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Big cuts at Dal

by Ryan Stanley

Students in several Dalhousie departments are facing an uncertain future today.

In a speech responding to a report from the university's budgetary planners, President Howard Clark recommended the closure of programs in costume studies, music, theatre and public administration.

The joint presentation by Clark and the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) was greeted with shocked silence by most of those who packed the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium yesterday.

About fifty students appeared to have had warning of the contents of Clark's speech, and rose in silent protest when the President announced his recommendations to cut the four departments.

Clark's suggestion for program closures came as part of his response to a presentation by BAC, which has drafted a plan to reduce Dalhousie's operating deficit between now and the academic year 1996-97. The plan calls, among other things, for a 21 per cent reduction in the operating budget of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and a 21 per cent cut to the budget of the Faculty of Management.

The cancellation of the theatre,

music and costume studies programs was Clark's suggested way for FASS to meet the targeted 21 per cent reduction. Similarly, he proposed that public administration be phased out to permit the Faculty of Management to shrink its operations.

Clark said he was open to alternative ideas as to how to cut back these two faculties, but made it clear that he felt the four departments he identified were not crucial to what he called "Dalhousie's mission".

The BAC proposal, which Clark made it clear he supports in all of its main outlines, also calls for tuition fee increases of 10 per cent for students in all subject areas, plus additional fee hikes for virtually all other programs. The differential fee charged to international students would also rise by \$1000 under the BAC plan, which was presented by Alasdair Sinclair, chair of the committee.

Sinclair also estimated that between 140 and 150 faculty and staff positions would be eliminated by 1997.

Detailed comment from students, faculty and members of BAC was not available as the *Gazette* went to press. After the presentation, several students in the performing arts said they planned to meet and plan ways to preserve their programs.



The women's soccer Tigers opened their season with a 8-0 victory over Mount Allison. Read Sam McCaig's coverage on page 14.

DALPHOTO: MICHAEL GRAHAM

DSU hopes election won't pass students by

by G.E. Morgan and H. A. Robertson

The Prime Minister has called the election. Candidates have been chosen, and the campaigning has begun. If you're a Canadian citizen 18 or over, you'll be enumerated, mailed a voter

card, and you can simply show up to vote on election day, right? Wrong.

Normally, all voters would be registered by door-to-door enumeration, which would be occurring now. However, under the amended Canada Elections Act, general enumeration will

not be conducted for an election held within a year after polling day at a referendum or an election, unless specially called for - which it hasn't been.

This means that regular enumeration will not occur this year (except in Quebec). The voter lists will be com-

pleted using the October 1992 referendum lists. Attempts are being made to revise the voter lists but this will be largely by directed enumeration — for example, if a change of address was registered with Canada Post, enumerators will go to the old address to see who is living there now.

The problem is, the enumerators may not find the recently moved person at home. People who have moved since October of last year, as a huge number of students have, may have to take responsibility for getting themselves enumerated.

This is one of the reasons why the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has established an Elections Readiness Committee to publicize the election, in an effort to get students motivated and eligible to vote. With the onus on students to take the time from their hectic schedules to get enumerated, to learn that they may need to do it themselves and how to do it, both the DSU and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) are concerned that students may fall through the cracks and end up not voting.

Lisa Lachance, DSU Vice-President External and Chair of the committee, is determined not to let the voice of a substantial group of Canadians be overlooked.

"I think students could have a really exciting time with the election," says Lachance. "Many are first-time voters. It may be their first chance to feel they have any influence on the government. A lot of the problems with post-secondary education can be addressed through the federal government."

A large focus of the CFS involve-

ment in the election lies in getting students to focus on issues surrounding post-secondary education. Lachance said while the term 'student issues' is very broad, there are three main issues all students should be aware of. The first, she said, is funding of educational institutions, especially the federal system of transfer payments which considers the overall population of a province rather than the student population. She also cited the Canada Student Loan Program, particularly the proposed changes towards privatization, which would see banks take more control over the awarding of loans. The third issue, she said, is student unemployment. Other concerns which students may hold include funding for research and development, the availability of child care, and poverty.

However, while the members of Dal's Elections Readiness Committee may hope that students consider 'voting for education', their main goal is simply to ensure that students are made aware of the election and how to vote, so that they at least get out and vote for something. "If you want to make a difference, with anything, then vote," says Caroline Kolompar, the DSU Executive Vice-President.

The committee has been trying to make it easy for students to get enumerated. Tables have been set up in the residences and in the SUB this week, so that students eligible to vote in the Halifax riding can get enumerated on campus. There will also be an Elections Forum in the MacInnes Room at which students can hear and question candidates from this riding.

So, how do I cast my ballot?

The first step is to determine where you want to vote. If you are living at your parent's home, you should vote in the polling division where they are located. Similarly, if you are living on your own but consider your parent's home, or a residence elsewhere, to be your ordinary place of residence (even if just for short periods of time, like summers or weekends), you should vote in that riding.

However, if you are living on your own and consider Halifax to be your ordinary place of residence, then you should vote here. Essentially, this means that students from away can choose whether to vote here or in their home riding.

Students voting here may get enumerated during the process of revising the voter lists. If they are home when someone comes to their door it will be done then. If they are not home, they will be left a form which they can then mail to the Returning Office. Otherwise, they can get enumerated by calling the Elections Returning Officer, Sandra Foley, at 492-5200, up to five days before the election (Wednesday, October 20). They will then be sent an Elector Information Card, including their name and address, the name of

their electoral district, the location of the polling station and whether or not it provides access for the disabled, the times for voting on polling day, dates/times/locations for voting in the Advance Polls, and a telephone number to call for more information.

Students from away who wish to vote in their home riding, rather than locally, can do so by registering ahead of time under the "Special Voting Rules." According to Crystal Beazley of Elections Canada, the fastest way to do so is to go to the Returning Office, located in Quinpool Centre (just above Wendy's). There, students can fill out an application to register which will be processed on the spot. They will then be given a Special Voting Kit. The office will require proof of identification bearing the student's name, home address and signature if possible; a driver's license would be ideal, although a SIN card, a bill sent to your home address, or even a personalized cheque will do in a pinch.

Alternately, students can pick up the necessary form, entitled "Voting by Canadians Away From Their Ridings", at any post office, or call the Returning Office and ask to be sent a copy. They can then mail the form,

together with a copy of their identification, to the office, and be sent a Special Voting Kit by mail. Beazley cautions, however, that the registration process naturally takes longer by mail and students who choose to do so should start right away.

The Special Voting Kit itself consists of a blank ballot and a series of different envelopes to put it in, plus instructions. You write the name of the candidate you wish to vote for on the ballot, then follow the instructions to correctly package and mail it. If you do not know the names of all candidates in your home riding, you can call an 800 number listed in the kit instructions to obtain them. Once you have voted, you should mail the ballot immediately, as it must reach Ottawa by 4pm on October 22 to be counted (i.e., before election day!).

If October 25 comes and you realize you aren't yet on any list, DON'T GIVE UP! You can register on polling day itself, in your local riding, by going to the nearest polling station (call 492-5200 to find out where that is), with proof of your identity and address. As with the Special Voting Rules, a driver's license is best, but nearly anything semi-official will do.