Compiled by Caroline Lee

1. What main issue will you set as your first priority if you were to be elected into this position, and why?

Beverly Eastham: My first priority is getting students involved in whatever is going on in the province and start- ing to have a provincial dialogue on postsecondary issues. If the Province imposes that students have concerns and students are being involved in actively talking about their concerns, we'll get further on these issues.

Matt Trodden: The first thing that obviously has to be addressed is tuition. It seems to be the biggest concern on everyone's mind all the time. However, it needs to be addressed in a kind of different way. Obviously, the Board of Governors always claim that we don't want tuition to go up, so we are saying over and over again to them, "uniform tuition" won't work. We need to have need-based tuition. The next thing that we need to have is that the money from somewhere. The money always seems to come from undergraduate, and that's not fair. We need to have a way to lobby the provincial government into giving us more money.

2. How will you ensure that the student voice is heard at the pro- vincial and national level?

Beverly Eastham: Presenting stu- dents as being professional and well-informed, not just a group of people that are trying to change what the govern- ment is doing but working with the government, is very important. So presenting ourselves as being profes- sional, just talking to the government, getting out into the rural community, and engaging the province is very important.

Matt Trodden: It's important that we deal with the provincial govern- ment in a respectful way. We can't just come at them, give blaring. We need to need to speak up, like I said, with the University. We've already established a pretty good relationship between the SU and the Ed of Administration, espe- cially with President Samaraespink. We need to continue to foster that relationship and go towards the pro- vincial government with a combined focus that isn't just 25,000 undergrads, but staff and the alumni. We've got a huge alumni base, and we need to make sure that they're on board with us too. Because when you start get- ting into the hundreds of thousands of undergrads, it seems to be a little easier to get the provincial government's attention. It's just a different kind of kind of government. I don't think we should regress back to joining the federal university board in its kind of argument, because of the huge costs involved that they put on us by being members. But I think that we should go out there and try to get some closer direction in terms of a working relationship in terms of Alberta. We're not able to see that in a lower section in Canada. So what we need to find is a better alternative than joining these existing groups.

3. Student involvement is impor- tant in addressing the concerns surrounding the University. How do you plan to effectively communicat- ing with students?

Beverly Eastham: I'm really hoping to try and use CPUC, the Campus Planning and Action Committee, this year to involve students, to get out and talk to students, to actually consult with students and ask them what their feelings are, and if they have a voice in what we're do- ing the federal and provincial govern- ment's and the municipal government's as well.

Matt Trodden: Largely, we deal with a pretty apathetic population. One big thing we want to focus on is getting people involved in the upcoming provincial election. This is our chance to send the provincial government a message that we want a change and we are a cohesive and bound unit that is willing to stand together for something. The only way that this can be done is obviously [through communication].

But how do we do that? I think the "Roll 'Em Back, Ralph" campaign is a great example of how to get people involved. It was quite an up there in terms of posters and banners, emails were sent out, and different events were organized. This trend needs to continue. There's no reason we shouldn't have a "Rock the Vote," "Why or Die," or some sort of campaign to get people really fired up about the provincial election and get them informed on what benefits are out there for them with the political parties.

I just don't see that happening right now. I mean, there's one poster down- stain that I've seen that outlines that there's going to be a forum, and that we don't want you to go up. But what are the parties offering? When giving what I know are some of the more people really wanting to cooperate with us on these things, and they've already got intense plans involved. We also need to ensure that the student body is involved. [...] Obviously, they are willing to give it to us, but where is the money coming from? Is it coming from our parents?

Beverly Eastham: There are a lot of challenges in this job—mostly being taken with the federal government's decision. I don't think we should regress back to joining the federal university board in its kind of argument, because of the huge costs involved that they put on us by being members. But I think that we should go out there and try to get some closer direction in terms of a working relationship in terms of Alberta. We're not able to see that in a lower section in Canada. So what we need to find is a better alternative than joining these existing groups.

Matt Trodden: The greatest chal- lenge will definitely be trying to deal with textbook costs. Obviously, they're going to continue this fight and keep pushing towards lowering textbook costs. I'll like to see a movement started where all institutions of higher learning are able to join together and approach these large corporations that are manufacturing our textbooks. Some have monopolies, such as the Thomson Corporation, who have the wealthiest family in Canada.

We need to approach these corpo- rations and say, "Listen, we have all these people and institutions backing us in the fight to lower textbook costs. Obviously, your profit margins are too high. We don't need that. We need to go through, to put away from wanting to buy textbooks." I know I have a friend of mine who's almost para- doxical to buy textbooks just because of their costs. He believes he does wear it. I always say to him, "Well, how do you get the hour or two hours in the library that you can take out a textbook for?" Just reading, as far as he can, in a room, and go sit at a night where he's free, he has to do it while at school before he has to go home. That shouldn't be that way. It's going to be the most difficult because you have to deal with a corporation that isn't exactly accountable.

Beverly Eastham: Well, I think we could hide out in Lister because the thing will never happen. Maybe and maybe we should try to get the word out to help us bring the zombies.

Matt Trodden: It seems that the zom- bies obviously respond to our brains. They want to eat them, they want to kill them. The best way to do it is chainsaw. I think you can see in the Army of Darkness that you need to be very brave to do it. I think you need to deal with a zombie is chainsaw. Whether or not it's a chainsaw that you happen to have or not, and you need to now use a chainsaw and zombie. Whatever you need to get done, you need a chainsaw. That's the secret.