



2018 DSU Elections Questionnaire

Vote March 12-13
 DSU.ca/elections
 #DSUVOTES

Note: these are all the responses DSUSO received, unedited. As an office of the DSU, DSUSO does not offer endorsement for any candidate.

PRESIDENT	1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?	What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?	Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization?	How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?	What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?
<p>Candidate</p> <p>Kati George-Jin</p>	<p>I have been elected to the DSUSO Steering Committee at the beginning of this academic year but sadly had to step down (not so fun I guess). The experience I have with climate/environmental justice work includes both institutional and grassroots initiatives. I have learned about our environment and land through an Indigenous perspective, and this has allowed me to understand the complexity of climate change and the environment. I am most passionate breaking down the barriers in knowledge systems that only think with a linear perspective, and challenging the idea of what qualifies as knowledge. This is integral to the work of climate and environmental justice because it directly influences how and why we think the way we do. By incorporating complexity thinking and Indigenous knowledge in a meaningful way, culture shifts will happen. This work I've briefly explained was a large part of my job as Communications Coordinator for the Pacific Peoples' Partnership in 2016.</p>	<p>a) Within the DSU – an idea that could be incorporated in O-Week or Green Week, the DSU could look into offering students with reusable containers and utensils to use anytime. This is great for promoting culture change, and for equipping students with sustainable swag. b) Greater Dal community – it seems like Dalhousie does not utilize or occupy the greenspace on campus. It would be great to see accessible and inclusive events along university avenue.</p>	<p>In my experience, first opening a dialogue between communities that are adversely being affected is a great first initial step. Listening and learning what these groups and communities need, and what their concerns are, should come before offering support or solutions. Meal Prep Parties, hosted by Loaded Ladle, for water protectors on the frontline against Aton Gas is a fantastic example of meaningful support from the Union to address environmental racism and justice. If elected, I would like to see more programming such as this because it provides students with cultural learning and community engagement opportunities; plus, the support is what the community asked for/needed. Another way the DSU can address some of these issues could include bringing the conversation to campus where students can learn about the environment outside of the classroom setting.</p>	<p>Dalhousie has slowly been making strides towards sustainability on campus but there sometimes is a disconnect between action and policy. There are incredible faculty members and students at Dal that lead our university in the right direction, however, it needs to be more than the individuals on campus. Dalhousie needs to be working towards a better model of sustainability, and work towards incorporating more voices around the table. We have communities and groups with experiential and traditional knowledge that we aren't recognizing or listening to. As a highly regarded research institution, we should be striving for better research practices and provide more opportunities for students to be engaged in our communities. This is an important step when we are conducting discussions around Divestment at Dal. This year, and many years previous, I have had the opportunity to work with Divest Dal on ensuring Divestment is back on the table at the Board of Governors.</p>	<p>This topic was brought to the DSU council last year when we were deciding on which model to go forward with. I think that there was not nearly enough information given to students about what the models could look like, and not enough general student consultation. Having said that, this past year there have been a number of new food and beverage venues open in the SUB and that has generated a lot of interest. What also could have been generated interest is investment into small business and local food providers. I see the self-operated food model as something that is attainable, and could be the best option for our campus. This type of model allows student input, subsidized food options, internal management and student jobs, and direct control over the food options. The contract the DSU signed last year is for the next 10 years (1/1). Something in the meantime would be trying to incorporate more affordable and culturally appropriate food options in the current model, and also holding Chartwells accountable for their actions and decisions that ultimately affect all Members.</p>
<p>Jenn Samson</p>	<p>Yes I have experience with a sustainability related project, the solar project. During my time at SFx during my BSc of Chem I was part of a group that arranged for a levy from tuition to supplement half the cost of purchasing solar panels to install on the roof of the SUB there. I am most passionate about remediation of contaminated industrial sites.</p>	<p>I would like to implement an innovation initiative that's focused on the environmental aspect of science but with hopes to expand that to other Sciences, as well as social sciences and other programs. We invest so much time and energy into our school and I believe it is time for our school to give back that investment. We are the next generation of doers coming into the world and we see the world around us and as students we underestimate our ability to change the world around us because we do not have the support that it requires. I believe that our University should foster that support to give us the chance to affect the changes that we think are important for the world that we want to see and live in.</p>	<p>Dalhousie can publicly involve or support student involvement in projects related to current or past issues of environmental racism here in Nova Scotia. Many of which have similar stories to Ahiville, Boat Harbour and others. Some of these issues are very prevalent in the news lately and could benefit from student involvement potentially. It would be prudent to make opportunities for the numerous societies that may have a personal connection to these issues to be involved with school support.</p>	<p>I think that Dalhousie is a leader in large scale project but I would like to see the university support smaller student led projects. It is important for the student body to have the support to reach out to Nova Scotia communities and be effective in their project research and implementation.</p>	<p>I would be interested in seeing a feasibility study for funding as well as student interest, but I think that a system that encourages the students to be actively involved in their nutritional choices, and in the decisions about which food they buy from where would be an excellent way to promote nutritional responsibility. Studies are needed first to prove the necessity and effectiveness of the potential program. This is the kind of thing that sustainability students and industrial engineering students are training to do, it would be nice to see a student led design project be the method of implementation.</p>
<p>VPAE</p>	<p>1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?</p>	<p>What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?</p>	<p>Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization?</p>	<p>How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?</p>
<p>Andrew Hall</p>	<p>I worked full time for an environmental testing and consulting company for around a year and a half. I worked with waste water from the public and private sectors, and air emissions from the private sectors for the entirety of Arkansas as well as in New Mexico. I took classes in environmental reclamation work while in my engineering program. I have also always wanted to build a more sustainable community wherever I have lived.</p>	<p>My platform is entirely focused on efficiency and engagement in the community with a heavy emphasis on increasing public and private funding for research opportunities. Having energy companies see Dalhousie as a beneficial investment will bring more funding and career opportunities. This will increase public interest and reliance on our school for economic and research stability. Working together will build a stronger Dalhousie and a stronger Nova Scotia.</p>	<p>This is an area where having involvement from our student societies to help create well researched and fair proposals before submitting them to the public and to private industry will bring about a fair deal for all. Having these projects staffed by local Nova Scotians and students will help decrease the previous disadvantages felt from the one-sided deals which disproportionately affected marginalized communities. Progress is necessary for community growth, but that growth does not have to disproportionately affect those at risk.</p>	<p>Dalhousie seems to be good on the surface, but we can do more. Doing more won't be cheap, but we can make the campus and community a more sustainable place with the aid of new innovative research. That research needs funding and that is where we are seeming to slack. By engaging energy companies and the public we can build a better future where sustainability is not an afterthought, but a priority.</p>	<p>If there is a market, there is a supplier. We definitely have a diverse student body with a large range of wants and needs. If the student body wants something new, then we can either find a supplier who can satisfy our needs or get our current ones to fulfill our needs. This is where correct negotiations are key. We can't have everything we want and still be as affordable as we want either. Finding new deals will be the priority here. I neither oppose or support the current model, but I see a way where we can still have a mutually beneficial outcome if we know exactly what we want.</p>
<p>Masuma Khan</p>	<p>In high school I took part in a program called Adventure Earth, where I was given the opportunity to teach students about photosynthesis, energy and the importance of taking care of the environment. I feel as though environmental justice lies in with all issues of justice. Through an intersectional lens, environmental justice affects every community. I am most interested in environmental racism and how it relates to justice. When focusing on environmental racism it is important to note that communities within Mi'kmaq's have been facing these issues whether it is through pipelines, thefts of land and through the violent erasure of Ahiville and its impact on African Nova Scotian communities. Nova Scotia is known for its constant complicit nature of environmental racism and if re-elected I would hold an event in collaboration with other student groups such as DSUSO, DISC, BUSA, DBLGA, NSPIRG, SALSA, Divest Dal and other to create a forum on environmental racism. We can also tie in environmental racism issues within the planning of the Racial Justice Symposium and create an issues policy for the union with community members. There is no environmental justice without also talking about racial justice.</p>	<p>I would like to create a campaign with students to foster the culture of sustainability. Through word cafes and events focused on environmental justice and how it is inherently connected to the justice of all marginalized communities. Something that I've noticed is even having the signs around disposing of waste need to be translated into different languages so that we can engage with students that have language barriers. At Dalhousie, one in every five students is an international student and I believe it's really important engaging with international students on environmental justice. I want to create. We also need to engage with students across all campuses on these issues. Something that I would ensure is working with Truro campus to supply food for the DSU market as it's currently not happening. I also want to ensure that all food that is wasted at the end of the day be actually available for students to choose from that evening for free and have all items that are not sent to the DSU food bank so that we are not wasting food but rather repurposing it. The DSU also needs to invest in sustainable cutlery for food services, events, and programming.</p>	<p>I think the most important part of connecting with marginalized communities is actively engaging in solidarity work. We need to first listen to the communities and understand their wants before acting. If elected in collaboration with DSUSO we should hold a world cafe on environmental justice. One of my main focuses this year was on decolonization, and it will continue to be a focus of mine as a student who focuses on decolonial scholarship. The DSU needs to create relationships with these communities through making space for the conversation at Dal. I believe that this can happen through programming and campus-wide campaign where people of color, Indigenous peoples, low-income people, and others can inform students on what environmental issues affect them. We could call it "Intersectors of Environment". It's also important to ensure that during the Government roundtables, the DSU is engaging with the provincial government on what they are doing to address environmental justice and how disproportionately affects students from marginalized communities.</p>	<p>If Dalhousie is regarded as a leader in sustainability it would not be possible without student groups such as DSUSO, DIVEST DAL, NSPIRG, and others. We need to create an issues policy for the union on environmental justice so that the DSU is able to take an official stance as well as being talked with action that community groups want. Dalhousie as a whole can improve by being open to having these conversations from the beginning, instead of it taking year and years of organizing to have it discussed at the BOG. Dalhousie as a whole needs to be open to engaging with its students on issues of environmental justice, instead of silencing them. Students this year have taken so many actions to address environmental justice at Dalhousie and I am here to support further action and support for mobilizing students!</p>	<p>I believe a self-operated model would be the best way to conduct food services within the union. If implemented we can ensure all food services are ethical, that the DSU is able to provide the specificity of food needs from an intersectional student body. A self-operated system would also ensure that students are able to access their meals at affordable rates and increase student jobs within the DSU. We need to lay a framework for self-operated food management system. As you folks know the last DSU council signed a contract with Chartwells. I believe we need to give Chartwells a yearly evaluation and engage with students through surveys and world cafes. Since we are currently stuck in a place where we are not able to put in place the self-operated food service model, we must ensure that Chartwells is held accountable. As we know food often gets wasted in food services when we are repurposing the food and making it accessible to students who are in need as well as directing it to the DSU food bank to increase food options available to students.</p>
<p>VPMO</p>	<p>1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?</p>	<p>What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?</p>	<p>Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization?</p>	<p>How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?</p>

<p>Eyese Gabon</p>	<p>I do not have a lot of experience with sustainability work other than community service projects involving planting trees and trash cleanup projects. I am most passionate about lowering my waste each person produces. I have recently taken inspiration from individuals who live zero waste lifestyles and am trying to incorporate this into my life.</p>	<p>I think that promoting sustainability and hosting events or info sessions about Dal campus and its sustainability is definitely a start to continue to promote the culture of sustainability on Dalhousie Campus.</p>	<p>I think that the main portion of examining issues related to these groups and implementation of solutions is all through consultation and communication. I don't speak for an individual in a group that I do not identify with and therefore, consulting to find their issues and then working together to implement solutions is the best way to make both parties happy.</p>	<p>Dalhousie is a great leader in sustainability and environmental justice with their specific, environmentally friendly systems in place, such as simple things like lighting and waste systems. I think we could improve by creating zero waste food services as this is one of the main sources of waste on campus. Cutting back on the food waste produced, including packaging and storage, can further continue to cut our waste.</p>	<p>Self-operated food management system is a great idea. I think the implementation phase would come a lot from student consultation and understanding how this concept would best benefit students on all campuses. It would be a long process to get going but beneficial in the long run.</p>
<p>Chantal Khoury</p>	<p>My passion for sustainability comes from my parents, who had both immigrated from Lebanon. Both of them came from long lines of self-sustained people who fed themselves from their gardens and traded when there was excess. This is obviously very different in a capitalist society, however, my parents have allowed those values to transcend to their children. This was my first motivation to being a sustainability student, where much of my sustainability experience had started.</p> <p>Other than being a Sustainability Student, I was an active Y.E.S.S. member in my second and third year here at Dalhousie. Although I'm no longer a voting member, I still attend their meetings and events when possible, and have been making the cakes for the first-year orientation for the Sustainability College for the last two years. I've used the Green Grants offered by DSUO to complete research for a mandatory course in the past. This year I had prioritized sponsoring and partnering equity seeking group such as NSPIRG project RE(re)construct, the Food Bank, the Market. If re-elected I am hoping to take a more proactive approach by attending AGMS and supporting organizations with financial resources. My passion lies not in one thing, but in a holistic, intersectional vision to integrate sustainability into a lifestyle. I am hoping to continue integrating this passion with current food justice initiatives on campus and other equity seeking groups.</p>	<p>1) Re-allocating grants to support equity seeking groups 2) Writing issues policies in consultation with sustainability groups on campus such as EPS, DSUO, YESS in order to institutionalize sustainability practices 3) Working with NSPIRG to research data to support sustainable practices on our campus 3) Advocating for divestment at the Presidents' Advisory Committee meetings 4) Advocating for better transportation resources for students on the Transportation and Security Committee of the University 5) This could include advocating more issues that serve outside of the peninsula to reduce the need for student parking 6) Reducing parking by expanding their carpool program 7) Continue to host the Social Justice Symposium, expand its reach 8) This is an event for Dal students and the community. 9) Create more programming with the VPSL through an environmental framework 10) This year we developed a small checklist of small actions we could take in our programming to reduce waste, we are hoping to expand this list 7) Work with the VPI to create more sustainability-centric training for societies alongside with mandatory risk management training.</p>	<p>This year, I am working on building a solidarity line in the programming budget. This is an active approach to carving out space marginalized communities. This line will be used to pay for an individual in a group that I do not identify with and therefore, consulting to find their issues and then working together to implement solutions is the best way to make both parties happy.</p> <p>To me, environmental justice work is adjusting our values. It is participatory budgeting. It is creating a safe space where folks listen and learn about how these issues disproportionately affect marginalized people. I am committed to institutionalizing these spaces if re-elected.</p>	<p>Dalhousie has currently taken on several operational projects to decrease their carbon footprint. Dalhousie has also promised to ensure that their future infrastructure will be built to LEED gold certification or higher. These are small steps that the university has chosen to take initiative on, and it is evident that sustainability and environmental justice have been an afterthought. The reality is that they have an opportunity to become a leader in environmental justice.</p> <p>Currently, Dalhousie is invested in fossil fuel companies that continue to pollute and exploit our natural resources and disproportionately affect marginalized communities and their basic human needs (i.e. access to clean drinking water). Dalhousie also continues to work with and accept funding from several oil and gas companies in order. This is another place where Dalhousie can improve by providing more opportunities for students to work in 'green' energy.</p> <p>As VPFO I have the opportunity to sit on the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, and therefore continue to advocate for Divestment and a shift in priorities for the University. Students have been working in anti-oppressive frameworks for a long time, and it's time to push some of that work onto the university.</p>	<p>This summer I had the opportunity to visit several student unions across the country who have a self-operation for food in their Union buildings – and it was REALLY TREASURING THAT. Executives and student groups had the full control over where the food was sourced, training the staff had to undertake, and had an opportunity to subsidize the cost of food in some circumstances to lower costs/burden for students.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we are linked to a 10-year contract with Chartwells, an international food giant. As of now, there is no real opportunity to switch into a self-operating management system if re-elected, however, there are my plans on increasing food security and food sovereignty within our building and on our campus by supporting student run initiatives. Currently, our Food Bank is over used and under supported. My priority this year has been providing resources to the Food Bank to expand their operations. This would include granting them larger space, hiring more staff and volunteers, and providing more food.</p> <p>This year I was given the opportunity to oversee a lot of the food justice work on this campus. If re-elected, I wish to bridge the gap between the current food justice initiatives. This would be done facilitating meetings and providing space and resources for these organizations to expand their work without overlap. This could also include more paid positions to do this work</p>
<p>VPI</p> <p>Candidate</p>	<p>1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?</p>	<p>What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?</p>	<p>Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization?</p>	<p>How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?</p>
<p>All Barnaby</p>	<p>In 2014, I was a Fish Friends Coordinator. Here I taught youth in grades 3-4 on how to hatch baby salmon in incubators so the alevins (baby salmon) can be released in the Nepequin River. This was part of a salmon restoration project I coordinated in Fibreux, NB.</p> <p>In 2015, I took a year off from Dal to pursue an opportunity to work as the project assistant of the Mesq g'Uj's in Windermere. Here I was responsible for hiring many eligible Mi'gmaq workers as I could. I was a part of a team that helped hire a total of 100+ Mi'gmaq workers.</p> <p>I wouldn't necessarily say that I'm passionate about certain aspects of sustainability. Rather, sustainability for me is a way of life. It's something that's incorporated into my identity, as is Mi'gmaq'wot, and it's something I practice daily. In recent years, I've been really inspired by zero waste living. This is something that I strive towards. For example, I'm currently working towards a zero-waste kitchen. In the past few years, I've slowly been replacing plastics I was using with cloth or stainless-steel alternatives.</p>	<p>If elected, I want to centralize student society information to make it easier for students on-in/off campus to learn about DSU societies. By doing this, I want to create a program where societies are rated based on their involvement and initiatives such as: reconciliation, sustainability, accessibility, anti-oppression, etc. I believe that a program like this would create friendly competition between societies and would ultimately endorse better campus community values.</p>	<p>The first thing I would do is invite these communities to participate as stakeholders in this conversation. Addressing issues of environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization, cannot take meaningful form without proper consultation with the communities who are directly affected by them. By bringing these voices to the table, I would work with them to establish a plan based on their input. As an Indigenous person, for example, I would like to see the DSU assume the responsibility of educating non-Indigenous folks on decolonization. In my personal experience, trying to juggle the emotional labour of having to teach folks about my lived realities sometimes takes away from the first reason I came to school to begin with: a student. An equitable solution to this, I believe it is to carve out space in the by-laws where the Union agrees to assume this responsibility so that Indigenous and marginalized communities can breathe.</p>	<p>I'm not aware of all Dalhousie's sustainable and or environmental justice initiatives. However, from an outsider perspective, direct action has been taken on by students. (E.g. Divest Dal, DSUO, NSPIRG, ENBCH). I do not feel Dalhousie is doing enough because it's students who are the leading this revolution and the university really needs up their game.</p>	<p>[No response submitted.]</p>
<p>Annie Shannon-Dwyer</p>	<p>I want to take what I know and expand it further, making a greater impact. I have been involved in a number of projects since being at Dal. I have participated in the Ecopolitics for 3 years. In my first year, I participated in reducing my usage for my residence, Howe Hall. In my third year, I worked with Dal After Dark (DAD) and had the pleasure of interviewing committee members of Ecopolitics from various Dal campuses for the Dal News report capturing the story students wanted to emphasize. This year, as a DSU coordinator (Dalhousie Student Engagement Outreach) I helped to plan activities for Ecopolitics. Some of the activities included: outreach in residence to increase involvement in the residence-wide competition; educating students on consumption rates; and sharing solutions on ways that students could reduce their impact.</p> <p>In addition to Ecopolitics, I am a brand ambassador for kind knits, an organization with an environmental justice framework. I write blogs to educate about events in our community that encompass this framework. Furthermore, I sat on the Dal After Dark Grant committee last year and advocated for funding for the Sustainability field trip to the Wolfville Market and Valley sustainable farms.</p>	<p>I see, hear, and participate in different student initiatives across campus that voice the passion students have for creating environmental and climate change. I want to help advocate for, continue to participate in, and help promote outreach to students and community members. I think it is important to recognize that our Dalhousie community is composed of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and volunteers. There is so many people who can come together to make a difference. Specific action items I have are: town hall meetings on Studdy, Carleton, Sexton and Truro campuses in addition to office hours on these campuses. Advocate and promote society initiatives that bring awareness and action to the culture of sustainability. Furthermore, I want to work with societies to have all society executive members participate in environmental justice training and for each society to meet environmental standards. I want to work on a liaison between DSUO and other societies from all campuses to set your initiatives takeoff.</p>	<p>For those of you who do not know me, I am a white passing Indigenous woman. My grandmother is a residential school survivor and for my family almost all of cultural ties were lost. My family has been working hard to try and reclaim and learn the part of our identity that was taken from us. Since I have been exploring and learning more about Indigenous issues, I am desperate for Dalhousie to get more involved in advocating for and pushing action forward with these causes. I believe we need to do more to foster an environment that is safe and empathetic towards those who are deeply impacted each day by environmental injustices, environmental racism, and/or colonization. We need to address these issues but creating safe spaces for those affected, and as an executive team have other council members and volunteers showing up for those who advocate for these causes. I myself will show up. I will use my voice to educate those who are not aware. I will do everything I can to reduce the impact of these issues that these students are forced to carry around with them each day.</p>	<p>Dalhousie has many societies and initiatives working towards environmental justice. I was amazed to see the dedication of friends and other students camp out at the Divest Dal movement. I am happy that I share a food box with my friends and that so many people I know on campus have signed up for this service. I have had the opportunity to attend a number of sustainable trips in which I have learnt more about environmental justice. I would love to expand and contribute more to the sustainable and environment justice cause. In fact I am attending an anti-oppressive environmental justice training this evening! I think it would be amazing if we could also have community members and key note speakers at major Dalhousie events that also advocate and educate about this cause.</p>	<p>Great Question! I am an avid user of the DSU market and the Loaded Ladle. I support the Loaded Ladle as they run under anti-oppressive, anti-corporate food systems, as opposed to Chartwells. I want to voice concerns of people who are affected by environmental racism. The self-operating food model is something I want campus to move towards. It would help remove hierarchy and domestic capitalism while also providing fair wages for their employees, culturally appropriate food, affordable and nutritious food that students have told me we need more of. This will also provide food agency over food systems on campus at large. In summary, it would be a positive change. It would provide students with a platform to get involved in the food system on campus rather than setting for the barriers that Chartwells creates.</p>
<p>VPSL</p> <p>Candidate</p>	<p>1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?</p>	<p>What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?</p>	<p>Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, anti-environmental racism, and/or decolonization?</p>	<p>How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?</p>
<p>Cory Larsen</p>	<p>My experience in sustainability-related work is, unfortunately, limited to the aspects of the VP Student Life's capacity to think sustainably when planning events and dealing with other aspects of the portfolio. This past year as VPSL I've tried to incorporate and consider sustainability when planning events and programming including Orientation week, Dalfest, Sn-O-Week, and more. We try to use sustainable products such as compostable dishware when serving food and also provide resources to students to help them be more sustainable in their actions like providing first year with reusable water bottles in their Orientation packs. I think, however, there is more potential for the VPSL's office to work more collaboratively with DSUO and other Halifax organizations to ensure we're being as sustainable as possible when it comes to our events and programming.</p> <p>I would have to say I'm most passionate about sustainable food practices. I've had a passion for cooking for most of my life, and became interested in the concept of eating local and sustainable foods.</p>	<p>I am to take are to continue to build on work we've done around our programming, specifically with our bigger and more standardized events. Not only does this mean utilizing and working with sustainable products and organizations but also ensuring we're presenting meaningful educational opportunities to engage students in conversations around topics of sustainability. Specific action items include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using sustainable dishware for our events involving food Sourcing an utilizing local and food resources Collaborating on and providing more information sessions and panels that discuss topics around sustainability Working with DSUO to formulate strategies and long term environmental goals for the Union Working to improve support from the DSU to environmental students groups in their advocacy and programming efforts 	<p>Like any work we do that challenges or combats actions, behaviors, and beliefs that disproportionately impact marginalized communities, the first step is to listen to what those different community groups and individuals have to say. However, by listening across actions and we can ensure there's being building impactful relationships with these groups and individuals in order to create standing goals for dismantling colonialist and environmental racism barriers and practices. We need to incorporate learning opportunities in regard to these issues in order further cement their importance in our work as executives and council members. We also need to be creating lasting policies that outline procedures and best practices when it comes to addressing these issues.</p>	<p>A lot of where Dalhousie shows itself as a leader in sustainability and environmental justice is through student initiatives. First and foremost, Divest Dal has been tirelessly working for years to advocate on the issue of divestment and continues to show strong leadership in continuing to press the university administration to debate and discuss the topic of divestment. Their work keeps the conversation alive not only in meeting rooms but across campus as a whole. Moreover, NSPIRG works collaboratively with Dal students, alumni, and community members to formulate a working group who focus is on environmental justice and Dalhousie as an institution. The DSU needs to do more in terms of supporting and working with student groups on campus in order to better our efforts in terms of providing service, programming and actions.</p>	<p>I would support a model of self-operated food management. Unfortunately, the DSU is currently under contract with Chartwells for the for-seeable future. However this give us a tangible goal in terms of when we need to have a self-op model ready for implementation. I know DSUO has a commissioner whose specific portfolio is to examine and research food on campus. I think this position, with support from the DSU could be expanded to also bring to research and planning in regard to creating a self-op implementation plan with tangible long-term outcomes. We would need to figure out a way to ensure the position and its mandate is re-occurring in order to ensure work isn't lost in the meantime. We must work with Chartwells to ensure we are getting the best possible quality of food, that they are operating as sustainable as possible, and that we work to ensure better access to food while also ensure a diverse range of options. Moreover, working with student groups and organizations that are able to operate under the confines of our contract to ensure needs are met and that they are operationally sustainable, ensuring their continued success.</p>

Irene Rose Sallendra	I do have experience with sustainability related work. While working with Dal After Dark I would often consider the environmental and sustainability issues when doing programming. Thinking about the small details such as not using as much paper when doing promotions to the larger concepts of if the venue considers taking sustainable actions to have multiple events for students in this location. Recently, I had the opportunity of participating in the planning and organizing ecologies. We reached out to residences and off-campus students to promote the small ways that students can become environmentally friendly in their daily lives that will overall make a difference.	I will take what I have experienced planning other events on campus and apply those lessons when elected into the DSU. I plan to reach out to students that are part of the ESS (Environment, Sustainability and Society) program to gain a better understanding of what ways the institution can improve their sustainability through content that they have learned in courses. As well as communicating with environmental justice and sustainability driven societies such as NSPRIG. I will work on collaborating with these groups on campus to build a plan of sustainability for students life that Dalhousie Student Union can use to encourage students to expect and obtain a culture of sustainability within the community and campus.	I plan to work very closely with the societies and organizations that set out to tackle those kinds of issues. I personally currently don't have enough information about those issues to give a direct answer. One way that I believe the DSU can address environmental justice is by allocating extra resources and collaborating with organizations for things like the Bike Centre, Tiger's Closet, ecologies. On the issue of decolonization, creating awareness and education through workshops and information sessions. Facilitating these programmes with guest speakers talking about how students can become aware of the ways in which we all perpetuate colonization and systems that continuously oppress marginalized groups, and how we can actively combat these systems.	As the largest institution in the Maritimes, we have shown to be a leader in sustainability and environmental justice, but there is always an opportunity to improve. One way is through improvement in our practices such as with catering, not automatically throughout all the leftover food from an event. Have a no waste policy, giving those catered food to students who are diligently studying on campus. Implementing a level of standard for events and programming held on campus that meet sustainability and environmental justice levels. Further doing work by collaborating with student groups and societies that have the knowledge to drive these initiatives to work and find more ways to improve on our campus.	I touched previously on creating a food waste policy in my previous answer. I would choose to stick with the current system that is in place. The student union is currently contracted with Chartwells and they run all the food services in the building and control the staff in the building. Advantages to this is that the DSU doesn't have to worry about it and we gain exclusive agreements with food suppliers and franchises which allows the student union prices to maintain competitively low. A challenge that we face with this contract is that Chartwells can only bring in food that they are obligated under. With this, we have seen Chartwell start to bring in culturally appropriate food by adding Mezza. This influence can continue by further building a relationship with Chartwells, inviting them to have townhalls where students can give open feedback to the organization. At the same time, create a contract that holds them to a level of standard that they must maintain while providing food for Dalhousie students. Assuring that next time the contract is up, there is the voice of the students embedded into the contract that states possibly a percentage of local food is being provided, or a need to always have culturally appropriate food available. These are steps forward that I would take.
Board of Governors Rep	<p>1) Do you have any experience with sustainability-related (including environment/climate/environmental justice) work. What aspect of sustainability work are you most passionate about?</p> <p>What are some specific action items you will take to increase the culture of sustainability within the DSU and the greater Dalhousie community?</p> <p>Acknowledging that environmental issues disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized populations including people of colour, Indigenous peoples, low income people, and others, what are some of your ideas for how the DSU can address environmental justice, and environmental racism, and/or decolonization?</p> <p>How is Dalhousie a leader in sustainability and environmental justice? Where could we improve?</p> <p>What are your thoughts on transitioning to a self-operated food management system in the SUB? If you support this model, how will you go about the implementation phase? If you are opposed, what are your plans for the making food more affordable, locally-sourced, and culturally appropriate, and decreasing food waste on campus?</p>				
Candidate					
Kathleen Olds	Yes! I have been working on sustainability-related issues since I was 12 years old - I think that environmental justice to our generation's most pressing issue. I am most passionate about structural, institutional change and moving beyond an individualistic approach to tackling climate change.	I will ensure the Board of Governors FAIR committee does a report back on a funds search for divestment. I will advocate for including climate change and climate justice in all BGC decisions. I will speak against our institutional entanglement with fossil fuels. Furthermore, I will publish a preview and a review of every BGC meeting in easily accessible language, which will allow students to have their voices heard at the university governing structure. Furthermore, I will actively reach out to under-represented communities to hear and amplify their voices on university policies and decisions.	I think the DSU needs to listen to marginalized people beyond token representations. It needs to commit itself to decolonization beyond land acknowledgments. This includes speaking out against firing on our public social media accounts and rejecting any relationship with fossil fuel companies. This includes boosting local initiatives, such as the water protectors at the Altus Gas site, that are often framed as radical or simply not addressed. For me, on the board, this would include an explicit recognition that we are on unsundered land and bringing up the TRC calls to action. This would also include bringing up climate justice whenever relevant (always).	I think we have a good waste system! I really like a lot of the student societies as well, such as Dwell Dal and DSUSO. I also admire the work being done by loved societies, such as the Loaded Ladle and the Bike Centre. I think Dal needs to move away from fossil fuels and untangle ourselves from fossil fuel companies such as Irving. I believe we need to move away from doing surface-level and easier motions towards sustainability, and towards structural change at an institutional level.	I support moving to a self-operated food system in the SUB! I will advocate for this at the BGC, and join the community affairs committee to actively advocate against Chartwells continuing in the SUB. At DSU council meetings, I will also advocate against Chartwells and for local and culturally appropriate food. This includes supporting already existing services, from the DSU Market to the dinners at the International Students' Centre to the Loaded Ladle.