

Dalhousie Student Union

ELECTIONS

2018

Hello,

My name is Kaitlynn Lowe, the newly appointed Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2018 Dalhousie Student Union General Elections.

Election debates provide students a valuable opportunity to learn about candidate platforms as they relate to the position they are seeking office for. Thursday, March 1, 2018 marked the first of a series of debates, which has provided the Elections Committee important insight to how we can ensure debates are respectful, facilitate meaningful conversations, and importantly – provide students with a direct and impactful way to engage with often complex ideas.

The Vice-President, Academic and External (VPAE) debate sparked abundant conversation around many topics important to students. The Elections Committee has become aware of several concerns, from both candidates and audience members, regarding the conduct of VPAE candidates. We would like to remind both candidates and our community that individuals running in DSU Elections must conduct themselves appropriately at debates – this includes following debate guidelines and adhering to University policy, including the Code of Student Conduct. The Elections Committee is committed to supporting diversity of thought, while also ensuring that candidates adhere to debate guidelines. Moving forward, the Elections Committee will explore concerns received, particularly those relating to the VPAE debate, set a clear understanding of subject matter both candidates and audience members can expect at events, and ways we can ensure debates are appropriate and relevant to topics at hand.

If you have concerns regarding Code of Student Conduct or university policy violations, you can contact the Human Rights and Equity Services Office at (902) 494-6672 or HRES@dal.ca. There are a [number of resources on campus](#) that are available to all students, including, but not limited to:

**Dalhousie Student
Advocacy Service**
(902) 494-2205
dsas@dal.ca

**Student Health and
Wellness Centre**
(902) 494-2171
dal.ca/livewell

Dal Security
(902) 494-6400
For emergencies
(902) 494-4109

Please contact me at cro@dsu.ca if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding candidate conduct.

Sincerely,

Kaitlynn Lowe