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Poor turnout at Grad House speakers' forum

BY LILLI JU

Despite the publicity and uncertainty surrounding the Grad House's future, only about 15 students attended a speakers' forum held by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students on Thursday, Nov. 6.

The forum was held to solicit opinions and suggestions from students for the future of the Grad House. With only three proposals presented that night, the remainder of the forum was spent answering questions and reiterating the main issues facing the association.

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) will decide on the fate of the Grad House at a general meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m. at Theatre A, in the Sir Charles Tupper Building Link. This meeting is open to all graduate students.

"As you know, there have been difficulties in the past," said Naomi Andjelic, DAGS president.

"There are two main issues: we need to refocus the association and we need to address financial concerns."

DAGS will not be receiving another grant from the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) which they relied on to help run the Grad House this year. As well, DAGS is dealing with accountability problems from the past involving former DAGS councils and Grad House staff. As a result, the association is incapable of continuing to run the Grad House in its present form.

According to Malaka Hendela, DAGS treasurer, without DSU funding next year, graduate student fees would have to go directly to the Grad House to keep it running as it is now. Currently, these fees are not spent on the Grad House, with \$10 out of the \$44 fee going back to department graduate student societies which, according to Hendela, is "pretty pitiful".

"For most societies, they rely on DAGS for funding. These societies are not happy about that, and we're not happy about that either," added Hendela.

In response to a comment that DAGS just wants to close the Grad House rather than dealing with its problems, Chris Horvath, DAGS vice-president executive, responded, "We're not supporting any option. We are trying to find other options that will allow us to run [the Grad House] without the burden on time and finances."

"The financial picture does not paint a pretty picture," added Horvath. On a side note, he also reported that in a survey of Grad House users, only 10

per cent were graduate students.

Andjelic added, "We're not as up-to-date on the teaching assistants issue and changes in academic programmes [because of the time being spent on the Grad House problem]. These are fundamental to what DAGS is supposed to be doing. It's not about time being spent [on the Grad House]; it's about where we should be spending our time."

Of the 15 students, about a third were Grad House staff, and a few were

Tiger Patrol on new turf

BY JEANNE JU

The Tiger Patrol needs to shape up and provide service to all members of the Dalhousie community according to DalTech members.

Dalhousie University Security Department and Tiger Patrol Program must cover new grounds to include DalTech. This extension could require more resources and new strategies if Tiger Patrol is to effectively serve all students.

"Because DalTech is now a part of Dalhousie University, the security conforms to the main campus," said Dean Naugler, Tiger Patrol co-ordinator.

"Tiger Patrol is a walk-home escort and security service for Dalhousie students... As [DalTech students] are now part of Dalhousie University, they must be given the opportunity to use the same service that is available to students on the other two campuses."

Though the Tiger Patrol staff consists mostly of Dalhousie students, equal opportunity was given to Dalhousie and DalTech students when filling the Ti-

DAGS councillors. There were three options presented for the Grad House. The first two were presented by DAGS (close the Grad House, or reduce its capacity). A third was submitted by interested graduate students as an alternative to the options presented in DAGS' Graduate House Assessment Report released three weeks ago.

The proposal, titled "The 'Grow the Grad House' Business," was presented by James Edens and Robin Cowling. It

ger Patrol Positions. Openings were made available to DalTech after the Dalhousie-TUNS amalgamation. Due to a lack of applicants from DalTech, the positions were extended to Dal students.

Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) vice-president Bridget McCaig says that changes to the current system have been requested.

"With the expanded campus, so much could be changed to meet the security needs of the student population... [we] have only received complaints about security changes [at DalTech] which the chief of security is working on. Complaints about DalTech have been from Tiger Patrol staff because they are limited to providing walks within the Sexton campus and can't go off it," said McCaig.

"Though Tiger Patrol can't walk off campus at DalTech, there is a presence factor. It's still beneficial that they're there."

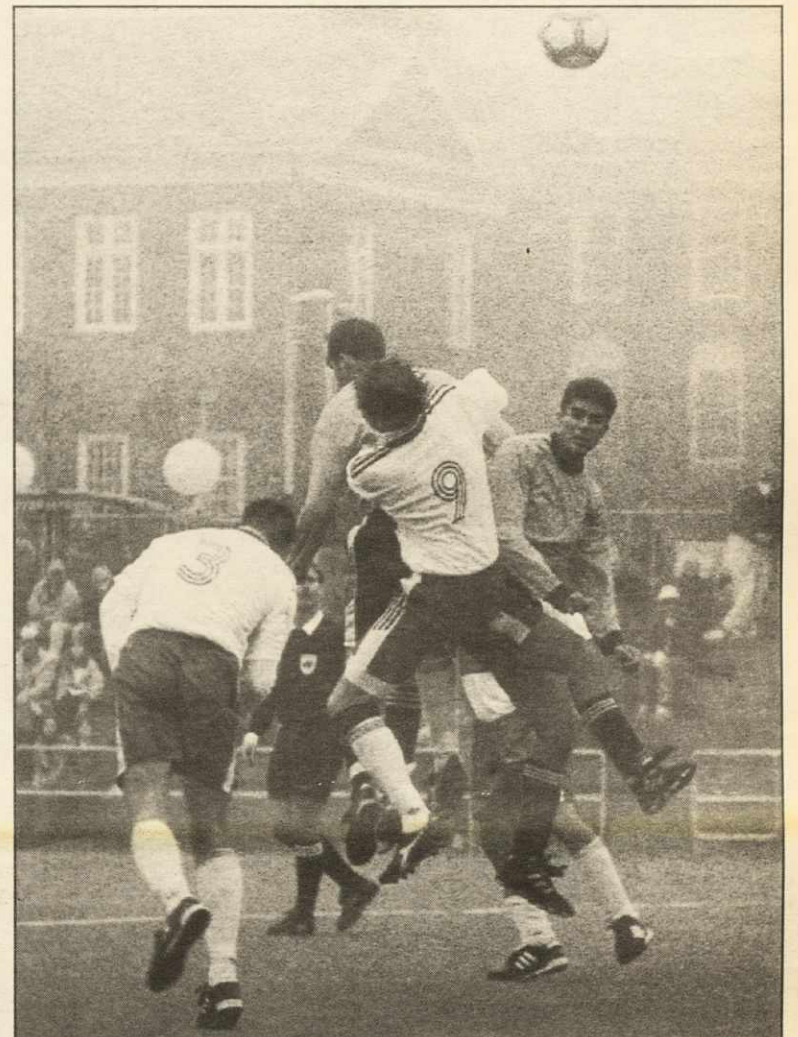
In addition to Dalhousie's Tiger Patrol safe walking escort service on

called for a long-term plan to develop the Grad House financially into a growing business and to use the house socially as a venue for more student activities.

"[The Grad House] is a business. DAGS should make it grow," said Edens.

Financially, this plan would see the immediate payment of DSU and legal debts, and the amortization of remaining debts over five years. New revenue generating initiatives would be

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Tigers Graeme Allardice (centre) and Marco Cesario (right) clash with York players during Sunday's CIAU Bronze medal game. The tigers took the Bronze with a 2-0 victory. See page 15. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Faculty seeks better deal from Dalhousie

BY DONALD DERRICK

The Dalhousie Faculty Association is seeking a better deal for faculty as it negotiates a new contract.

Through collective bargaining, the Dalhousie Faculty Association's (DFA) aim is to improve access to information about promotions and tenure, as well as improving wages and working conditions for professors.

Michael Cross, DFA representative, says informing faculty is critical to improving their performance.

"We want our members to receive adequate reasons why they are denied promotion or tenure, so they may improve their performance in areas where they are found deficient," said Cross.

The DFA is also trying to protect

Dalhousie's professional counsellors from the increased workload created through the merger of Dalhousie and Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS).

The DFA's biggest goals are to stop the cuts to the size of the faculty, which has decreased by 113 members at Dal and DalTech (TUNS) during the last decade, and to negotiate wage increases.

Cross did not confirm the rumour that the DFA is seeking a 10 per cent raise for its members, but did mention that the DFA membership receives some of the lowest wages for a University of Dal's size.

The DFA is seeking wages "in the middle of the pack of these similar universities in average salary," said Cross.

The Board of Governor's (BOG) has budgeted a two per cent increase in Faculty salary over the next two years. According to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) report produced January 20, 1997, this budget would

increase University expenditures by \$419,000 in 1997-1998, \$1,362,000 in 1998-1999, and \$1,051,000 in 1999-2000. The extra money must come from either government and private sources, or tuition fee increases. A one per cent tuition increase produces \$294,000 in 1997-1998, \$377,000 in 1998-1999, and \$369,000 in 1999-2000. This means that for every one per cent increase in faculty salary, Dalhousie needs an income equivalent to a 1.5 per cent tuition increase from current tuition rates.

The BAC has been careful to say that it "does not wish to intrude into the collective bargaining arena," and that it provided these figures only to fulfil its budgetary role.

When asked about the student perspective on DFA salary increases, student BOG representative Chris Adams stated that the Dalhousie Student Union was "interested in an agreement

which will continue to ensure the quality of education at Dalhousie without affecting accessibility."

Unfortunately, quality educators are attracted and kept partially through high wages, and higher wages require higher revenue. Part of the financial crisis is the result of government cutbacks. The federal and provincial governments cut \$5.7-million out of Dalhousie's budget in 1996-1997, and plan a \$2-million cut for 1997-1998.

The lack of funding makes it harder for BOG to address the needs of full-time professors, or to improve the wages of part-time professors and TA's, who make between \$2,000 to \$3,000 per half-credit and course respectively, compared to \$10,000 in Ontario. With TA's holding a strike vote in January, the pressure is mounting for an equitable solution that students, faculty, and part-time employees can agree with.

Pre-packaged ponderance

"Toronto as a city carries out the idea of Canada as a country. It is a calculated crime both against the aspirations of the soul and the affection of the heart."
— Aleister Crowley

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