

Discrimination?

Potential fee increase

At the NSCAD Board of Governors meeting Wednesday 29 September, student members Brian Perkins and Don Soucy were able to defer the proposed fee increase for International Students.

by Allan Zdunich

Brian Perkins, President of the Student Union at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) announced plans September 27 to fight a proposed fee increase for international students at NSCAD.

College President Gary Kennedy announced in a memo in early September that fees for International Students at NSCAD would be doubled from their present \$780.00 to \$1,560.00 effective January 1977. Kennedy will be presenting his arguments for fee doubling at the annual meeting of the Board of Governors Wednesday 29 September. Fee increases must be decided by the Board of Governors; there are two students on the Board. As with all NSCAD annual meetings, a senior member of the Nova Scotia Department of Education will be in attendance. Student leaders are not sure if the presence of a Department of Education representative will affect Kennedy's presentation.

Nova Scotia has a high proportion of International Students, many of whom are Americans. It is Kennedy's view, in his memo that the Americans have come to Canada for a cheap education and he only wants to make the cost comparable to similar programs in the U.S. Kennedy does not feel that there is a problem for third world and other nationals although their fees will also double.

Dalhousie

by Malandwa Mwendapole

4.5 per cent of students in Canada are international and the percentage is slightly higher in Nova Scotia. There has been no indication of such an increase at Dalhousie. However, the *Gazette* has spoken with some International Students to discover the effect upon them if such a move was made.

A student from the West Indies says that a doubling of fees would put him in a financial crisis, inevitably forcing him to work. He pointed out that he was an asset to the economy in that he brought money into the area.

A man from Hong Kong has been forced to go and look for work in the United States to raise his funds.

A student from Africa has indicated that it would be economic suicide for her in the event of an increase. Her country can only allow a limited amount of funds for her studies. It would be impossible for her to balance out her situation and she would probably be forced to stop her studies halfway.

A case study of foreign students without financial means in Canada was carried out by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Ontario. It tells of a Hong Kong man who came to Canada after having worked for seven years as an electrical technician, saving his money to come to Canada. At that time his father, with six other dependants, sold his house in order to supply the \$5,000.00 the man needed to finish his Bachelor in Electrical Engineering. He lived a minimal subsistence level allowing himself \$15.00 a week for food in order to be able to obtain his degree, which he did in the spring of 1976. He has subsequently returned home.

But how many more cases have we like that? If we push them into the corner, what have we gained?

In his September 2 memo, Kennedy stated: "The policy does not seek to discriminate against foreign or out-of-country students. It does not seek to limit the attendance of students from out-of-country at NSCAD."

Perkins replied to Kennedy's assertions: "These considerations are based on half truths, total misinformation and ill-logic. The administration has made absolutely no attempt to solicit student opinion on the matter."

"It is necessary for a flourishing art community to have different geographical and cultural influences. This fee increase will set very strict limitations on the type of people who will be able to contribute to the Halifax art community. Unless you equate creativity with wealth." Fine Arts rep Don Soucy told the *Gazette*.

Student Union President Brian Perkins told the *Dalhousie Gazette* Monday, "The defense of the fee increase is an open play to nationalism, but it covers up the true national versus international art conflict at NSCAD."

While Kennedy has used the need for more revenue as grounds for the fee increase, student leaders challenge this assertion.

Kennedy's memo stated "Student fee income has not been increasing at the same rate as has the cost of operating the college, or at the same rate of increase as other revenues. The added income from increased fees to out-of-country students is substantial. However, it is along with the general increase in student fees introduced in 1976, a move to solve the problem of student fee income."

Student leaders at NSCAD are citing the recent decision of the Senate of the University of Manitoba to refuse to charge differential fees. While elsewhere in the country it is the provincial governments pressuring colleges, at NSCAD, it is the college itself deciding to impose differential fees.

At a general meeting 5 November, 1975, Kennedy announced plans for a pending fee reduction.

At a second general meeting, held 17 March, 1976 Kennedy announced plans for a possible fee increase. Many students replied that rather than a fee increase for all students, NSCAD should increase fees for only non-Canadians. The feeling was that since most International Students at NSCAD were (and are) from the United States, they were in Canada partly to receive an education cheaper than they could receive one in the US.

Students urged Kennedy to hold the line on fee increases, but if necessary, then to raise those for International Students only. The tuition fee increase at the time was in the range of \$50.00 to \$75.00. Kennedy refused to impose differential fees.

On Graduation Day in May, Kennedy announced a fee increase of an unspecified amount. There was the possibility of raising fees for International Students by an amount greater than for Canadians.

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