

# the Dalhousie Gazette

Volume 114

Number 17

January 28, 1982

## Province to pay 16 percent more for post secondary education

by Heather Roseveare

According to the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) Financial Plan for 1982-83, Dalhousie students will likely face a tuition increase of 16 percent next year in accordance with the Commission's recommendations of provincial contributions to Nova Scotian post-secondary institutions.

The report, released this month, also recommends a 12.6 percent increase in operating assistance for New Brunswick institutions and a 15 percent increase for Prince Edward Island post-secondary schools.

The MPHEC does not recommend a specific tuition increase, but "has made its recommendations with the expectation that tuition fees should increase with inflation and not become a smaller proportion of institutional revenues."

Andy Carras, financial analyst for Nova Scotia's department of education, explains that the MPHEC recommendations will be examined by the regional

treasury board on February 5 before they are presented to the provincial cabinets.

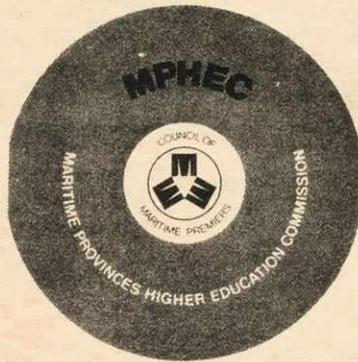
The province will not make a decision on the proposed 16 percent increase for at least another month. However, last year, the MPHEC's recommendation of a 12.7 increase for Nova Scotian post-secondary institutions was accepted by the province, and, in turn, tacked onto Dalhousie's tuition fees.

Mike McNeil, president of St. Mary's Student Council and chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), says a 16 percent funding increase is acceptable considering inflation. However, he is concerned that higher tuition will decrease the accessibility factor. People will consider high tuition fees, limited summer employment opportunities, and a year's loss of wages, then decide against university.

John Logan, Dalhousie's Student Union president says if tuition fees increase much beyond the cost of living, a university education will become

a privilege of the rich.

The MPHEC report points out that "...student fees could be a higher proportion of institutional revenues upon the condition that enhanced student-aid programmes would ensure access to post-secondary education by students with financial needs."



Donald Betts, Dean of Arts and Sciences, agrees. A superior student-aid programme would ensure accessibility to financially-insecure students.

Betts also says that increased tuition "would give students more say" in academic affairs.

Universities, in turn, would have to cater to students' demands to a greater degree. However, Betts warns that universities should not respond too seriously to students' demands as they tend to fluctuate.

The MPHEC report largely responds to the federal government's financial participation in post-secondary education. While the November 12, 1981, budget projected annual increases of 13.4 percent for EPF transfers, including post-secondary education, the MPHEC believes there are other alternative funding directions that could be pursued by the feds, including an improved student-aid programme, increased funding for research and related overhead costs, and special funding for programmes and projects of high priority with the federal government.

For example, Dalhousie has been recommended a 1 percent provision for expansion of its dental and Ph.D. clinical psychology programmes.

The MPHEC is quick to point out that, because Maritime universities are primarily undergraduate, liberal arts institutions, a large movement from block funding to research or special projects would likely have an adverse effect on institutions in this region.

It has become important for education to meet labour market demands. The federal Minister for Employment and Immigration in the document, **Labour Market Developments** (July, 1981), favours a reduction in block funding offset by funding incentives to equip post-secondary education to meet Canada's labour demand market.

The MPHEC report points out that "the government support base for Maritime universities has been traditionally lower than for most other provinces," although the Commission is "not convinced that the support level variations between the Maritimes and other provinces warrant special recognition in its financial recommendations this time."

## Women still walk the campus alone at night

by Cathy McDonald

Since a student was raped in the Life Science Centre two years ago, some effort has been made to make Dalhousie a safer campus at night. However, one suggestion, an escort service to accompany women across campus, has after initial enthusiasm, been shelved for the time being.

The University Parking and Security Committee responded to a request from library workers, for security against incidences of being chased or scared when going home at late hours. A service where women could request male accompaniment across campus was examined. John Logan, student union president, became interested in its application for students. Howe Hall was approached, and a favourable response was apparent with many residents signing their names as volunteers.

A preliminary concept of how the service would work saw Howe Hall residents volunteering to be "on call" should a female student or staff request to be accompanied across campus, or to a bus stop.

Logan said the idea would be a popular one, with a few items needing to be ironed out, such as a procedure for screening volunteers and some funds to give the service a sense of

legitimacy and visibility.

"The Student Union would be happy to provide some money, but it should not be totally a student union responsibility," Logan said. "The university has some obligation, too."

Mrs. Oriel MacLennan, member of the security committee, questioned the need for the

service. An escort is already available from Dalhousie Security Department, if a person is willing to wait until one of the two security guards on night duty can respond, she said.

Sexual harassment on campus at night is not an issue anymore, according to the committee. MacLennan is concerned that

after a lot of publicity and effort, the service would not be used.

The Dalhousie Staff Association is concerned by complaints and fears of sexual harassment on campus at night. The DSA has attempted to get a clause in their contract whereby the university would pay for a taxi fare home for staff who work late. The DSA

represents non-academic staff at Dalhousie, 75 percent of whom are female.

The university was not agreeable, according to Delphine duToit, DSA executive director. A non-binding "letter of intention" was attached to the contract,

continued on page 2

