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the ladle to provide a coffee service to students, and as President I would continue this by advocating for kitchen space on other campuses. In terms of office space, I have also worked to provide a new space for both the Ladle and NSPIRG to better accommodate the needs of these two societies. The Ladle is on track for an industrial kitchen space, and I have been doing work through my position as Vice President Internal to layout the guidelines and policies around the space. I plan to not only continue my support for this space both in policy and operation, but I want to expand the space Ladle has access to to serve students outside the Student Union Building.

2. In the summer of 2017 the DSU's food service contract with Chartwells will end, and I want to work with the Loaded Ladle and other societies, as well as individual members passionate about food services on our campus to research a Self-Operative food model. I don't agree that a company such as Chartwells should be the primary food service provider in the Student Union, especially when students have little influence over what is offered. As President I would work to establish a food model where food services are student driven. I believe that students should be able to influence food services in the SUB as well as in the University. For the year going forward it is important to assist student groups organizing food for events, especially cultural societies. We need to make the process for societies to have quality culturally competent food services as simple as possible. I want to work with the Loaded Ladle to educate membership about alternative food options on campus and in the community, including Ladle solidarity servings, Farmer's Market, and Urban Garden Society.

3. I think that food services on campus need to be student driven, especially in the student union. I plan to continue to work towards establishing a self-operative food model for the student union in partnership with passionate students and campus groups. As President, I would continue collaborating with these individuals and groups in a working group, but also consult with other student unions to learn of successes and failures with self-operative food models. This research could be done through the advocacy department I plan to establish in the DSU, or I could hire a commissionaire who is responsible for overseeing this initiative. I think a broad consultation process needs to be in place for all students to ensure we create a food service model that will meet students' needs, and be able to respond to student influence. In terms of the university at large I plan to work with students facing specific food service issues such as in residence and on Sexton to advocate for student driven food services across the university.

4. This year I have worked hard as Vice President Internal to create more accessible events and programming in the DSU. This year we passed an equity policy that mandates that accommodation needs for events are to be addressed, as well as an equity hiring policy that prioritizes people from marginalized communities. I implemented an anti-oppression workshop to be a part of society training that all society event organizers are mandated to attend. In addition, I implemented Accommodation grants for both members and societies to access funding to help off-set accommodation costs (including translating materials, childcare, and

ASL interpretation). As President, I would continue these initiatives and alter them to better suit the needs of the membership where need be. I plan to explore the union purchasing an accessible Tiger Patrol Van in order to enhance the service and make it more accessible. I would also work with the university to ensure that university events are made more accessible, including Orientation Week.

5. As Vice President Internal I have worked hard to establish the DSU as a leader in combating sexualized and gender-based violence on campus, especially with the Sexual Assault and Harassment Phone Line. I am committed to expelling rape culture on campus and promoting a culture of respect and consent. I am a firm supporter of Bill 114 and as President I would ensure that those recommendations are implemented at a university governance level. I think one of the biggest barriers to addressing rape culture lie in the university's willingness to address rape culture on a systemic level. I believe we need to work to ensure our university and student union support survivors of sexualized and gender-based violence, as well as advocate for systemic changes to support these students. I want to ensure that the supports provided to survivors are trauma-informed and culturally competent and don't perpetuate re-victimization. I want to work towards a positive reporting culture on campus and reshape the Human Rights Equity and Harassment Prevention Office, as well as Dal security to ensure our services can adequately support survivors. I want to ensure that survivors are supported throughout every level of our university, and I want to provide more support to groups that do this work. I want to engage the passion of students to create student informed and survivor-supportive Sexual Assault policies and processes at the university. As President, I would expand this advocacy from the university level to the government level by continuing to work with the Provincial Sexualized Violence Strategy.

Kathleen Reid

1. I believe that the Loaded Ladle is an incredible example of what can happen when student societies/ groups are given autonomous support. Not only does the ladle offer and promote healthy and local eating, it stimulates conversation about the need for affordable food options on campus.

In the past I have always found the ladle an integral part of our student community, and in that I have always supported the ladle. Through my time as Vice President Student Life of the DSU I have had the opportunity to invite to, and support the ladle at different events. Collaborating with the ladle to provide tabling opportunities at things like Orientation week, Dal 102, as well as other DSU events. What I really love about working with the ladle is that no matter who you are or what your schedule is there is always opportunity to help out in any capacity big or small. When I found I had free time it was easy for me to just pick up an apron and a hat and help with servings. More over last term I had the opportunity to help the Ladle hand out study snacks (become a burrito fairy) to students on Sexton campus. Helping with servings or food handouts is such an awesome occasion for me to get on the ground talking to students about their meaningful needs.

I also greatly support the initiative to help the loaded ladle gain more presence on Sexton campus. The DSU exec supported the ladle in starting coffee Mondays, where students could get free coffee and snacks Monday mornings. On several occasions I

helped bring down the supplies and assisted in servings. I am excited about the strides we have made this year with bettering outreach to other campuses, and I believe it is such an important part of the president's role to be actively engaged in the continued development of these relationships.

I think it is amazing that the ladle is on track to have their own dedicated cooking and serving space in the new renovation plans. As president of the union I would make it a priority to ensure that the ladle had support to run their space autonomously, and on track with our agreement. I believe this year the president worked with the ladle, our facilities manager, and the VPI to make a space agreement that best suited the ladles need, and I would hope to continue that collaboration. This could look like taking on a facilitative role while collaborating with the union throughout the space creation process, as well as regular check in's once the space is up and running.

2. I believe that any company we work with or invest in needs to be an ethical one. I think it the president's job to host and facilitate a conversation that happens across the student body to help define our collective definition of ethical is. Because Chartwells contract is ending soon I think that there is a huge opportunity to start a conversation about what it means to be connected to a company with unethical ties. To me facilitating the conversation looks like allowing both sides of the issue to be worked through, and giving each stakeholder a chance to state their case. With enough student engagement and feedback we have the ability to provide a plan b, of what our student union food services could look like. Moreover it is important to look at what a company like the Compass Group is providing students. Chartwells daily food options in the sub are not healthy, or locally sourced which leaves an educational gap for students.

3. Considering the fact that our contract with Chartwells is ending soon I believe food service in the Students' Union Building should absolutely start to make a transition into a self-operative food model. Several student unions across Canada have already moved to this model, and I believe that it can be done here. I think that we need to prioritize low cost healthy meals that cater to all students needs. More over, our food products need to be sourced more ethically and sustainably. If we strive to be a union that runs on ethical values, we have a responsibility to exhibit that in our actions. These actions reach from the events we run to the businesses we allow to operate in our space. The success of food groups like the loaded ladle, the DSU market, and the DSU food bank, is evidence that students care about what they are eating and where it comes from.

A major concern with our food services in our building is affordability. With rising tuition and student debt growing, we need to provide ways for students to cut back in their daily expenditures. This does not just mean that we need cheap food options; it means that we need low price food options that are good for students.

I support the new imitative that is currently in the works to create a DSU food board. The board would be a collective of food stakeholders within the SUB, who all care about the impact food services have on our student community. To me it is the president's job to ensure that student needs are being met, and that all students feel supported by their union. This group would create an avenue for consultation and student input on the way

our food services are being run. More over it would allow student leaders more opportunity for collaboration.

As stated above, I most definitely support student run food initiatives. These groups can work hard at engaging students with the union and the way our union is governed. Empowering student run initiatives would encourage sourcing local and sustainable food options that would not only educate students on ethical practices in consumption, but also raise awareness on accessibility and affordability. With a self-op system there would be more flexibility for students to choose their own menu, change it when they want to, and gain feed back from all students. Finally a self-op food model would give students the opportunity to gain meaningful, business savvy skills that they can apply to their professional life.

4. As Vice President of Student Life I made it one of my priorities to ensure that every event I ran was safe and accessible for all students. As an event programmer it is important to realize that events are not one size fits all. Dalhousie has such a unique and diverse group of students and our programming should reflect that. This means that whenever we run events, they should be assessed for accessibility needs, but also realizing that certain events will only cater to a certain group. Thus it is the responsibility of the union to make sure that there are events hosted for everyone.

I believe it is the responsibility of the president to reach out to student groups to collaborate on making events more safe and inclusive. Consulting groups like the Equity and Accessibility office, the South House, or the International Student's Association, who are the experts on their own respective constituencies. A great example of how to make programming more accessible to international students is making sure that they are able to have appropriate food options for events in our building. If a society would like to host an event in the SUB, they should be able to provide their own food option that is appropriate to their event, specifically in the case of cultural event.

5. Expelling rape culture and misogyny on campus is something I think the DSU president should be incredibly invested in. The president should act as a support system to student's organizing around this subject, and all students effected by this subject. And should be well educated on what it takes to contribute to this conversation. Too often the folks who are working the hardest to combat sexualized violence on campus, are the ones who are or have been, directly effected by it. It should be the responsibility of the union to realize the effect this work can have on our student leaders, and to have triage as well as self-care initiatives in place for the folks who continue to fight this battle.

Combatting misogyny and sexualized violence on campus begins with educating all students on the fact that these issues are systemically rooted in our institution. The nature of misogyny and the way it is integrated in our society is absolutely a barrier in combatting rape culture on campus. I have already created initiatives in educating our student population. In the attempt to provide first year students with a base level of information, I created a non-mandatory module system where students could test their knowledge on sexual assault, consent, alcohol harm reduction, and respect. If elected as president I would hope to continue this work and make the program mandatory for all

students on campus. This education can continue on an event-based level, such as at the Sex Talk during O-Week, South House forums, or through DalOut Talks. As president I would understand the importance of highlighting educational events that are already being executed by important groups on campus.

There are several ways to ensure that sexualized violence is taken seriously on campus, such as continuing fighting to pass bill 114. The rejection of this bill is a huge barrier that exists in addressing rape culture on campus. I believe that even without the support of the NS government, we can ask the university to consider enacting several aspects of this Bill here at Dalhousie. The university has made a lot of promises to Dalhousie Students in the form of reports such as the Backhouse report and the Belong report, and I believe it should be the responsibility of the union to apply pressure to the university to follow up on said promises. As the largest educational institution in NS, we should be lobbying the university to set an example for Campuses across Canada, but more specifically, Nova Scotia, to commit to making campus' safer for Women and Trans People. If elected as DSU president, I will make this a firm part of my mandate.

Vice-President Internal:
Rhiannon Makohoniuk

1. I have been a long time supporter of the Loaded Ladle, & have only the utmost respect for a student society that brings accessible meals to the Dalhousie community. I first heard about the Loaded Ladle when they ran a levy campaign and voted yes! Since then, I have stood in solidarity with the Ladle in everything it does. Although I have never volunteered or served with the Ladle, I have been a long-time supporter, and the organization means a lot to me! As someone who has worked two jobs throughout most of two degrees- having tasty accessible meals is something that has been so helpful and appreciated. Beyond that, the solidarity servings, and content that the Ladle produces have such a positive impact on the community as a whole - and I am grateful for it. I have attended some Ladle events as well - such as a workshop on Food Imperialism during Rad Frosh.

I am super excited about Ladle getting it's own space and I think that is super needed and rad. I want to make sure that the Ladle is autonomous in this space and doesn't get barriered or bureaucrated by external forces in the use and operation of this space. As well as this, I would like to work with Ladle to see how this space can be used to promote larger messages of cooking and food use (i.e. how-to workshops or sessions), and how this space could further work to serve the needs of Sexton students - whom have terrible food realities on their campus.

2. I'm not into prisons as a method for dealing with people who 'commit crimes' in society. I think that prisons are built on systems of punishment and isolation and don't reflect any type of rehabilitation that they really should foster. We must question what it means to have the worlds largest supplier of prison meals (The Compass Group, Chartwells parent company) as our central food provider in the Student Union Building. Food on campus should not centre profits, instead it should centre the diverse needs of students (culturally relevant food, providing student jobs, sustainable, ethical food production, and accessibility). Over the next 18 months, I think that a key thing for the executive and the Union to work on and consider is that this food contract is set to end and I think the contract and the company should be re-examined. In our

food services we should be prioritizing students and the needs of students and not large corporations.

3. I admit that I've never worked in a food environment (except my 8 years at McDonalds ;)), so I'm not entirely sure what food services should or can be. This being said, my vision of food services is student driven, student staffed, and runs on ethical and sustainable food production models. As stated in the previous question, I think that something that I can do to make this happen (if elected) is to create a review process for the current food services and hear out students on what they want to see in food services here at our Union. I would want to do some consultations with students, and use this as a full executive project of seeing what options there are for food services, and how we can adopt a less corporate model of food production in this building. I also think the Ladle should be a stakeholder in this conversation, as experts on campus around issues pertaining to food. We could work together and see if there are other schools with alternative models of food services not built on profit and explore the Unions options. This is also an issue at the intersection of accessibility to education, as a recent survey at Acadia found that of 1030 student respondents, 38.1% had experienced food insecurity in the past year. Accessible food is a student issue

4. I think that the DSU has been doing a good job recently of creating safer and more equitable environments through things like adopting a land acknowledgement before events and through the Equity Policy and equity hiring policy. But I think this work needs to continue. One cool idea is that I think the DSU should use its street team to table at events with information about sexual assault and harassment, and also with sexual health supplies. These people would ideally be equipped to talk to students about consent, harassment and assault - and students could access this information and these resources on site. For international students in particular, I think that some ways to create safer and more accessible space is through providing culturally relevant food options, working collaboratively with cultural groups on campus to run events, and having the DSU hold events that centre the stories, lives, and experiences of international students. The Union need to prioritize international students in a way that encourages domestic students to get involved in international events and activities around campus.

5. If elected VPI, addressing sexual assault and rape culture on campus would be something that I would prioritize in everything I do. For the past couple years, through my roles at DalOUT and South House, I have been very invested in tackling these issues and other issues of sexual and gender justice. I want to continue the great work of the Phone Line, and see this project continue through the summer and into the new year - having a permanent place as a DSU service. I also want to incorporate ongoing training opportunities for phone line volunteers so that they could be continually learning - something that never should or does end in this work. I also want to work with students to approach Dalhousie Administration to work on implementing recommendations from the Backhouse report. This grassroots effort could be a great way for students to have a hands on direct part in making their campus a safer and more equitable place. One barrier to addressing rape culture on campus is the administrations unwillingness to work on these issues in a way that centres the experiences of survivors and students. We need to be prioritizing people most impacted by rape culture when addressing it and that means taking the lead of survivors, women and trans folks

**Vice-President Finance & Operations:
Jeremy Banks**

1. I believe in supporting those services and organizations that students value and every Ladle serving in the SUB, and the hundreds of people served, shows just how much students care about Loaded Ladle and the services provided. Because of this, I am committed to ensuring they have the resources and capacity to fully utilize a dedicated cooking and serving space and expand operations on Studley and other campuses.

2. The Student Union Building is the heart of the Dalhousie Student Union, and as such it should reflect our values. These values led the DSU to divest from fossilfuel investments, and continue as DSU Council explores ethical investment strategies to ensure we do not profit from human rights abuses and other unethical industries.

I do not support having Compass Group, or any other organization that supports unethical industries, as a core part of our student union. As such, if elected to VP Finance, I am committed to transitioning to a selfmanaged food service model.

3. Food Service in the Students Union Building should reflect our values. That means considering how to best support our membership and their need for affordable food and the growing movement of sustainable, ethical and healthy choices students at Dalhousie have consistently committed to (e.g. the creation of the Dalhousie Student Union's Office of Sustainability, Dalhousie's Urban Garden Society, Dalhousie Student Union's commitment to Fossil Fuel Free investments and the work going into a larger ethical investment policy). It also means considering these values when looking at who to manage these services members, who the Dalhousie Student Union is dedicated to serve, or organizations that support fossil fuel activities and prison complexes.

To me, that means considering opportunities for student jobs, with studentmanaged food services in the Student's Union Building that include aligning ourselves with suppliers and partners that share in our values yet a transition like this would need to include advice and knowledge from studentmanaged food services that currently operate as well as consultation from students and consideration of a variety of business models.

If elected as VPFO, I am committed to making studentmanaged food operations at the SUB a priority researching and asking for tenders this summer, transitioning as contracts end, and supporting student managed food services with partnerships.

4. As a third generation, caucasian, Canadian, I do not hold the answer to this. There are a diverse range of people and cultural student societies who hold the knowledge and experience best suited to answer this, and I am committed to working as an ally to those people are critical to ensuring Dalhousie is a safe, inclusive and supportive community.

This means reaching out to international students and societies to understand their experiences of SU events and programming, discovering how they could be improved, and ensuring the opportunity to have those voices shape future DSU events and programming.

5. Misogyny and rape culture on campus has been an ongoing issue and despite recent events, the silence that surrounds this topic is still the biggest barrier.

Rape culture is only one part of the patriarchal system that surrounds us in a sometimes omnipresent way, and the complexity of the issues involve combined with the silence it carries are why initiatives like South House, the Equity and Accessibility office, regular antioppression

training and especially the Dalhousie Student Union's sexual assault line have proven so valuable in the past.

I commit to ensuring student organizations already working on this issue, who hold the knowledge we need to improve the reach and capacity of their programs, have the resources needed to make this happen as well as continuing the sexual assault phoneline, which I will make a financial priority for the future due to its hugely valuable service.

I will also continue to challenge the patriarchal structure on a daily basis, by exploring anti-oppression training for staff and students, seeking equitable gender representation on committees, by advocating for inclusive safe spaces on the facilities committee, by checking myself for accidental prejudices that may contribute, raising awareness of the microoppressions around us, and seeking to support those voices who can better address these issues.

Mahbubur Rahman

1. As DSU VPFO, I am supporting Loaded Ladle in every possible way. In SUB Renovation, we are building a kitchen with \$300K from DSU renovation fund which is to be used by Loaded Ladle. We gave Ladle an office space as well in the renovated SUB. I feel proud to be part of a process which provides Loaded Ladle their dedicated cooking and serving space. I will support Loaded Ladle to run this place effectively. I approved the use of Tiger Patrol van for Loaded Ladle. I am helping Ladle in their audits also. I will continue to support Loaded Ladle in coming year as well.
2. We had to abide by the contract made few years back with Chartwells by DSU execs that time. But the agreement is coming to an end and we are looking into Food Service Operations that is more student focused in coming years.
3. Food service in Student Union Building should look like what students want. Lot of students want self-operated food service in SUB. Personally I support that view as well. We are already working in Food service working group and self-service food operation is one option that we are exploring.
4. Over the last two years I feel International students and other diverse group are included more in program planning. But There are way more we can do. As International student myself, I am always strong advocate for international student issues in campus, and initiate a lot of program ideas that international students can participate. I will provide all support VP (student life) to arrange programs for international and other diverse groups..
5. I would actively participate and continue my support to address those issues on campus. As my Role as VPFO, this year I made sure the Sexual Assault Phone line have sufficient funding. I would continue to support such initiatives. One of the barrier that I observed is some people feel that it is not a big issue to be addressed and changing the mindset of those people is a challenge. It becomes more difficult when those people are placed in upper positions in the power structure.

Dylan Ryan

1. I have not had any involvement in the Loaded Ladle in the past. That being said, I do know the work of the Ladle very well and am proud of such a successful initiative taking root on Dal's Campus. It's an exceptional service and an amazing success story of hard work.

As with any student group, I'd work to provide the DSU resources that we have at our disposal to support the Ladle. Ensuring this space is open and accessible to those who need it just like all SUB space is critical.

2. I am uncomfortable with Chartwells being a part of the food services that we offer to our members. I think that the food options that we offer students need to reflect their needs, wants and priorities. Right now I don't think we're meeting those, and I don't think that any structure that includes Chartwells is properly equipped to provide that flexibility of service that we need to provide either.

3. I think that food service in the SUB needs to reflect the wants, needs and priorities of students. I believe that this is not currently the case. We see nutritionally poor food or overpriced healthy food being offered to our members that they often can't afford. We need to see this structure become more open, accessible and student driven.

I believe that the critical part of being student driven revolves around student consultation and setting up our structures for success. To do this, I think we need to be prepared for a transition to a self-operated system. This preparation must begin in this term of executives, however I am weary of trying to take over the operation in the timeframe of our current contract expiration. I'd be looking to open up our consultation process ASAP and hiring the qualified staff to run a self-operated system. We currently don't have such a staff – our only self-operated food service (Grawood) lost about \$40000 last year. The point of all of this is that we need to get the transition underway but I believe that it would be irresponsible for me or any of my fellow candidates to commit to being ready to jump into a self-op food system by the end of my term.

4. I think the DSU has been moving toward a more safe and accessible model of programming, but still has a ways to go. From my portfolio as VPFO this would look like the DSU committing funds to addressing accessibility barriers from events – from anything to physical barriers to things like childcare. It also involves greater collaboration with those folks that know best, the groups that best represent international students, DISA is an exceptional resource for expertise on expanding our programming to international students. This collaboration must also be supported with the DSU resources that they deserve.

5. Sexualized violence is something I take exceptionally seriously as it's played a role through my entire life supporting survivors. I'll bring this attitude to every table that I represent Dalhousie students at, and ensure that University representative, community representatives and others understand that this (unfortunately) is a very real issue facing our students.

The work of the Sexual Assault Phonenumber is an amazing initiative that I will work tirelessly to see become a permanent fixture on our campus as the current funding will expire during my term. I think one of the largest challenges we'll continue to face this year will be expanding awareness of both sexual assault on campus and also the services and supports that are there to combat it.

Rape culture is obviously a much larger issue about changing the way that students and people in general view rape and sexual assault in our communities. I think

campaigns such as Consent is Mandatory are critical to working toward expel rape culture. I'm proud to bring a more well-rounded view of how the DSU can support causes that better our campuses. For example I've worked on many campaigns inside and outside the DSU such as the Phonenumber Awareness, Bill 114 support, Consent is Mandatory campaign, as well as advocating and protesting government following the failure of Bill 114. I'll continue to be a voice behind this Bill and any other that seek to build safer campuses for our marginalized communities. As VPFO Dalhousie Students would have an active participant in these conversations, and an executive committed to providing resources to fight such an important battle.

**Vice-President Student Life:
Alex Butler**

1. My only interactions with the Ladle were some volunteering during WeekEng, and engineering orientation weekend during my third year, and eating burritos that were brought to Sexton Campus by them last year. I believe that having a cooking space for the Ladle on Sexton campus would be an important step towards ensuring that this very important levied society gets more recognition for their work on campus and is able to serve more people. My experience with the Ladle has always been positive but scarce, since I cannot make it to a lot of their food servings, and have neglected to contribute through volunteering. Serving more food to more DSU members in more places would be a great thing to see; I would support this initiative however I could, particularly if it meant reaching Sexton students.

2. I will keep my response honest. Your survey is the first time I have given thought to how much money the food suppliers of the prison-industrial complexes are making. I know that Chartwells provided food services at my elementary school, middle school, and high school in Moncton N.B. Reflecting now on this trend in the food supplying of the educational institutions I have attended makes me much more grateful for organizations like the DSU Market, the Loaded Ladle, the Seaport Market, and the Alderney Landing Market, where I can learn about my food, who it impacts, and how. If it were up to me, I would not support Chartwells where at all possible. I am glad to have alternatives and a choice, and will make sure members of the DSU are equally as informed about their food services.

3. I think that student run and student funded initiatives are the most ideal food service providers. I would love to see a day where these groups (such as the loaded ladle) have the DSU/ external funding and storage/cooking space to make this a viable and affordable option for students. I think that levies are a great way to do this, but also being able to connect groups like the loaded ladle with smaller independent student societies with the same initiatives through grants. As a Vice President of Student life candidate, my responsibility is to ensure that many students know about such services, rather than deal with their financial issues. I have ideas about combining and pooling the resources of food services like the ladle, with artistic resources from general interest societies like Daljam and Artists of Dalhousie, and funding and spaces from faculty level societies to create events that could reach and inform many DSU members about the incredible things that happen on campus.

4. I want to see more accessible bar spaces on campus. Bar spaces offer: kitchen services, banquet style seating, stages and oration platforms, technical equipment for sound and light shows, and many more important resources to groups on campus. Current bar programming consists 19+ events that either center on drinking (such as "Alexander Keith's Birthday Party" or "Coor's Light Party") or make non-drinkers feel unwelcome. Though drinking is not the center point of this initiative; accessibility to underage students is (especially for shows, musical or otherwise). International students would benefit as much as any other group

of students on campus by being able to accessibly promote and facilitate more diverse events on campus. Currently, the main sources of funding for dry events (such as Dal after Dark) do not fund dry events in bars, despite the fact that bar spaces offer much more as meeting places than a drink tap.

5. Groups at Dal that fight to expel rape culture like South House, DalOUT, Women in Engineering, Loaded Ladle, and plenty others, should be able to work in solidarity on these issues. This stems from the larger issue that student groups on campus with similar goals have a hard time connecting. On top of personally advocating for support groups like those aforementioned and encouraging DSU executive collaboration, like with the Sexual Assault & Harassment Phone Line, I want to find new ways to connect groups working on the common issue of rape culture on campus. I think that encouraging safe alcohol consumption and consent practices are a great way to reduce the prominence of rape culture on our campus as well. We need to talk about drinking alcohol, navigating the complicated boundaries that it presents on our personal connections on and off campus, and how it affects our decisions. Drinking and consent never mix.

Kelsey Keddy

1. As Orientation Week Coordinator, I worked with Ladle in order to get materials in the O-Weeks and help to promote the food service to students on campus. I think that groups like Ladle are best when they are given tools to run independently and are able to lean on others for support and as a resource when needed. Supporting ladle can look like involving the society in events being run on campus and introducing students to the amazing work that they do. It could also look like being an active volunteer and getting a real hands on appreciation for the volunteers and all of their efforts.
2. Personally, I believe that prisons work to ostracize individuals rather than rehabilitating and providing the necessary support to allow them to be contributing members of society through community. I think that having a corporation that supports prison complexes is not something that students in our community want and I fully support leaving Chartwells and focusing on building student run food services. Where we spend our money and who we partner with speaks volume to our priorities and prison complexes are not something that I believe students are interested in prioritizing.
3. I think that our food services should look like student run initiatives that provide good, holistic meals with many options for students. I think they should be affordable and allow students to access delicious, nutritious food at little or no cost. Initiative like ladle and the market are fabulous for students because they provide a great food service, but also because they provide a grounds for students to be in collaborative leadership roles, to be active in seeing social change on campus, and to be more engaged in the union. They also provide a great sense of community on our campus and give students an opportunity to meet like minded people and build relationships. As a beekeeper whose honey is sold at the DSU market, I know the impact that supporting community business has on both the companies but also the great benefit that comes with providing students with local options. I want to see more students being employed, more sustainably produced local food, and more diverse food options that help to support students from international communities.

4. One thing I want to do is help break down the financial barriers to accessing events and programming by offering discounted or free tickets who are engaged and contributing to our Dal community. This means supporting volunteers in societies and rewarding them for the amazing work that they do. I also think a big part of accessibility has to do with the type of events being put on. I want to work more closely with student groups on campus and societies to create focused programs that meet the needs of a wider range of students. I also think that a great way to engage more students is to provide more resources to the societies and groups who are already planning events and ensuring that they have access to the same community contacts, financial resources and event planning knowledge that the DSU holds. For international students, I would like to see more overlap during the orientation period and I think the union needs to begin creating relationships with students sooner. I want to work closely with DISA and the international centre to ensure that international students stay a priority when planning programming and that there is always diverse representation on the student life committee.

5. I am fully committed to breaking down the rape culture that exists on our campus and I want to ensure that we are replacing it with a culture of consent. One of the best ways to do this is by ensuring that we send a clear message to new students at orientation week. This year I worked extremely hard to address consent and educate as many students as possible by partnering with South House to create programming and content that focus on the importance of consent. I think we made great strides in this and I look forward to continuing the momentum next O-week. I also want to be more involved in the Sexual Assault Helpline and I want to do everything possible to make sure that it receives the support and funding necessary to continue its amazing work! I also think we need to make sure that the programming that we are offering support inclusiveness and avoid creating opportunities for sexual assaults or harassment. A good example of this was removing the 'Black and Gold' dance from Orientation week as it allowed for a dark space where students felt no accountability to each other and were often under the influence. By replacing it with an outdoor concert, we were able to change the tone of the event and in the end, created a better, more attended space for students to get to know each other. I want to continue these shifts in programming to ensure that the union is doing everything to help promote a culture of consent on campus.

Board of Governors Representative

Bart Soraka

1. In the past, I've told my fellow students who have skipped breakfast, haven't eaten in days, or on their third lunch of leftover pasta about the amazing service offered by the Loaded Ladle. I've sent students over with promises of amazing food, served by friendly people, and have heard that I undersold the place. I am excited to see the new space the Loaded Ladle will have. Unfortunately, I will not be able to come work with the Loaded Ladle as a front line person. But whenever I have a lunch meeting, the first place I will suggest is the SUB on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to support the fantastic society that you have organized.
2. When I was a student at the University of Regina, we changed from Aramark to Chartwell's in 2011. I have had the displeasure of being surrounded by Chartwell's food ever since. The prison industrial complex is one of the biggest scars on Canadian values. I was able to write a paper last semester about the justice of imprisonment, and recognize that long term imprisonment with no skill training or attempt to reintegrate into

society means that we are consistently taking options away from marginalized groups. Someone who goes to prison learns to be a better criminal, and with a record someone will have difficulty finding a job--which leads to economic marginalization, which leads to more crime, which leads back into the system, where private companies profit off of their misery. In Saskatchewan, 'Compass Group' [which owns Chartwells] provides food to the University and to the prison. The prison has seen many hunger strikes due to inedible food. In addition, a Compass Group staffer had sex with an inmate in a freezer [<http://www.carillonregina.com/avoiding-compass-and-chartwells/>]. I do not want this organization to make a dime from students, and I do not believe that they belong in our Student Union Building.

3. I think that food options in the Student Union Building should be local organizations, serving local food, for an affordable price. There should be variety--halal options, vegetarian options, vegan options, gluten free options--that recognize the cultural importance of food. In my role as a Board of Governor rep, I can put the idea of a non-Chartwells food contract on the radar of the board. I would like to work with the Loaded Ladle and other stakeholder groups on campus--especially the VPI--to create a document proposing alternate food options in the SUB, but also on Sexton, the Agriculture Campus, and for the Med Students. Of course, those are big ideas that will take time. I would start with the SUB and move out from there, after we have a proof of concept.
4. I think it's very important to recognize that campus events do not have to be drinking events. We have been lucky enough to have a 'Sober Support' at Law Events, but the university needs to move past the idea that university culture should be a drinking culture. There are amazing events being held by international students every week, and I think that by creating a more engaged campus that attend these events, we will not need to create safer or more accessible events--we just need to make the ones that exist more well known and popular.
5. I answered a question regarding sexualized violence for South House, and have included that answer below. I think that the biggest barrier to addressing rape culture on campus is ignorance. Individuals who react with hostility when confronted with the idea of rape culture because they don't want to admit that they are part of the problem. By teaching people what rape culture is, and more importantly how rape culture effects students on campus, and people around the world, we can bring the conversation to how to eliminate rape culture on campus.

I have been lucky enough to go to school with Kim Sweeny. She has done so much wonderful work around sexualized violence. I was lucky enough to be able to help with the Student Advocacy Society. A group started directly in response to sexualized violence, the group has already helped students navigate the overly complex rules and regulations around various complaints processes. I would work with Kim and the rest of the SAS to help ensure that the problems that faced the group in the beginning would not plague others who want to work to make the school a safer place.

By using the experience I have had with the Student Advocacy Society, I will be able to bring attention to difficulties that students face on campus both responding to sexualized violence within university frameworks, and in trying to create student led responses. By bringing these issues to the forefront, and being able to use concrete examples of what has gone wrong and what was needed to correct the situation, I will

show the Board why current policies are not working. I will use Bill 114 as a guideline, as well as work with South House, to be able to introduce something better.

Sexualized violence needs to be viewed through a gendered lens. A 'one sized fits all view' will never make progress to making our campus safer. Sexualized violence against women is almost always coupled with misogyny or transphobia. Sexualized violence against men is rooted in issues around toxic masculinity and not understanding consent. I should note, toxic masculinity is not saying that men who are victims of sexualized violence have themselves to blame—it is often an issue of assuming a man 'always wants' sex, which comes from a culture focused on the 'hyper masculine' aspects of masculinity.

The Dal Dentistry scandal was a prime example of how our administration mishandles sexualized violence. It was surrounded by misinformation, attempts to look good instead of taking the victims into account, and was slowly swept under the rug when attention was diverted. There have been many more incidences of sexualized violence at Dalhousie since then, and none have had the media attention—which means they are also receiving less support from the administration. I intend to focus the Board's view on how their policies are not helpful to students, and be able to engage in an overhaul of them—with the Student Advocacy Society as a major player at the table. This will include ensuring that survivors rights are promoted in the documents itself, and working to ensure that the rights are promoted on the ground on campus.

Consent conversations are key to eliminating sexualized violence. By actively teaching people how consent works, what consent means, and what it means to proceed without consent, we can work towards having less sexualized violence on campus. Doing this from the top down—the Board to the students—is the wrong approach. Making sure that the Board supports student groups who do this important work already is a better decision. South House and Dal Out have a much better understanding of consent culture on campus than the vast majority of the board members.

But all of the issues around sexualized violence need to be seen through an important lens—though I may be the one at the Board of Governors table, I am not the leader on these issues. I am an advocate, I am a source of information, I am a sounding board. I have an theoretical/academic understanding of the issues, it does not mean much compared to the lived experience of people. When asked, I can be a champion of the issues. But I know my role is not at the lead of these challenges, because the changes that need to happen can only be decided by those who are affected directly.

The following candidates submitted responses late and could not be considered for endorsements. We would like to share their answers anyway:

VPAAE - Amina Abawajy

1. I wish I could have done more to support the incredible work of the Loaded Ladle! Through my job at the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, we've worked closely with the Loaded Ladle in providing vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free meals at events. This year, I had the personal privilege in working with the Ladle to provide authentic Ethiopian cuisine for the Ethiopian Cultural Event that I organized. Thanks to the Ladle's support,

this event was a huge success drawing a crowd of over 400 people and raising over \$26,000 for families affected by the current food crisis in Ethiopia. I was honoured to work with a group that sees the value in culturally appropriate food options and understands the importance of the food movement. I fully support Ladle having their own dedicated cooking and serving space in the SUB. They offer an essential service to many students and should have the space to appropriately respond to student demand.

2. I have many thoughts on the prison-industrial complex and I believe that as a student union, we should not be supporting/upholding the prison-industrial complex. I believe that the Student Union should be moving towards investing in ethical sources. I think it is so important that we engage as many students as possible on conversations about where we want our money to be going. I think that if we are truly invested in making Dalhousie more equitable than we cannot be investing in corporations that continue to perpetuate cycles of oppression. In my role as VP Academic and External, I want to work closely with the VP Finance Officer and student groups to facilitate these discussions.
3. I think food services in the Students' Union Building should be sustainable, student run, support locally sourced food, and in support of local catering businesses. As VPAE I will work with student groups to advocate for these changes.
4. A major issue for international students is the lack of culturally diverse food options in the DSU. I think this can be mitigated by utilizing the expertise of students in moving towards a student-run or in support of local catering businesses. This year we saw the greatest number of cultural events hosted at the DSU and every event had to go through the challenges of working with Chartwells, which despite how well they prepare food, they are still unable to offer authentic cuisine. I would like to work with international students, DISA, cultural societies, the Ladle, and others to advocate for student-run food services that can address the cultural needs of international students.
5. Combating sexualized violence and rape culture is an issue that I am extremely passionate about. I firmly support the passing of Bill 114 and stand in solidarity with the incredible organizing that is being done to hold our universities accountable. While sexualized violence and rape culture disproportionately affects women and trans people, I think it's important to recognize that sexualized violence affects us all and as a community we have a responsibility to work together to fight for safer campuses. In our efforts to create safer spaces, it is crucial that we centre the voices of survivors. If elected, I will continue to support survivors and advocate for safer campuses for all students. Student organizing is extremely important to this movement and we need to continue to build each other up as we work to organizer around this issue.

VPSL - Nicolas Nguyen

1. Definitely appreciate the service and presence the Loaded Ladle has on campus. Unfortunately have not done more than bring my own tupperware and enjoy the great food that is served, but fully support the many social justice issues the Loaded Ladle stands behind.
2. While I can understand why we might consider Chartwells as a food supplier, I also think it is important to consider more local, community-based and sustainable options. I am definitely interested in seeing what opportunities there are for more of these local, community-based and sustainable options but have to admit, I would need to hear more from the Dal community and stakeholders to really understand where we are with this.
3. Accessible, locally attainable and culturally-appropriate foods would be fantastic. Again, I do not know what options are currently available but engaging with the Dal community

and helping to negotiate Dal students' aspirations is what I can currently offer without making false promises.

4. Focus on assessing the needs of these groups. I want to make sure moving forth we have a good understanding of what students voice as real barriers or challenges - not just making assumptions. These things don't happen overnight and I would really focus on making sure there are platforms or channels for students to engage with accessibility and safety conversations that could be used for future planning and programming.
5. I do not know if we currently have enough to hear what students want to tell us - especially those who have been directly effected. The phone line is a great initiative but I think it would be important to see if we can assess if there are other options for more anonymous and inviting ways to engage with students to hear their voice and get their feedback.

BOG Rep - Masuma Khan

1. Since my first year at Dalhousie, I've been lining up at the Ladle. Now every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday most of my friends and I line up at the ladle to get lunch, its become a tradition. I look forward to seeing the new renovations for the Loaded Ladle, and will support it by telling more people about the services that are provided. I do hope if I have the opportunity to actually volunteer and bring my cooking skills to the table, as I have run a catering company before.
2. Chartwells maybe a "great" service, but I don't think this corporation should have space at our Student Union building. I also believe that Dalhousie should be making ethical investments in companies that the students want and deem morally right. Instead of having such a company in our DSU we should be looking into a student based initiative.
3. Food service at the student union should have more options for our students then it does now. We need to have more student jobs available. Instead of investing our money in a company like Chartwells, I believe we should have more pf a student based and run catering service, thereby giving students jobs at every level, weather it be in managing the service or the cooking.
4. It is important that all our events at the DSU are accessible to all students and are safe. Its important that we make sure that our get home safe if drinking is involved, should make this service available at our events. During our events, we could have tiger patrol hours extended so that none of our students risk drinking and driving. For our international students, its important that they are aware of the events that are happening and information on these events should be made available in their mother tongue. This will ensure that the DSU engages with our international students, and we should include some representatives when planning events so to have their voices heard.
5. The first step to expel the rape culture from our campus is to first acknowledge that we have a problem. We need to have an open dialogue regarding this matter, it should be common knowledge no means no, but it isn't. it should be common knowledge that consent is mandatory, but it isn't. therefore, I believe that we must educate our students and engage with them so to dispose of this toxic rape culture for both genders. There are many barriers to addressing rape culture, the main barrier I'm focused on right now is the passing of Bill 114. Our university has to adopt a sexual assault program. Procedure should be in place, while protocols should be followed. Our staff should be trained and students should receive information about sexual assault services during O week and throughout their university career. Our university should have 24 hour service

and support available. Dalhousie must report the incidences of sexual assault to ensure our campus is a safe place for all students.