

Elected positions undemocratic?

By BILL MITCHELL

ALTHOUGH DSU PRESIDENT Alex Gigeroff says quorum makes elections more democratic, he doesn't think quorum requirements should apply to student union elections.

"We are dealing with a smaller constituency (with student union elections). It is a completely different voting process," says Gigeroff.

A tuition referendum requires quorum, (a minimum voter turnout), but the president, executive vice-president and council elections do not.

A constitutional change made at an Annual General Meeting in December says an eight per cent

'yes' vote is necessary for a question to pass.

Quorum for referenda provides a mandate to carry out students' wishes, Gigeroff says.

"If you can't get eight per cent then you are not doing your job," he says.

St. Mary's University union has a 10 per cent quorum for referendums.

Quorum provides an incentive for campaigners to get people out to vote, says Gigeroff. David Peters, St. Mary's student union president, agrees quorum for referendums is "definitely an encouragement."

Peters agrees with Gigeroff that quorum for elected positions is inappropriate.

Last year's DSU elections had a turnout of 16 per cent.

Annual fund drive contributions increase

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

ORIGINALLY TARGETING A goal of \$250,000, Dalhousie's 1984 Annual Fund contribution of \$348,000 is a welcome increase in light of decreased government funding of Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions.

Out of 3,000 donors contributing to the fund there was a significant increase in donations from non-alumni in the community.

University development officers at Dal see this group as an important contributor in the future.

"It is going to be more important for universities in years to come to get people accustomed to giving," says Fund Chairperson George Cooper.

The Maritime Provincial Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) recommended only a 4.5 per cent increase in university funding for next year despite universities' appeal for at least 10 per cent.

Despite the looming threat of education cut-backs, John Mabley, Dal's director of development, says he is confident private support is key in maintaining government commitment to institutions.

"Government would be reluctant to cut a program that has popular support," says Mabley.

The Annual Fund differs from capital and endowment gifts from private donors, in that donors can choose the faculty they want to contribute to.

Med school and law received the highest contributions; \$118,000 and \$48,700 respectively.

The purpose of these funds is to help relieve operational costs of

the university and provide an unfettered fund for faculties most in need.

"The library, like other areas in the university, depends heavily on it (the Annual Fund).

"If the Annual Fund was not there some of these quality of education kinds of programs would not exist," says Mabley.

Even with an unexpected increase of \$92,000, other universities enjoy a higher level of alumni contribution.

"Currently 10.4 per cent of Dalhousie's alumni contributed to the fund. We want to get 85 per cent of Dal's alumni to contribute," says Cooper.

Mabley admits contributions could be more, but he says the university has received a total of \$1.2 million (including the Fund) during 1984 from alumni and friends, making Dalhousie the leading recipient of private gifts in Eastern Canada.

Cooper says he credits the success of the Fund to the increased involvement of volunteers and the personalized appeal for financial support. More than 60 volun-

teers took part in the campaign, mostly alumni and students.

"Prospective donors often identify better with a person when letters are personally addressed to people from former members of their faculty," says Cooper.

Another strategy used by the volunteer staff was phone-a-thons. The two phone-a-thons held in October were staffed by Dalhousie students who volunteered their time to the annual fund drive night.



Darrylle Macdonald, Dal Photo

New editors plan increased coverage

By KATIE FRASER

MARY ELLEN JONES AND David Olie were elected on Feb. 22 at *Gazette* co-editors for the 1985-86 academic publishing year.

"The *Gazette* is going to need a major re-investment next year," says Jones. "Much of our equipment is antiquated and our office space is prohibitive and unworkable. In addition, extra funds will be necessary if we are to expand our scope of coverage for next year. But compared to the cost of CKDU, the *Gazette* will be a bargain at about half the price."

Jones, currently production manager, is in her second year of a political science degree. Olie has finished a degree in history at Dalhousie and is currently writ-

ing news and features for the paper.

The team's list of priorities for next year includes revamping the *Gazette* constitution and extensive staff recruitment.

"We have plans to rewrite the constitution and prepare for an autonomy referendum in the fall," says Jones. "Recruitment for the newspaper will start in the Metro area high schools before the end of May."

"This has been the best year for the *Gazette* in quite some time," says Olie. "Feedback from the campus has been very positive, overall. Basically, we stand for a policy of continuity."

Jones and Olie believe in the principle of the co-editorial team and hope to see it made a requirement for future editorial elections.

McCann and Allen resign

By MARY ELLEN JONES

TWO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS of the Dalhousie Student Union have resigned.

Senator David McCann resigned on January 28 and Vice-President Gillian Allen handed in her resignation on Feb. 16.

"Academic pressure is the reason for my resignation" says McCann. "I did the only thing I could do to save my academic neck". McCann is in his first year of medicine. He was accepted to med. school early in September after he had already been elected to his council position.

"There are no hidden agendas for my resignation" says McCann. "I enjoyed working with council very much." McCann has been involved in council for six years.

McCann says he would have resigned after Christmas but with the possibility of a strike by faculty he says he did not want to look like a rat leaving a sinking ship.

Council members are unsure about the reasons for Allen's resignation.

"There was no real reason for her resignation offered" says Alex Gigeroff, DSU president. "Council accepted it and that was really the end of it" he says.

"The two resignations are unrelated but in Jill's case it was a bit more sudden," says Caroline Zayid, Vice-President external.

Committee work has been extensive for both Allen and McCann. Allen was chair of the Academic Planning committee. She was involved in the under-funding studies and computer advisory committee and attended Senate meetings.

McCann was grants committee chair and as a student senator sat on the Senate fiscal planning committee. He was also a member of the Academic Administration committee.

Both were members of the executive committee.

"The lion's share of the work was completed by Gillian before she left" says McCann. "Now that the referendum has passed, the only thing left to do is the budget. There is really little more I can help out with" says McCann.

"If the resignations had come earlier in the year, there would have been a bigger problem" says Gigeroff.

"Nobody is irreplaceable" says Zayid.

Gigeroff and Martin Tomlinson (former council member) are stepping in to fill the voids left by the two resignations.

Young Grits influence party structure

By DAVID OLIE

IN A MAJOR BID FOR POWER within the Nova Scotia Liberal Association, the Nova Scotia Young Liberals have forced significant concessions from the Association for increased influence in the party structure.

The youth wing, led by its Halifax group, put forward a strongly-worded resolution in a policy session of the party's annual general meeting. The resolution was a motion of non-confidence in the provincial party's leadership.

The resolution read, in part: "The Nova Scotia Young Liberals have lost all confidence in the administration and management of the NSLA... The provincial party executive has failed to manage the financial affairs of the party..."

After debate, the motion was overwhelmingly defeated, with only three youth members voting in favour of it.

Despite the defeat, representatives of the youth wing feel the motion achieved its purpose.

Peter Murtagh, member of the Halifax group, says the proposed motion put a lot of pressure on the party executive in the weeks before the general meeting.

"There was a discussion of grievances with the executive," Murtagh says. "We received assurances that our worries would be tackled."

"The parameters (of the situation) had changed completely by the time of the general meeting," he says.

Among other concessions to the youth wing, the party executive has allowed three youth members to serve as senior policy advisors, and the youth associations will be allowed to send four delegates each to next year's provincial leadership convention.

"The youth wing will carry a hell of a lot of weight at the leadership convention," Murtagh says.

The defeated resolution was similar to a youth motion put forward a few years ago at a federal Liberal convention. That motion expressed non-confidence in then-leader Pierre Trudeau and some of his senior advisors.

The federal motion was also defeated.