

Your name: Taylor Quinn

What are you running for: To be your next Board of Governors Representative!

What do you believe is at the heart of sexual assault issues on campus? What would you do to reduce rape, assault and harassment on campus?

For me, the heart of the sexual assault issues is two-part, one education, and the other cultural. Rape Culture is prevalent in our society, and there are some great campaigns at Dalhousie to promote greater education around consent and boundaries. Attempting to combat rape culture with 'victim blaming' is not solving the problem. As men commit more than 90% of sexual assault, campaigns need to be targeted at men, changing the narrative of rape culture to one that tells men not to rape – not to take advantage of women.

Another big issue I have experienced first hand, that if improved, could help create a safer Dalhousie campus, is Dalhousie Security Services. As someone who has worked for Dal Security and had numerous interactions with them over my years on campus, I am not afraid to say that Dal Security officers do not do everything they could to create a safe space on campus. Many of the officers are self-righteous, sluggish, and insensitive to students who may be different from the 'status quo.' This is not true across the board, as Dal Security employs a few fantastic individuals, but a better Dal Security team would mean a safer campus for students. My recommendations would be: sensitivity training for the officers who currently do not interact with students in a respectful way, security officers who stop cutting corners and do their utmost to perform their jobs to the highest quality, and to ensure that the Dal Security Officers have the patience to deal with student complaints and calls, to make sure no sexual assault issue goes unreported.

Campaigns and programs that confront rape, assault, and harassment on campus need to be expanded to reach students and local community members in forms that are accessible to them. Events like the Take Back the Night campaign are incredible, and I would love to help expand that event and others like it to subsets of the population that would not normally be engaged. I would do my part to expand programming and campaigns that raise awareness to the fact that sexual assault issues are not a female problem – they are a human problem. Young men need to be a part of campaigns such as Take Back the Night alongside other young people, together shifting rape culture to a culture of respect.

What would you do to make Dalhousie University, and the Dalhousie Students Union safer for trans* students?

Dalhousie is slowly and surely becoming a safer space for trans* students, but increasing the speed in which Dalhousie University is a safe space is a big priority of mine, as I believe the Board of Governors has a lot of power to make progress on this. Expanding the use of preferential names, increased counseling services for students going through transitions, and a culture where trans* students feel welcome, whether that is at the Dalplex or the Killam, are all things I am ready to dedicate my time to. And as we look to the future, there is no excuse; every new Dalhousie building should have gender-neutral washrooms. From an education perspective, portable education modules for faculty and staff to combat transphobia are needed. There is still a long way to go in making Dalhousie and the Dalhousie Student Union a safe space for trans* students. I am passionately committed to using my role as a student representative on the Board of Governors to ensure that progressive change happens as quickly as possible to ensure that trans* students feel safe at Dalhousie University and within the DSU.

Do you identify as a feminist?

I most definitely identify as a feminist. Feminism for me is the equality for all human beings, regardless of how they identify when it comes to gender. I have always battled those who tell me I don't fit in as what a male 'should be,' and that led at an early age to an understanding that every individual's uniqueness should be a quality that is celebrated, not attacked. To give a brief example, two years ago, I co-founded CompCamp, a local social enterprise that taught youth the technology and computer science skills that the traditional educational system did not. After our first summer of camps, our research and personal experience showed that the technology space, even at the youth level, was seen as something that interested males and not females. We wanted to fight this, so we developed the "Girls Tech League" in HRM Junior High Schools. Using teams of volunteers, we taught teams of girls from various schools programming and web development so they could create apps and websites to address social issues in their communities. This program and targeted scholarships led to our second summer of camps having a noticeably higher number of females.

How will you ensure that people of all genders are represented in the decision making processes of the DSU?

I have sat on the DSU Council for two years previously, and hope to sit on it for the next two years in the role of Board of Governors Representative. Some have said to me that I should run for an executive position, but I am a passionate believer that within the DSU, there needs to be individuals *who have the time* to represent students from all genders and all different backgrounds. I have the time to do so, and to be a strong voice on the DSU

Council to represent those student perspectives. I'm not afraid to put friendships aside during meetings to ensure that the voices of all genders and backgrounds are a part of the decision-making processes of the DSU. A DSU that challenges things like sexism and racism is a DSU that people of all genders and backgrounds would want to be involved in. I will make sure there are further campaigns run by the DSU to fight structural oppression.

Have you ever been involved with South House or other organizations focusing on issues of oppression and social justice? If so, in what capacity?

Since I first heard of the South House, two years ago as a councilor listening to their referendum for a levy increase and discussing the upcoming name change from the Women's Center I have been supporting the work of the South House. Although I've never been directly involved with South House, I have been involved in a number of organizations focusing on issues of oppression and social justice, locally and internationally.

For years, I have spoken at schools, churches, conferences, really to anyone who will listen on the issues of oppression affecting children around the world, most specifically on the issue of child soldiers. My passion for social justice started there, but has since grown and morphed into the multiple interests I have today. An example of my work outside of Canada was when working for an NGO in rural western Kenya. I worked in the area of HIV/AIDS education, bringing dignity to a oppressed population in the communities I worked in, and starting simple projects, like easy-to-grab condom distribution jars in different areas of the community, to reduce the stigma felt walking to local health centers.

In my first semester of my first year at Dalhousie, I worked with at-the-time DSU VP Student Life Jamie Arron to organize an educational trip from Halifax to New York City so Dalhousie students could participate in and learn about social justice in the heart of the Occupy movement, Zuccotti Park. Over the last five years, I have raised over \$30,000 in a leadership role of a variety of social justice clubs and societies, and define who I am at the core as someone that fights for those oppressed by society.

How would you support and work with levied societies on campus?

For the past two years I have been an executive of a levied society, so I know the world of levied societies very well. Levied societies provide a broad array of fantastic services and opportunities to the Dalhousie community, and supporting their work through my role as the Board of Governors representative is a priority for me. Showcasing the work

of levied societies, such as CKDU and the South House, at the Board of Governors is not often done, but is something I think would help educate the Board members on the amazing work being done by some of Dalhousie's most organized, passionate students. I would do everything I could to expand the work of levied societies outside their normal audiences, as the talents of Dal's levied societies should be shared as far and wide as possible.