



Gauntlet 2010 Candidate Reviews

As a pair of newbies, we had heard horror stories of working on the *Gauntlet's* Students' Union election supplement. The late hours, the lengthy debates, the tricky decisions — all proved true.

Naturally, we had to prepare for this with an evening at Jamesons and The Alcove, getting to know our rag-tag team. Through refreshing beverages and emotionally-revealing karaoke, we bonded, proving to ourselves that, yes, we do in fact have social lives.

Turns out we were lying to ourselves. The last weekend of our reading break consisted of interviewing candidates for the SU general election. With 21 candidates and a referendum debate, we were faced with a great deal more interviews than

recent years. Hour upon consecutive hour, with nary a break for food.

New to the editing, design and layout gig, along with our fairly preliminary background knowledge of the Students' Union, we faced a steep learning curve. However, we feel that this perspective was closer to the average voter's knowledge base and mind-set.

To assist us, we managed to convince an additional six "naive" panel members that could not have anticipated the sheer workload awaiting them. Our eight-panel board, containing several tried-and-true veterans, allowed for thorough discussion and a distinctly non-partisan perspective of the SU candidates.

We did our best to find individual strengths and weaknesses, giving a thorough overview of each candidate. Ultimately, however, the opinions contained herein are just that — opinions. We recommend them as a guide, and urge you to seek out your own information and hold your own discussions.

Go online, talk to the candidates, watch their campaign videos. Considering the amount you pay the SU each year, make sure you're getting your money's worth by putting the right person in office.

Emily Ask and Richard Lam
Supplement Co-editors

The Process

Over the last weekend of reading break, the *Gauntlet* asked candidates for executive positions, the Senate, the Board of Governors and referendum sides to come in for 20-minute interviews. The first two minutes were dedicated to allow each to introduce themselves and their platform.

Each candidate was then asked three standardized questions previously drafted by the panel. Candidates running for the same position were asked the same questions, which reflected the requirements of the position.

This was followed by a free question period in which the panel members could ask the candidate for clarification and further detail on previous responses, pressing concerns and the candidate's platform. All the interviews were recorded for reference by the panel.

After the interview, the panel privately discussed the various qualities and shortcomings of the candidate. This resulted in

several lively — and sometimes heavy — debates that lasted into the wee hours of the morning.

Every panel member was assigned a specific position to write reviews for and consider the input and opinions of the entire panel when completing their reviews. They were also asked to consider the candidates' platforms and qualifications, which are provided online.

Panel members were then able to personally endorse their favourite candidates on page eight of this supplement. These endorsements reflect the individual's opinion and you should make sure to conduct your own research before voting.

Candidate platforms are available for public viewing at <http://su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/candidates.html> and campaign videos can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/users/suadmin>.

The Panel

Emily Ask
News Assistant, Supplement Co-editor

Emily is desperately trying to avoid the *Gauntlet's* slow take-over of her life. Unless Brent asks her not to. Dammit.

Sarelle Azuelos
Features Editor

Someone told Sarelle spending a weekend judging candidates would be exciting. She fell for it. Again.

Brent Constantin
News Editor

At the young age of 25, Brent has skyrocketed through life to become co-news editor of a student newspaper. Currently single.

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

Hopes the stress encourages beard growth.

Annalise Klingbeil
News Assistant

Annalise enjoyed spending an entire weekend questioning SU candidates. Seriously.

Noah Miller
News Editor

While not obsessing over stylish sweaters, the Argyle Badass is a politics junkie. Well, that's what he keeps telling us.

Richard Lam
Supplement Co-editor

Richard was coddled and coaxed into taking on this responsibility. Damn you, Brent.

Ryan Pike
Opinions Editor

Ryan has been going to SLC for the last four years, despite not being required to by his job. He's just really keen on governance.

President

The Students' Union president is responsible for ensuring unity within the organization. A key member in the Students' Legislative Council and other bodies and committees, such as the Board of Governors, the president provides leadership in determining services and policy. The president is also responsible for communicating with students, university administration and the media.

Joey Brocke



Joey Brocke's approach to the *Gauntlet* panel was confident but also level-headed. He has several years experience with the Students' Union, starting out as a club president, moving upwards to fine arts representative and is currently vice-president operations and finance. Brocke's strongest platform point centres on the fact that he has been working on the Governance Renewal Project all year.

The GRP has revised the internal structure of the SU, which means that certain positions will function differently compared to years prior. Some of these changes include the VP events position evolving into the broader VP student life position, and hiring commis-

sioners instead of electing them. The project is currently being implemented, so having someone who knows its inner workings would help ensure a smooth transition.

And the tuition increases that got students' so fired up recently? Brocke said that the current SU president handled the situation very well, but acknowledged that the university is between a rock and a hard place in terms of finances. Whether tuition market modifiers get approved by the government or not, he says it is most important to be involved in the process and help form tuition changes in a way that will benefit students most and ensure the best quality of education.

He felt the student experience should not

be sacrificed to politics and finance, so re-connecting with clubs is his number one priority, although he did not elaborate much on how he wanted to do that.

Brocke offers no radical changes, but rather stability and stewardship in what he says will be a very tricky year for students. Brocke offers a nice mix of professionalism, strong leadership and approachability.

Selected Qualifications:

Vice-President Op-Fi 2009-10
Fine Arts Rep 2008-09
Visual Studies Undergraduate Society
president 2007-08

Christian Loudon



Christian Loudon wants to talk to you. And your lab partner. And the guy ahead of you in line at Bake Chef. And the girl who sits beside you in economics. And the . . . well, you get the picture. Communication is a huge part of his platform because he believes the Students' Union hasn't done a good enough job communicating with students.

Loudon has many interesting and specific ideas about how to improve SU communication and involvement. These include increasing SU activity on Facebook and Twitter and getting students involved by providing incentives for them to start blogs, video channels and other social media outlets to better circulate news about events and issues happening

on-campus. Loudon is an easily approachable guy himself, so we feel that along with his ideas he would definitely provide an accessible image for the SU.

Loudon has experience in communication having worked at the *Gauntlet* as production editor and copy editor, as well as SU experience as an academic commissioner this year.

As for the proposed market modifiers students may face next year, Loudon says the SU should have lobbied the government sooner, considering the decision made back in November to suspend the tuition-freeze.

He also advocated clubs becoming more independent and being able to host more of their own events by starting their own

councils. He specified that the Engineering Students' Society has done an excellent job involving students on campus and says that clubs and even the SU should take notes.

Loudon says his ideas about open communication have not always received positive reaction within the SU, but he refuses to concede. Loudon wants to talk to students and believes his ideas will get students to talk back.

Selected Qualifications:

Academic Commissioner 2009-10
Governance Review Committee 2009-10
Gauntlet Production Editor 2007-08

Lauren Webber



Lauren Webber is definitely not lacking in experience within the Students' Union. Currently she is an external commissioner and sits on many student councils, such as the Quality Money committee and the Students' Union sustainability board. She is also employed as Dinos athletic event staff.

Webber has an optimistic attitude towards the university and the Students' Union; her main motivation for running for president is to simply give back to students her great experiences.

There were many intelligent ideas on Webber's platform, but unfortunately a lot got lost in translation as she explained

them to the panel. Being interviewed by a panel of eight people is no picnic, but we would have liked to see more confidence and structure as she presented her positions. Good ideas don't amount to much if you cannot communicate them effectively.

Webber's main platform involved reformed financial support for students, specifically student loan accessibility and more flexible credit limits. She also stressed the importance of balancing funding for research projects while maintaining teaching excellence; the students' learning experience should not come second to research.

She said she intends to continue current

SU president Charlotte Kingston's level of professionalism and communication regarding the tuition increases, but did not elaborate.

Webber has potential to be a great candidate, but must work on articulating her positions clearly. The SU needs to be represented with a solid voice that students can feel confident with and, unfortunately, Webber's stage presence was lacking.

Selected Qualifications:

External Commissioner 2009-10
Op-Fi Commissioner 2008-09
University Relations Committee 2008-10

The new VP student life position will ensure a holistic approach to students' overall well-being, including addressing health and enriching the student experience on campus. The VP student life will also oversee aspects of clubs. The new portfolio will work with various departments and groups on campus to promote and support diversity and work with other university groups including Enrolment Services and the Office of the Student Experience.

VP Student Life

As current events commissioner, Abbott hopes to bridge the gap between the old events portfolio and the new student life position. Abbott said she plans to hand over awareness months to clubs to plan, alleviating the stress on the Students' Union. Abbott wants to create a community with clubs and offer scholarships and special funding that clubs can access if they plan events.

This plan, while great in theory, still relies on someone doing the work of tying all of the clubs' activities together and coordinating details.

She seems to have some misunderstanding

of how to "diversify" events on campus. She praises Bermuda Shorts Day as a popular student event and something that she would like to emulate more if elected. But how is that diversifying? How many events on campus are already alcohol based? Plus, BSD is one of the most expensive events the Students' Union initiates. Is it worth it to start new, similar events like Abbott's idea of a free BBQ for all students in U of C sweatshirts?

Her campaign also focuses on engaging students. She praises the recent turnout for the tuition consultation, but says this is an exception to a long history of low profile

campaigns.

Abbott says the key to engagement is doing a better job targeting these hot button issues. According to Abbott, monthly updates as well as better promotion are necessary to get the word out to students.

Abbott offers an insider's perspective to the role. As someone that has worked under the events portfolio, Abbott will no doubt be quick on the learning curve if elected.

Selected Qualifications:

Current Events commissioner
University Relations Committee member

Jennifer Abbott



As a candidate with a lot of experience with the Students' Union, Luimes sees the VP student life portfolio as a way to engage as many students with the SU as possible and offer them the same "enhancement" and "enrichment" that she got in her university life from involvement with the SU.

Her vision for student life is as a resource hub, claiming the number of offices offering student services, like volunteer positions, is large, but student awareness of them is non-existent. Luimes plans to aggregate this information in a way that's more easily digestible by the student body, but how

exactly this will happen is unclear.

Luimes hopes to increase the profile of the SU by going out into the cafeterias and sitting down to have one-on-one conversations with students. We think this is a bit unrealistic.

Luimes had strong ideas about clubs improvements such as her sustainability seminars and, like Moug, events that focus specifically on clubs. Luimes holds no illusions that she will automatically be able to add staff to the clubs role, but instead wants to look at increasing the volunteers involved with clubs in order to speed up processes. Another high-

light was her focus on expanding SU-based programming at orientation. Ultimately, despite her experience and ideas for the position, she didn't give the impression that she was the most enthusiastic about the role. An important part of any VP student life should be a passion for improving the student experience. Luimes seemed better suited for a position like VP academic than student life.

Selected Qualifications:

Humanities faculty representative
Orientation leader
Act Now volunteer

Britney Luimes



As a popular Gauntlet pick for vice-president student life this year, Katie Moug made it clear through the interview that she knew her stuff and has a vision for the position.

With the recent switch to VP student life from VP events, Moug (much like a mini-wheat) seems to be the best candidate to balance a serious side and direction with a fun, energetic desire to build a better community for students.

The panel was impressed with Moug's clear knowledge of the problems she sees with the clubs system; Moug proposes providing skills

to clubs to teach them how to fundraise and become less reliant on Students' Union funds.

Moug says that events need to become more targeted on campus, in the hopes of building activities around pre-existing clubs so as to have an existing interested audience. She also plans to take this approach with underrepresented groups that might not see much in the SU that appeals to them.

Moug wants to increase the image of the SU by visiting larger classrooms and clubs and setting up booths around campus where executives can interact with students directly.

Ultimately Moug feels that the best way

to increase visibility is through high profile events that draw on student interest and take place when students are actually on campus.

Moug also draws praise for her original idea of implementing busking licenses for MacHall. As a member of the Students for an Alternative Future slate, Moug gets bonus points for not mentioning concepts like "accountability" or "transparency" right off the bat.

Selected Qualifications:

U of C GROW Club president
Model UN team member

Katie Moug



The current fine arts faculty representative for the Students' Union, Ogden sees the new student life position as a chance to reinvigorate the SU. In what she calls a standardized and stagnant environment, Ogden hopes to add new events for students as well as publicize the services the SU provides, but did not present any specifics as to how she will accomplish this.

Ogden says the portfolio's new focus will offer the opportunity to raise the profile of student clubs, which she plans to do by possibly hiring more help for the clubs office if the budget allows.

Safewalk, which Ogden says is underused, is a priority for her. Ogden highlights a com-

plaint she's heard from students, "I don't know the Safewalk volunteers, how do I know they aren't the bad guys?" and hopes to put pictures and blurbs on the SU website to encourage students to feel more at ease. She also wants to look into having a celebrity Safewalk using SU officials and media personalities as volunteers to draw attention to the service.

Ogden feels the current awareness months are too stretched out and wants to focus activities that, this year, might have been spread over several weeks into the span of several days. She said that students shouldn't be able to go into MacHall without knowing an event is going on.

We didn't hear enough specific ideas from Ogden to make a firm impression. She mentioned "finding ways to do things" frequently and spoke in vague, abstract terms. Ogden might be great for the position if elected but unless she comes up with more of a platform that students can actually get behind it's not going to happen.

Selected Qualifications:

Fine arts faculty representative
Governance Review Committee
Arts Fest 2009 organizer

Lindsay Ogden



VP Academic

The VP academic is responsible for developing and implementing SU policies on government and university academic issues, programs and services that affect U of C students; overseeing the Academic Commission; representing students on university committees such as Faculty Promotion Committees and General Faculties Council; and developing and implementing SU academic programs and services such as the Teaching Excellence Awards.

Jalisa Barnett



Barnett arrived at the panel interview well prepared, with carefully thought-out goals. Her main focus is strong and open communication with students, administration, faculty representatives and commissioners.

Barnett's leadership qualities will help her accomplish one of her main goals: supporting efforts by commissioners and representatives to complete projects they are passionate about.

Current vice-president academic Meg Martin has done an excellent job completing and expanding certain projects, many of

which Barnett hopes to continue. She plans to maintain a strong student voice during the final stages of the arts amalgamation, ensuring academic quality is maintained.

One of Barnett's major responsibilities will be fighting for better quality education. Every few years, the university publishes an academic plan with a series of vague markers improving the quality of education. Barnett hopes to hold them accountable to these markers — a plan with both strengths and weaknesses. The university cannot ignore their own recommendations as they do those of the su, but holding them account-

able to vague promises will be difficult.

Barnett stressed the importance of a smooth faculty of arts transition which, given the substantial number of students affected, was a welcome point. Last but not least, Barnett shared her feeling that many of the su's diverse programs lack adequate promotion.

Barnett won't be revolutionizing the vp academic role, but no revolution is necessary.

Selected Qualifications:

Comm. & culture faculty representative
Communications Club president
New to the U peer mentor

Alyssa Stacy



Working in commissioner positions for the past two years, Stacy has a thorough understanding of Students' Union policy and protocol. While her platform covers several points, Stacy clearly focused on helping students find cheaper alternatives to textbooks.

Stacy introduced the book loan program, which does pretty much what the title suggests, this past semester through a quality money initiative. However, quality money backing will not last forever, so she hopes to find a permanent solution. Stacy also wants to find external ways to cut textbook costs through re-establishing the Canadian Round-

table for Academic Materials although the lack of publisher involvement might make this hard to accomplish.

Stacy also spoke of increasing the number of students involved in the undergraduate research symposium, as well as working with a group of students to create a database of student work.

Quality of education was another major platform point, although again the vp hopeful had a less than stellar method of attack. Holding the university accountable to their own guidelines would only be successful if the guidelines were not so vague. Luckily,

Stacy added that she would also push for fixing PeopleSoft's broken USRI system and work with the faculty association to make sessional positions more stable.

The future vp academic will have a very busy year juggling tuition increases, faculty amalgamation, quality of education and other responsibilities; fortunately Stacy seems equipped to manage all this.

Selected Qualifications:

Operations and Finance commissioner
SU Sustainability board member
Academic Planning Committee

Brad Sullivan



Many members of the Students for an Alternative Future slate have touted the benefits that "fresh blood" will bring to the Students' Union, but Sullivan's platform is a strong example of how a lack of internal experience can do more harm than good. While well spoken and experienced, some of his ideas for next year are vague or unrealistic.

His primary platform point is justice, which he plans to uphold by introducing a voluntary "code of conduct" and marking guide despite the fact that the university already provides a suggested grading scheme in the calendar. Sullivan also suggested using Universal Student Rat-

ing of Instruction to "punish" profs that don't follow the guide, without stating where an su official would find the power to do so or realizing that students can't currently view those scores through PeopleSoft.

Sullivan's best ideas included increasing travel and conference funding and promoting undergraduate research. As a Program for Undergraduate Research Experience award recipient, Sullivan does have first hand knowledge of how undergraduate research can be a complicated process and what should be expanded.

Along with the rest of SAF, Sullivan hopes to increase the su's accountability to students. The

su does have shortcomings in terms of informing students of their activities and Sullivan was in the right to say so. However, his solution to this problem was to host town halls and forums in MacHall midday. The su has promoted a litany of issues in MacHall forums — all of which were sparsely attended.

Sullivan definitely has passion for student politics, but needs to give some more thought to student concerns and realistic solutions before he's qualified for the job.

Selected Qualifications:

Model United Nations Club president
PURE Award recipient

VP External

The VP external is the SU's primary lobbyist and responsible for SU policies, programs and services that relate to government relations, public information campaigns, student financial aid and employment issues. The VP external works closely with post-secondary lobby groups and also ensures policies are in place for tuition, student fees, housing and transportation.

Hardave Birk



Birk is everything you could want in the role of vice-president external: energetic, intelligent, experienced, well-spoken and passionate. He has solid ideas and more importantly was able to explain exactly how he wants to accomplish his goals. He's realistic and very knowledgeable, and his current experience with the su would serve him well if elected.

Birk brings with him specific ideas that could actually be very effective. Some include aligning with the Residents Students' Association to better get students involved, engaging politically active clubs to strengthen the student voice

when lobbying or bringing mayoral candidates to campus to encourage municipal leaders to better represent students.

Birk has one big idea that seems ambitious yet unrealistic: a voter-funded media competition that ideally would encourage students to become involved in the political process. While the idea has worked at other schools and is interesting, the \$250 entry fee may be a big turn-off for U of C students.

He touched on the idea of lobbying the government to extend the grace period for student loans — a good idea in today's economy. He spoke intelligently about the Council of Alberta

University Students and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and stated he would like to play a key role in CAUS. Birk acknowledged that the role of vp external should extend beyond just lobbying and focus also on student engagement, so that the student voice is louder, a valid point backed up with strong ideas.

Overall Birk presented educated and doable ideas and the experience and passion to make things happen.

Selected Qualifications:

Residence Students' Association representative
SU Op-Fi commissioner

Mansoor is a first-year student who wants to make large scale changes at the University of Calgary. She's keen on affordability and involvement and her platform includes things like lobbying the provincial government to freeze tuition increases, lowering student loan interest rates and increasing access to secondary suites.

Mansoor has energy, but may lack the experience to be effective in the position of vice-president external — a big jump into the Students' Union for a first-year student.

Mansoor wants to make a lot of chang-

es, but didn't appear to know specifically how they will be implemented. She lamented deferred maintenance on campus and stated that students are suffering from problems with plumbing and electricity.

She thinks these problems need to be addressed immediately and also mentioned a desire for a +15 walkway between the library and MacHall — a strange proposal at a time when cuts are being made across the campus.

Mansoor spoke highly of the current vp external and said she would like to follow in Kay She's footsteps and, if elected, play a key role in the Council of Alberta Univer-

sity Students, a wise and encouraging idea.

While Mansoor sees her age and lack of SU experience as an advantage, it may be her downfall. A number of her responses treaded on the generic side. Perhaps a year or two involved in different areas of the SU will give her the experience needed for this role.

Selected Qualifications:

Debate and Model UN experience
VP external of campus GROW club



Rabiya Mansoor

Paris desires to be vice-president external because he has a passion for keeping university accessible to all students, regardless of how much money they have. While it's a noble and important cause, Paris lacks the specifics of how he will accomplish this.

Paris is knowledgeable about issues and has experience as an SU external commissioner under the current vp external, which could serve him well. Yet he was unable to articulate how he would execute the projects he wants to, like engaging students and clubs and strengthening the voice of the U of C. He's keen to have different schools across the province act in unison and hold similar

events when it comes to lobbying the government. While this may increase outside media presence, Paris seems to forget that each institution has very different needs and problems.

Paris emphasized a need to co-operate with Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal and recruit these newly named universities to the Council of Alberta University Students. This idea seems unusual given these institutions are less research-intensive than the current members of CAUS.

Paris was well-versed in the area of student loans and clearly has personal experience that gives him a

broader perspective on many key issues.

It seemed odd that Paris barely talked about the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and, unlike the other two interviewees, neglected to mention how he would play a key role in CAUS. Overall Paris has passion and experience, but seems to lack direction and the vision that will make his ideas a reality.

Selected Qualifications:

SU external commissioner



Sean Paris

The VP operations and finance is responsible for the financial and business side of the Students' Union, namely overseeing the budget in terms of Mac Hall operations, student health and dental, SU travel expenses and levies.

VP Operations and Finance

Delaney brings everything to the table — confidence, experience and great ideas — and is a hell of a candidate for vice-president of operations and finance. His time as a commissioner has exposed him to the nitty-gritty details of most aspects of the job, giving him an immediate head start.

With that foundational knowledge, Delaney can get started on his sustainability plans, which include cutting down on Styro-foam, coffee cups and possibly implementing a dish washing system in MacHall. While this may prove to be difficult due to contractual agreements in MacHall, Delaney intends to push the issue and take the initiative,

perhaps even with the SU's own coffee with discount incentives.

Delaney's emphasis on the opportunities of the travel conference funding is a great, simple idea, essentially streamlining and communicating the process to be more efficient. With a revised form, a dedicated commissioner and re-allocation of the budget, it sounds genuinely effective.

As Delaney mentioned in the interview, the toughest task facing the new VP op-fi is undoubtedly the new governance structure. His plan to individually approach the new executives and vps and build a working structure from the ground up is simple, but

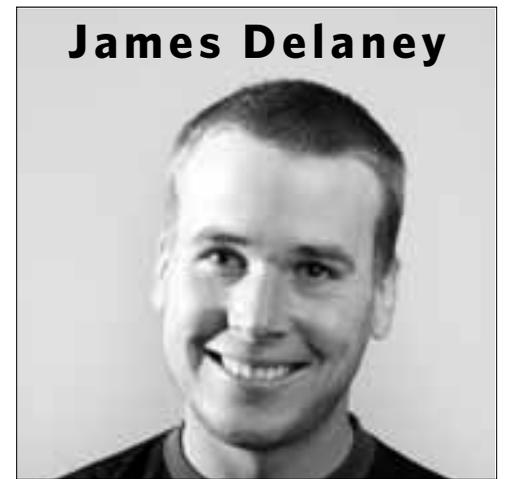
makes the most sense.

The interview concluded with some brief questions on accountability, clubs involvement and conflict resolution, all of which were answered with thorough, level-headed responses.

Delaney is rock solid. He's got the current system and its future direction figured inside out. Electing him would put the SU in good hands, all without the need of a single buzzword.

Selected Qualifications:

Op-fi commissioner



James Delaney

Though he has not served on the Students' Union, McMillan comes with a good mix of experience that he can bring to the role. Having looked into the governance review and a cost-breakdown analysis in his own time shows his initiative for the job.

McMillan's platform stresses accountability and awareness, namely publishing and fixing VP salaries so students know where their money is going. While he raised some valid points, he put too much emphasis on an area that is not a huge concern for students and does not directly affect them in a substantial way.

His idea to hold fixed town hall meetings at convenient times is realistic, straightforward and could boost student engagement by attracting those interested in participating. Surveying student interests and better communication with groups and clubs is a feasible way to gauge students' needs as well.

Transparency seems to be McMillan's strongest arguing point — making sure budgets are accurately broken down and allocated. Another one of McMillan's simple yet timely ideas is streamlining rules and communication regarding travel expenses and club budgets. Standardized rules may put the

more travel-oriented groups at a disadvantage, but will better distribute the budget and reduce the risk of overspending.

McMillan unsuccessfully ran for op-fi commissioner last year and is now running for vice-president. He faces a steep learning curve, but offers some useful ideas that students could benefit from.

Selected Qualifications:

Debate and Model UN executive member
Poli-sci association member



Matt McMillan

Board of Governors

The BoG is the highest governing body of the university with one student-at-large position up for election to represent undergraduates. They will vote on matters regarding administration, policy, what programs will be offered, as well as tuition increases. The elected student will sit alongside the Students' Union and GSA presidents, university officials and community members.

Chris Kalantzis



Kalantzis is one hell of an outspoken guy, and he's hoping that quality sets him apart from the other candidates for the board of governors student-at-large position this year.

There is little doubt that Kalantzis is willing to argue for what he believes in. Throughout his tenure as the Students' Union social sciences representative this year, Kalantzis has been one of the organizations most vocal members. The theory is that this may be a significant quality for the BoG representative to have as there are only three student representatives on the board — if the student voice is going to be thin, it better

damn well be loud.

That said, Kalantzis feels that the BoG representative position gains value from its removal from being an explicitly SU position. The BoG representative speaks for all the students on campus, theoretically remaining distanced from the SU's agenda. Kalantzis further argued that his status as a law student next year would aid his position on the BoG, as the members of that group would respect his area of study.

The biggest question voters must ask themselves when contemplating Kalantzis' suitability as their potential BoG representative is precisely the same quality that may

be held as his strength. As such an outspoken individual who lauds his ability to stand tough in the face of opposition, however unsettling, there is the potential that he will be too radical to effectively represent students on the BoG. Students must decide for themselves whether they want an extremely vocal advocate in this position — it has the potential to get people to listen, but it also may alienate the elder BoG members.

Selected Qualifications:

Social sciences faculty representative
Member of General Faculties Council
Former orientation leader

Kenna Morris



Noting that politicians are often more concerned with keeping their jobs than with doing them, Morris is intent on shirking the trend.

Morris says that she plans on improving communication between the Board of Governors and the student body. The key to her plan is to start a BoG blog to summarize the minutes and keep students abreast of important issues.

Morris feels it is important to coordinate with the SU representative to strengthen the generally insipid student voice on the board, but will ultimately side with broader student interest.

One of the serious drawbacks to Morris' otherwise reasonably strong candidacy is that she

has no experience with the BoG. As the organization only meets a few times a year, it is important the student representative need not spend much of that time acclimatizing.

Morris argues the most important issues facing the BoG representative next year are the potentially harmful effects the proposed tuition increases may have, rendering different programs at the university into a class-based system. Admirable and important as this is, Morris lacks concrete alternatives and specific plans for ensuring more advantageous financial planning at the institutional level. It will now be up to students to decide if they want to give Morris the position in good faith that she will come up

with those alternatives as she goes.

Morris has an enviable optimism for the position, feeling that students don't lack interest in the issues, but are simply not aware. She maintains that she would see a successful year as one in which she was able to realize tangible results — decreasing the level tuition is to be raised by, for example. While it would be ridiculous to elect a representative who felt their position was hopeless, there is also a concern with electing one who will try for too much.

Selected Qualifications:

Grad student liaison, political science association

Kay She



As the current VP external, She would carry a considerable amount of university governance experience into the board of governors position.

One of She's main points with the BoG is that the governing body is too far removed from the student body, which She feels has left students feeling disenfranchised. She argued this interpretation of the lack of trust between students and the BoG was seen in the retirement package received by Dr. Harvey Weingarten, the auditor general's report stating the U of C was not being financially accountable and in the recent tuition increase proposals.

She clearly demonstrated a solid knowledge of the BoG, including some behind the scenes

features, and the potential problems that would face her in that position.

She had an interesting idea for influencing the BoG meetings: meet with the board members before the actual meetings, and you may have them understanding the student perspective better, and consequently getting them to push those interests more.

She has a firm grasp of the limitations students face on the BoG. She thus wants a student representative position created to sit on the executive committee, which vets the BoG's agenda. This may be the most concrete and realizable goal of all the candidates.

The biggest concern with She is her background within the SU. She obviously has the

greatest knowledge of how the BoG works of all the candidates, but comes steeped in the internal politics and preferences of the SU. As one panelist pointed out, that's why the SU president has a spot on the BoG — the BoG representative should represent the average student in a broader sense. She does acknowledge the distinction between the two positions, and says she will be able to look at the various issues from a wider perspective.

Selected Qualifications:

Current SU VP External
Former operations and finance commissioner
Former *Gauntlet* contributor

Remi Watts



Watts is quick to point out that the Board of Governors representative position may greatly benefit from a non-SU member — and he may be right.

The fourth-year philosophy major, who spent three years at Red Deer College, worked years in the oil and gas industry and illustrated a children's book, feels his diverse background gives him a unique perspective. Not having previously held an SU position, Watts looks to maintain focus on the larger issues facing the university, rather than becoming lost in the little things that may come to consume SU insiders.

Watts noted proper response to the proposed tuition increases needs to avoid sliding into radicalism, which would only alienate university administration and make a constructive solution impossible. Recognizing that the university is in a tight financial position given its deficit, he held that the proper response to the tuition increases must entail collaboration with administration to find a workable solution. He further stated that the biggest issue facing the BoG position next year will not be the tuition rise itself, but the financial issues that necessitated the rise.

Though this response shows an admirable

ability to pierce into the heart of the issue, when questioned Watts admitted he did not currently have a concrete idea as to what a possible alternative might look like.

Watts is a thoughtful candidate in this race, but lacks precise ideas for the actions needed to solve what he himself deems the largest issue on campus.

Selected Qualifications:

Member of the 'Forum for Young Albertans'
Public speaking experience
Accomplished illustrator

The senate acts as a research and advisory committee for the university. It helps to address issues on campus. They also grant honorary degrees. Two student representatives are elected to the senate.

Senate

Lord is a colourful character. She's friendly, she's honest and she's sassy. When our panel asked her who she would give an honorary degree to, she responded with an amusing story about meeting political commentator Gwynne Dyer last semester. It's this personable approach that could serve Lord well on the senate.

Lord isn't all funny stories and sass, though. She's spent three years on the Students' Union in various positions and brings a wealth of experience to the senate race, although not quite as much as her current vice-presidential cohort Martin.

Like Martin, Lord feels the senate isn't

involved on campus as much as they should be and she specifically targeted a potential placement on the senate's community engagement committee as a method of steering the senate and their funds towards campus.

While she is a very strong candidate for the senate, Lord runs the risk of turning off some senators with her outspoken demeanour. Then again, many had the same concerns before her election as VP events last year and she has proven herself more than capable of representing students in an effective manner.

Lord understands what the senate does,

what it's capable of doing and how she'd like to sway it. Lord's refreshing honesty would guarantee that those on the University of Calgary's senate are at least aware of student concerns on campus, even if they're unwilling to do anything about them.

Selected Qualifications:

VP Events
FIRE president

Kat Lord



Martin is no stranger to student politics or the Students' Union. Ask her a question about a topic related to the SU and she'll provide an on-the-spot seminar full of history and information. Currently serving as the vice-president academic, Martin is gunning for one of two student spots in the University of Calgary's senate. And she says she's not just in it for the sandwiches — she's got an agenda.

After spending years within the SU as a faculty representative, an academic commissioner and a vice president, Martin has a great deal of experience and ability in dealing with members of administration and the campus community. Due to her experience, she is aware of the sen-

ate's strengths — its large discretionary budget — and its weaknesses — its inability to connect with students. In addition to her awareness, Martin also knows many of the senators due to her positions on various university committees. These skills and familiarities will aid her well in accomplishing her two-pronged goal in the senate. Funding for the undergraduate research symposium and ensuring that the upcoming selection of the new university chancellor is done with students in mind.

Martin has been a strong advocate for students over the past several years and is aware that many see the senate as a retirement ground for former SU executives. When asked by our

panel about the temptation to rest on her laurels in the senate, she confidently stated that we'd just have to trust her to do her job. Students have trusted Martin to do her job on more important university bodies than the senate in years past; that trust is well-placed. Martin has a clear-cut agenda, measurable goals and the experience and skills necessary to achieve them. She would be a strong senate representative.

Selected Qualifications:

VP Academic
Five years of involvement
with clubs/campus organizations

Meg Martin



Varshney is a really nice guy. He's involved in a wealth of activities around campus — including being a chancellor's club scholar and a member of student ambassadors — and he was volunteering at a bake sale for a blood drive when he booked his *Gauntlet* panel interview. It's a bit of a shame that Varshney is running for senate against such stiff competition.

Having worked with the senate on several projects due to his involvement with student ambassadors, Varshney displayed a grasp of what the senate's operations, but failed to show specific knowledge about the

body. He noted that the senate should get more involved with students, but lacked concrete ways that he'd advocate that message towards other senators. He had some decent ideas about utilizing senators for outreach in MacHall and working with the city and school's religious communities to promote diversity, but he didn't really mention what those efforts would accomplish for students.

While Varshney is well-spoken and polite, he also came across as soft-spoken in his interview — although that may have been a product of the circumstances.

Nevertheless, his demeanour and preparedness don't equal that of his competitors. There's little doubt that Varshney would grow into an effective student advocate on the senate, but he's running against two candidates that already are effective student advocates and wouldn't need to waste any time upon arriving in the senate before pursuing their agendas.

Selected Qualifications:

Chancellor's Club Scholar
U of C Student Ambassador

Vishal Varshney



Noah Miller
News Editor

Students will be asked whether or not they want to expand support to the Student Refugee Program in this year's sole Students' Union general election referendum question.

The SRP began at the University of Calgary in 1986, with the sponsorship of the World University Service of Canada, a network of individuals and post-secondary institutions concerned with education as the path to a more equitable world. Currently students support the SRP each semester through a levy of \$1.00 or \$0.50 (full-time and part-time students respectively). The fees collected from students go directly to the refugee they are funding with no administrative cost. As

a result, a refugee student has been able to come and study at the U of C each year.

Yes campaigners Dylan Jones and Jenni Panek-Christie said that the campaign itself is good to raise awareness.

"Even having the referendum lets people know what their money is going towards," said Panek-Christie.

The proposed referendum, if passed, would increase the levy by \$1.25 for full-time students and \$0.50 for part-time students. This would enable the SRP to catch up with the cost of living increases since 1986, as well as take on a second student each year.

Why say yes?

"I would ask [students] why would they say no," said Jones "This is less than a cup of coffee and this is go-

ing to change someone's life. It's incredibly unique because it can be done together . . . I don't know how you say no to that."

Despite the tangible outcome, the small size of the increase and the unique and effective opportunity to enhance someone's life, some students are saying "No" to the referendum.

Matt Steele is among them. As a part of his No campaign, Steele told the *Gauntlet* that he doesn't feel students should be forced to donate to any specific charity.

"I don't have a problem with the program specifically," said Steele. "I see a lot of value in this program personally. That said, I don't think that it should be forced upon any other student who might not value the program."

Steele said he felt the SRP should look

more to private funding than to students in this case.

However, Jones noted that the U of C's program is notable because it funds a student for four or five years, not just year to year where funding could disappear at any point in the middle of a refugee student's academic career, making this program more sustainable.

"We rely on the funds every year to finance the student and if one year there isn't enough funding then they can't come or things just fall apart," said Panek-Christie. "It has to be [a] consistent number every year."

"I don't think it's the Students' Union's prerogative to force students to donate to any specific charity," Steele maintained.

Referendum

Gauntlet Endorsements



Emily Ask
Supplement Editor

president: Christian Loudon

Loudon's energy and emphasis on student interaction will provide a positive image for the su in trying times.

vp student life: Britney Luimes

Luimes seems prepared to put in the amount of elbow grease required to make student life eventful and exciting.

vp academic: Jalisa Barnett

Barnett has great experience and seems well prepared for the role.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk knew his stuff. Hands down.

vp operations and finance: Matt McMillan

McMillan came off like a bit of a hard-ass, a quality I appreciate, especially when dealing with money.

board of governors: Remi Watts

Watts would do an excellent job providing the honest opinion of a typical university student. His emphasis on looking at both sides of the issues won me over.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Martin was very professional and understands how to communicate forcefully but respectfully.

Lord has the personality to get people excited about things, and I think she understands student interests very well.

referendum: Yes

The other side has an extremely good argument, but actually voting No seems pointless without repealing the whole program.



Sarelle Azuelos
Features Editor

president: Joey Brocke

While the candidates had very similar speaking points, Brocke's involvement with governance renewal and his leadership qualities make him the best option.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Moug may be lacking su experience, but she makes up for it in enthusiasm and ideas about helping clubs.

vp academic: Alyssa Stacy

Stacy had the most specific and achievable goals in my opinion, she just needs to remember to work on her speaking skills.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Without a doubt Birk is by far the most qualified for this position.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

Delaney had a realistic grasp of what the job entails. I liked his focus on sustainability as well.

board of governors: Kenna Morris

Morris meets an important middle ground in my mind. She can be taken seriously and will do her best to represent students without simply voting along su guidelines.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Martin and Lord's experience with the su and their mature communication skills will serve them well when trying to sway the senate.

referendum: Yes

Matt Steele did bring up some good points, but I think people should vote as they wish. I want to further support the Student Refugee Program.



Brent Constantine
News Editor

president: Joey Brocke

Brocke and Loudon are a draw for me as I see quite a few similarities in their platforms, but Brocke has experience that is hard to match.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Moug gave me the best indication that she understands the inner workings of the clubs system. A standout idea was busking licenses within MacHall.

vp academic: Jalisa Barnett

Close for me between Barnett and Stacy, but I'm going to give it to Barnett because she seems to have a stronger direction for the position.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Hardave Birk will Birk Hard(ave) for you. One of the most enthusiastic, well-spoken candidates, Birk has specific goals that I believe he can accomplish.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

His platform is based on specific improvements to current projects like conference funding as well as increased sustainability practices.

board of governors: Remi Watts

Watts best represents the average student, which is what I think this position is meant for.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Martin specifically has some excellent ideas about increasing the profile of the senate for students on campus. Lord has great knowledge of student interests to help the group become more relevant at the U of C.

referendum: I don't know

On one hand it's a fantastic program, on the other should students be forced to donate to any specific charity that doesn't offer a tangible service to them? Just decide for yourself.



Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

president: Joey Brocke

With the changes being implemented in the su this year it will be a great benefit for the organization to be led by the man who has been so committed to them as vp op-fi.

vp student life: Katie Moug

All the candidates could do a good job, but Moug had the most original idea in the implementation of a MacHall busking license.

vp academic: Flip a coin

There are no three-sided coins, so drop Sullivan out of contention because his ideas are unrealistic and let fate decide between Stacy and Barnett, as both would be great.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk was clearly the strongest candidate.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

McMillan would be interesting, but there was nothing he offered that Delaney didn't provide more clearly.

board of governors: Kay She

She has the most understanding of the board and the position she's running for. Her goals were clearly articulated and seem genuinely possible.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Martin was the strongest candidate of all we interviewed. Lord brings an admirable enthusiasm to whatever she does, which would hopefully energize the senate.

referendum: Yes

See editorial.



Annalise Klingbiel
News Assistant

president: Joey Brocke

Brocke shone as the most experienced and well-spoken. His op-fi background and desire to continue current projects will serve the su well.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Moug brings "oomph" and genuine enthusiasm — key qualities to tackle the challenges of this new position.

vp academic: Alyssa Stacy

Stacy has energy, experience as a commissioner and I like her desire to re-establish CRAM.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk blew me away with his passion and knowledge of specifics. He also knows exactly how he wants to accomplish his ideas.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

Delaney already has experience as an op-fi commissioner and his extensive knowledge and desire to make sustainability a priority are a plus.

board of governors: Remi Watts

Watts is fresh blood, and has some unique experiences and ideas. He gets my vote for being memorable, personable and knowledgeable.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Both know the organization well and have experience expressing their opinions in a respectful yet forceful manner.

referendum: Yes

Sure, there's the argument that the su shouldn't force students to donate to any specific charity, but \$1.25 per semester should hardly even be considered a charitable donation. It's such an incredibly minimal amount that has the power to make an unimaginably huge difference in a refugee's life.



Richard Lam
Supplement Editor

president: Joey Brocke

It would be great to see Brocke complete the projects he kick-started. He has the experience and levelheadedness needed in a president.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Moug has the best mix of experience, enthusiasm and charm. I would like to see an updated clubs manual and the busking license put into action.

vp academic: Jalisa Barnett

Barnett's priority for the faculty of arts transition is a valid one that affects many students. Also, her fresh face offers a better student perspective.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk is unquestionably the most qualified in terms of both experience and enthusiasm. He has great ideas which sound genuinely beneficial.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

Delaney offered a fantastic and comprehensive vision and a wealth of foundational experience. He's your man, no question.

board of governors: Remi Watts

Watts would bring a unique, unbiased perspective to the BoG. It would be nice to see a fresh face for this supposed "retirement position."

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

There's no wrong choice here, but voting for Martin and Lord would put you in more-than-capable hands.

referendum: Yes

This was tough. The No campaign offered some startlingly relevant points, but Yes eventually won out. Consider my heartstrings pulled.



Noah Miller
News Editor

president: Joey Brocke

This year with the su proves he is a team player and a strong leader in overseeing the governance review implementation.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Moug brought the best ideas to the table regarding how she would provide students with a holistic university experience.

vp academic: abstain

As I am close friends with one of the candidates, an endorsement would be a conflict of interest.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk was able to fluidly speak to any issue I threw at him, while remaining sincere and enthusiastic.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

Knowledgeable with specific and tangible ideas about what he wants to achieve and how. An exceptional candidate.

board of governors: Chris Kalantzis

Kalantzis' consistent outspokenness will ensure that no student concerns go unheard.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Martin is the ideal candidate for any role. Focused, knowledgeable and professional. Lord's personality would be a great liaison between the U of C campus and the greater community. Anyone who quotes Yoda in an interview = instant hero.

referendum: Yes

Steele presents a solid No argument, but given the fee is already in place, the minimality of the increase and the positive results it will yield, my endorsement goes to Yes.



Ryan Pike
Opinions Editor

president: abstain

All three candidates are good choices, but as a close friend of one of the candidates I cannot in good conscience endorse any of them.

vp student life: Katie Moug

Abbott has enthusiasm and Luimes has a really strong platform, but Moug combines the best of those two candidates with a wonderfully pragmatic approach.

vp academic: Jalisa Barnett

Sullivan lacks the experience to hit the ground running, but I chose Barnett over Stacy because of her more in-depth platform.

vp external: Hardave Birk

Birk blew me away with his candour, enthusiasm and wealth of ideas. His pro-active stance on non-program fees made him the hands-down choice.

vp operations and finance: James Delaney

With a year in the commission under his belt and a comprehensive understanding of the job already, Delaney's an absolute no-brainer.

board of governors: Remi Watts

Both She and Watts would be good in the role, but after electing a series of su veterans, bringing in an outsider is the best move.

senate: Kat Lord and Meg Martin

Both are experienced, knowledgeable and have a strong understanding of the senate.

referendum: Yes

While I dislike on principle being asked to donate to a charity by virtue of my membership in the Students' Union, I definitely agree with the refugee program and what it does.