**Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Questionnaire
DSU 2019 Elections**

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) is the faculty society for Dalhousie’s graduate students. There are currently 3538 graduate students enrolled at Dalhousie across 90 Masters programs and 45 PhD programs. Graduate and professional students have specific needs that have historically overlooked. This questionnaire is to provide an opportunity for all candidates to demonstrate how they plan to address graduate student needs.

Please return completed questionnaires to president@dags.ca. The responses will be posted on our website to share with members. **Please return questionnaires before 5pm on Thursday, March 7th to be read at the DAGS AGM (5:30pm, March 7th)**. Late questionnaires will be posted on the website if received before the campaigning deadline. Motions to endorse candidates and Referenda Questions will be brought forward at the AGM.

Candidate Questions

1. What do you see as the top 3 issues for Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?

Tuition. The price of education is high for all students, but even more so for graduate students.

Accessibility to the DSU services. We do not promote the service well or include services that include the needs of graduate and professional students as best as we could. The DSU must listen better and act more effectively to ensure you all are felt cared about.

Payment for TAships and other forms of employment at Dal. I have heard that payment for jobs is insufficient, a problem for many who need the income. The work that many graduate students have done for me in the past is invaluable, so hearing they are unpaid enrages me. I would fight hard against facilities to ensure you are paid properly for the tireless work you do.

1. How do you plan to engage graduate students to communicate information and get direct student feedback?

First, we need a representative on Council. Thus, running by-elections as soon a September hits in order to get that spot filled on Council.

One of my platform goals is to have budget consultations with Dalhousie’s biggest student societies (DAGS included). I want to hear what you need, because I don’t know what they are. Thus, I need to come to youand see what plans we can make together in order to make the budget more representative of all students’ needs.

1. How would you improve the DSU to better serve graduate students?

I need to talk to DAGS often in order to better understand the needs of graduate and professional students. As an undergraduate student, my knowledge is lacking in knowing what their issues are. From there, creating ideas in conjunction with DAGS that can be reflected in the DSU budget.

1. How would you ensure graduate students are a priority for decision makers in Government, Dalhousie University, and the DSU?

I will always advocate for students’ needs when dealing with the University and government. When I attend BAC (Budget Advisory Committee) I will fight for graduate students’ needs. I would love to meet with the DAGS president after BAC meetings to give them a lowdown of what’s happening at the university so we can make a combined plan on how to represent the graduate and professional students properly.

1. Is there anything else you want to share with Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?

I have the best experience of the DSU and the DSU finances and operations. As the current financial commissioner, I have gained knowledge on the budget, budget consultation issues, and society audits. I’v seen first-hand the issues students face when dealing with the DSU. I know, if elected, I would work my hardest to make the lives of students better.

Referendum Questions

1. What are the top three ways you see this fee benefit Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?
2. How do you plan to engage graduate students to communicate information and get direct student feedback?
3. How would you improve your organization to better serve graduate students?
4. How would you ensure graduate students are a priority for your organizations?
5. Is there anything else you want to share with Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?