



President

"My problem with Cody Lawrence is that he's a real paint-by-numbers candidate," says Butz. "If someone who'd never been on campus was told he had to run for President tomorrow, what would he say? What would his platform look like? Exactly like Cody's."

Though Cody isn't as bad as some of the third-choice candidates in the past, and seems to have at least a vague grasp on what being President entails, the real decision comes down to two candidates: Amanda Henry and Michael Janz. Both are strong in their own right.

"Which one you choose depends largely on your vision of what the SU President should be, and what your vision is of what the SU does," says Taylor.

Where Henry focuses on her background in academic concerns and advocacy, Janz puts forward a broader student focus, aimed more at the day-to-day.

Henry has a lot of experience within the SU's advocacy machine, as evidenced by her work as associate VPA and then VPA during the last couple of years, and uses her campaign to reinforce the SU's recent advocacy efforts off campus as well as continue her work on teaching quality. Her platform includes phrases like: lobby, strategize, collaborate and negotiate—Barer sees this as "more action, less talk,"

but Taylor is skeptical of Henry's buzz words.

Janz, meanwhile, is weak on advocacy but strong on student life, no doubt coming from his experience as Lister Hall Students' Association President.

"He's taking more risks," Taylor notes. "Some of the ideas are completely awful, like putting a Second Cup in the Powerplant ... but he shows a willingness to dream and think big, to touch on student life as well as advocacy."

The biggest worry with Janz is that he will get lost within the lobbying machine: he doesn't strike us as the best face to present to the City and the province. Amanda brings an ability to communicate externally as well as internally, Kirkham notes, and this is something Janz doesn't seem to have.

"You may say that grace isn't an important quality that you need in a President, but I think it is, especially in dealing with

the Administration," he adds.

However, this gap in Janz' portfolio could be made up for by a strong VPX, which Dollansky certainly has the potential to be.

We talk a lot about the need for the SU to see beyond its current Executive and year—to approach advocacy, academics and student life with a long-term plan that can produce results.

It's clear that Henry has the ability to deliver this, but there's also the concern that she could become complacent because of her large amount of time within the SU clique, a group that doesn't always listen to the concerns of students. In contrast, Janz has the potential to shake things up a bit within the SU.

But we need to be worried about creating a false dichotomy here, as Janz and Henry seem to desire: students need not choose between a President that focuses on student needs directly, and one that has his or her eye on external matters exclusively.

"Amanda doesn't necessarily lack all these things that Janz talks about, but she's focused her argument a bit more," Barer notes. "Amanda is thinking long-term about playing within a team—not just the one that exists currently, but what came before and after."

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Butz adds that Janz is thinking in the short-term about the push for a tuition rollback when he suggests that it hasn't produced results.

"When I see Mike's platform, I see the problem I had with mine, in that it was too broad, it was a catch-all," Lettner says, noting that Henry's ability to speak to questions directly while answering them holistically makes her the better candidate.

Both candidates will certainly be able to do the job well. Jones liked Janz' discussion of student housing and rent issues, while Butz felt that it misses the point.

"When I look at Janz' platform—sorry to say—I see the kind of things that could be carried out if you elected a lamppost," he says. "Lobbying, in reality, is the most practical thing you can do as SU President."

Each will be able to work as a strong leader for the Executive, as well as take the flack when need be, though Prusakowski notes that Janz will likely be able to lead a better team.

"In the end it comes down to a question of style, and where you think the focus should be," Jones says. "And there are legitimate arguments for both sides."

The Verdict: Split Decision

Undecided: 1 (Lettner); Janz: 1 (Taylor); Henry: 5 (Jones, Butz, Barer, Kirkham, Prusakowski)

Vice-President (Student Life)

Though his only competition is a poorly stuffed puffy ball, Chris Le certainly has volunteer management experience necessary to take on the reins of VPSL, especially with his previous work for Orientation. However, he clearly lacks ambition.

"When you're campaigning, you can bring up a lot of ideas, and get a lot of buy in," Lettner notes, pointing out that Le lacks any real "spark."

While it's possible that he has a bit of the "running unopposed syndrome," where he's afraid to speak out on anything in particular lest he alienate potential voters, the reality is that no acclaimed candidate is ever going to lose to none of the above (NOTA), and so it's disappointing that he hasn't used this as an opportunity to take a stance on some real issues and let students know in what direction he wants to take the VPSL portfolio.

Basically, the dude lacks a vision. There's no doubt that he will do a competent job as VPSL, and won't run Week of Welcome and Antifreeze into the ground, but we'd really like to see him sink his teeth into a substantial issue. The VPSL portfolio itself is quite vague, but that's no excuse.

"Often candidates are vague, but he's really vague," Barer says.

As for where a VPSL candidate should focus their campaign, Jones would like to hear about Orientation and ways to improve it, while Prusakowski sees the rumblings about abolishing ECOS' budget—or other prospective service cuts that may become increasingly necessary as the SU falls deeper into the red—as something a perspective candidate could bring into their portfolio, considering there's a lot of room for ambitious undertakings in such a nebulous and underused position.

"If he wanted to take a real stance, he could talk about how some students feel really marginalized on campus—including international students and student activists—so pushing ECOS could be a really good idea," agrees Butz.

Other issues that really affect students, including the continual problem of Aramark food in residences, are left unaddressed, and in the end it seems that Le is playing typical hack politics. Microwaves? Come on. Surely you can be a bit more adventurous, Le.

Fortunately, Chubby Puff Ball sucks. "Worst joke candidate I've ever seen," says Taylor.

The Verdict: Majority Rules

Le: 6; NOTA: 1 (Butz)

Vice-President (External)

Largely, Steven Dollansky is in the same boat as Chris Le. He seems competent—perhaps, as Lettner notes, "because he looks competent"—and pulls a few more stops than Le, but still plays it safe and covers all the points a VPX candidate should.

"I like his idea to conduct a [student] survey," Taylor says. "Because I think one of the problems the SU has is that the only time they are able to

