

the brunswickan

university of new brunswick

MEMO TO: Gerard, Susan and Andy
RE: Taking office
FROM: The Brunswickan

It has come to our attention that the new SRC executive was seated this week. Accordingly, we at Da Bruns, would like to offer some pithy and yet incredibly astute observations on what the role of the executive should be.

1. Leadership: Hmmm, tricky. We don't want someone we have to salute to but we do need people who can make decisions and take stands on important issues. Yes, we're talking about the past performance of the executive concerning the SUB referendum and yes, we recall the firm stand of Finnan and friends on that issue. Okay? Take off eh.
Seriously, we want that level of commitment. As your constituents we deserve it. Remember there is no student union administrator any more. And that means a whole lot more responsibility for each of you.

Your respective roles in the Student Union are important but, please, don't get carried away. After all, you guys are students just like us. Which leads us to...

2. Communication: Not the "heavy head-space" stuff, but the day-to-day let's work together routine.
Talk to the members of your council. Don't leave everything to the endless confrontations and constitutional dribblings that eat up so much of the regular meetings.
Keep the student body informed. This point cannot be over emphasized. So many of the students are (that tired word) apathetic because they don't know what is going on. Others simply shrug shoulders assume you are all crooks anyway, so what does it matter?

Be accessible as much as possible. Make your government open to any who want to participate. Try and avoid a clique-ish assembly of friends in the right place.
This leads us to the position of SRC chairman. This vital role seems consistently to go to those least qualified to hold it. Council needs a chairman who can control meetings, make rulings that stick and shut obnoxious councillors up. Find someone who knows "Roberts Rules" rather than who knows you.

3. Get the job done: This is it in a nutshell, kids. It doesn't matter how many inspired ideas you have if you can't carry them out or get someone else to do it. Do your best. Delegate if necessary. And if you can't get the job done, shout out loud and get help. For more helpful hints see "The How and Why of Student Government" by Akumu Owuor.

4. Appreciate the goals of others: Other groups on campus, including the media (natch) have their own jobs and duties which they are attempting to pursue. Try to understand what others are doing. Tolerate differences of opinion. Within reason, let these groups run themselves, as they have been doing for years. Be around to help out if necessary.
Be prepared to accept criticism. It is the job of the campus media to provide coverage and criticism of student politics and politicians. Learn to expect it. We are not always wrong, you know.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars...oops. Wrong sermon.
How brave of you all to step to the front of the line. Chin up and remember, salary is not commensurate with experience.

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