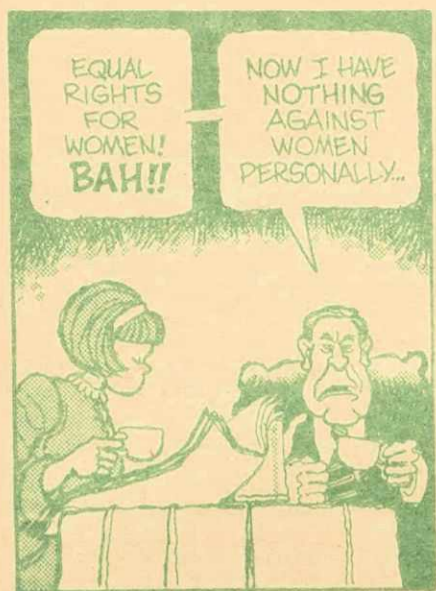


Status of Dalhousie Women



Ed Note: The Gazette is printing extracts of the Status of Women Report for information purposes. We are attempting to represent the general situation of the informational literature on campus, noting the contrasts especially. This version of the Summary of Findings is incomplete only because of Gazette's space limitations.

The Status of Women Committee of the Dalhousie Women's Movement during 1975 consisted of three members: Ms M. Poirier, undergraduate student at Dalhousie; Ms P. Buckley, former graduate student at Dalhousie; and Ms. V.P. Miller, faculty member at Dalhousie.

The Committee decided to review the literature which the university and its various faculties distribute to prospective and incoming students, with a view to uncovering and offering for correction any material which might be construed as "sexist" or discriminatory.

Committee members then contacted all university offices, faculties, and academic departments to request literature, explaining the reason for the request. Cooperation from all offices was very good.

Unless otherwise noted, all statements contained in the report are from literature collected in the summer of 1975.

The Committee attempted to be exhaustive in its requests for literature. Still it is possible that some offices may have been overlooked, but even if this is the case, the Committee still feels this report to be of value for several reasons: it will make departments aware of the types of statements in their literature which may be openly or covertly sexist and require correction; it will obviate the need for repetition of such a project in any further surveys of women students undertaken at Dalhousie; and hopefully, it will stimulate interest in the topic of women generally at Dalhousie.

Accordingly, the summary of findings follows:

Faculty of Administrative Studies

General Catalogue - not available.
 Business Administration
 The literature is largely male-oriented: photos are of men and terms such as "he / him" in reference to students occur most frequently. Literature does, however, provide information on men's and women's residences. The following quote appears in the literature: "Following consultation with members of the business community it was decided that this shortage of capable managerial talent could only be adequately met by a sufficient supply of young men trained for business in university programmes..."
 Social Work
 Information booklet primarily uses "he / him," although some "she / her" also occurs. Application form specifically asks for maiden name of applicant (as opposed to middle name), while the recommendation forms for applicants consistently refer to applicants as "he". There appear to be more available sources of financial aid for women in this field than for men.

Faculty of Dentistry

Dentistry
 The application form requests a photo of the applicant in addition to information on marital status and number of children. The applicant is also asked to choose among the following titles of address: Sr., Rev., Miss, Mrs., Mr., Information leaflets on a career in dentistry distributed by the Faculty are certainly male-dominated, e.g., all photos of dentists

are of white males, while all dental hygienists, dental assistants and receptionists are white females; in one instance, a black male appears as a dental technician. The accompanying narrative consistently refers to dentists as "he."

Dental Hygiene

The application form requests a photo of the applicant, as well as his or her marital status. One question to be answered by a doctor in the section on applicant's medical history is "is the candidate pregnant at the present time?"

Faculty of Graduate Studies

General Catalogue
 Most often employs "he" and "his" when referring to students.
 Biochemistry
 Literature is neuter when referring to students.
 Biology
 Also keeps its descriptive statements neuter, but then adds that "...married students may find that their **wives** will need to get a job to supplement their income."
 Chemistry
 Literature uses "he / his" with reference to students. Also uses same quote as Biology Department (above), with reference to working wives.
 Education
 Literature describing the M.A. programme consistently uses "he / his", etc.
 Mathematics
 Literature is neuter.
 Oceanography
 Literature contains the following statement, "The number of women electing oceanography

for a career is relatively small but is gradually increasing." Also contains the statement that "Non-Canadian students can come into Canada either on a student visa or as landed immigrants. The latter is preferable if the **student's wife** is seeking a job." Finally, the same statement cited above for Biology about working wives also appears in Oceanography literature.

Physics

Photos in the literature are entirely of men.

Psychology

Literature includes photos of women as well as men working in the field.

Faculty of Health Professions

General Catalogue for 1976-77 mostly uses "his and / her" in referring to students.

Nursing

Literature and application forms consistently use "his or her," etc. The choice of titles on the application to the graduate program includes "Mr." and "Ms," although the application asks for applicant's maiden name, sex, marital status, and number of children. Literature includes the statement that "our programmes are open to men and women."

Physical Education

The recommendation forms required of undergraduate applicants do not make any distinction between the sexes.

Miscellaneous

Scholarships, Prizes and Financial Aid
 The catalogue of Scholarships, Prizes and Financial Aid most commonly employs "he / his," etc. in referring to students.
 Student Handbook
 The Student Handbook for 1975-76 uses "he," etc. in reference to students. The Constitution of the Student Union, as printed in the Handbook, also primarily uses "he" in reference to students and student officers. Some curious statements concerning University continued on page 22"

