Diverse platforms mark race for SU President

The race for Students’ Union President is underway with six candidates this year up for the challenge—three of whom are焦点 candidates. The three real candidates are Amanda Henry, current Vice-President (Students); Michael Janz, current Upper Hall Students’ Association President; and Cody Lawrence, harmunitv coordinator with the former Arts Students’ Association.

What is the main thing you would want to accomplish as President?

Amanda Henry: As President, I would love to see more of our affordability and accessibility messaging, because there’s a new provincial government and the University has a new vision for a great university. I think we have a really great opportunity to attract students not only for more affordable education, but also to fulfill the gaps in quality that the institution has seen to see the cost in the 90’s, I think it’s all tied to the education you get here in order to get, because you don’t have to carry as much debt— it’s more likely that those other things will improve, too.

Michael Janz: As President, the main thing I’ll like to accomplish is making sure that the SU has a broader vision and not just students relating to the main university, making sure that other of those other portfolios in this organization, such as our students, and our services and our building, aren’t neglected. Students are concerned as to why the SU for five years [leading universities that have been losing money almost to the tune of half a million dollars, but we haven’t seen president candidates sort of talking about these issues. We always talk about tuition access, but these [internal issues] are just as important to our organization as the external issues.

Cody Lawrence: A serious increase in the amount of things that are actually wanted by the students. There’s a lot of concern for things like microsquares and student spaces, student spaces [just to study], access to materials—photocopies, wireless Internet, all the kind of thing—and for some reason, these things have been held back for the last two or three years now, much to the frustration to a lot of students I’ve talked in anyways.

What does the number of candidates say about perceptions of the SU?

Janz: I think that the jock candidates serve a good purpose [but] that they’re spreading awareness about the fact, that they’re getting students talking about the election. I think it shows that we have to recognize that, at the end of the day, this is still student politics, it can still be fun.

Lawrence: It’s actually a welcomed change. I like to see that there are people who are taking it a step as much of a joke just a being President—but definitely trying to get more involved for sure.

How would you work with the 5th vice-presidents on their portfolio?

Henry: The vice-presidents would be taking their own lead on their portfolios. I think a really important part of the President’s job is to make sure that the vision of the Executives as a whole, but without sort of leading the vice-presidents around by the ear. I would hope... we can set up a dynamic where they listen when I put my foot down, but that they feel comfortable pursuing their own visions, because everyone’s elected on their own platform, and have their own contribution to give to the organization.

Janz: I think that the President’s overall responsibility is setting the direction of the organization and I think that something I’ll be able to do very well from my previous experience as President of the Upper Hall Students’ Association I had to be responsible for setting the direction for what we were going to do as an Executives. I think one of the challenges is sometimes for an SU President, if they came from a certain background, they would want to portfolio too much. The President needs to allow the Wk the flexibility to do what they want with their portfolios.

Lawrence: Well, I’m called to a lot of these guys in the last week or so, and they all have some pretty interesting points concerning their materials and what they’ve had to say. I think actually everything would run together really smoothly if everyone has their platforms (whose platforms I’ve looked at) would just run office.

In five minutes or less, write a haiku on what you should be doing.

Henry: You’re the President No poetry will students hear No haikus, haiku.

Janz: Students are doubting. It’s time we offered results. Time for new vision.

Lawrence: What do you need to be doing?

Henry: You’re the President No poetry will students hear No haikus, haiku.

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