

Acadia won't talk with Union

by Pam Berman

Acadia University has refused to negotiate in a fair or positive way with its maintenance and support staff, according to Reg Fenerty, business representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 968-B.

As a result the members, who have been without a contract since May 1979, have voted 88 percent in favour of strike action, although no strike date has been set.

Fenerty said while the administration said they will talk with the union they placed very restrictive conditions on the negotiations. The university will only agree to talk about two issues—salaries and vacations—the rest of the unions demands have to be dropped.

"The representatives are expected to present the members with a package deal with agreement on only two issues", said Fenerty.

Fred Eldrekin, vice-president of Administration at Acadia University, said the negotiations were narrowed down to the two issues of salaries and vacations because they saw them as the "real issues" that had to be dealt with.

After thirteen meetings and many concessions on the university's part, the union still said the issues were unresolved and the administration did not want to tie up six union representatives as well as three administrative representatives if negotiations were not going to come to any concrete resolutions", Eldrekin said.

The union wanted to bring in a conciliation board to take over the negotiations but the university has blocked any attempt to have one appointed. Fenerty said they wanted the board to come in so all issues could be discussed fairly and the union was willing to abide

by the board's decisions.

"There are lots of issues, but if you get bogged down in the issues entirely you lose sight of the real problem, which is the university will not negotiate fairly", said Fenerty. "It's a history thing at Acadia—it's the way they work."

The union was in strike position a few years ago and experienced the same attitude. Fenerty added that employer-employee relations are "non-

existent".

One reason the university gives for refusing to take negotiations to a conciliation board is because they feel quite capable of dealing with the union.

"We have done so for twenty years and since we have four unions on campus we aren't going to be intimidated by just one of them", Eldrekin added.

Another reason given for re-

jecting the conciliatory body was an experience the university already had with binding arbitration. In previous negotiations a board set the wage rate to the Cost of Living Allowance Clause. Eldrekin said that the university was almost broke financially by this rate and said that it seriously undermined the wage scales of the other employees at Acadia.

Students back at Tech

by Matt Adamson of the Canadian University Press and Tom Regan

Students boycotting classes over an administrator's decision not to rehire an assistant professor at the Nova Scotia School of Architecture agreed to return to classes after meeting with the school's board of governors, Feb. 27.

"The board is basically concerned about the situation and will not ignore it," said student board representative Tom Dutton.

About 80 students from the architecture school and sympathetic engineers from its affiliate, the Nova Scotia Technical College, complete with a bag piper, marched a block to the board meeting and picketed outside.

After discussing the situation for an hour and a half, the board mandated its executive to recommend a course of action at a special meeting to be held today, March 6.

A spokesperson for the faculty members at the faculty of architecture said they were encouraged by the response of the Board of Governors.

"We are particularly pleased that the board has received our representations to review the case of Prof. Larry Richards and secondly to review the position of dean and its present incumbent. Of course we are hopeful that the outcome of the Executive

Committee's discussions will be favourable and we are prepared to assist in any way we can."

When asked what course of action the students will follow if the Board does not accept any of their recommendations, Dutton said student pressure would not stop.

"If they don't accept any of our suggestions then the students will have to plan another course of action", said Dutton. "I don't know if that means another boycott of classes but the students are definite they want to continue the pressure."

The 140 architecture students are demanding a committee representing students, faculty, the board, and the Nova Scotia Association of Architecture be appointed to review the case of assistant professor Larry Richards, and the position of dean Peter Manning.

Manning refused Richards' tenure, promotion and renewal of his contract without consulting the school's appointments committee.

Students said Richards received a memo from Manning 10 months ago saying he was denied tenure because the dean could not trust him as he is "too outspoken" and "incites student activity." Richards made the memo public at a meeting with students a week ago.

Student Mark Rughven said a personality conflict between the dean and Richards touched off a controversy that has been brewing at the school for years.

He said Manning's field of study is building science while Richards concentrates on exploratory design concepts.

Manning has been dean for 12 years and the school has drifted towards his philosophy, he said. One student described the dean's views as "too narrow."

"There has been discontent for years but the Richards' denial made it impossible to continue," said Rughven.

Earlier in the week a petition supporting Richards' right to a fair hearing was signed by 130 out of the 140 students at the school.

Manning has refused to meet with a student forum to discuss the issue and said decisions of this type are none of the students' business.

The majority of the faculty also asked the board to review the Richards' case and plan to meet shortly to discuss their representation on the board. Presently, the lone faculty representative is Dean Manning.

The students received telegrams of support from fellow co-op students on work terms in British Columbia and Alberta and from recent alumni.

Grads face housing hike

by Sylvia Kaptein

Dalhousie's graduate students living in university-provided housing are facing a dramatic increase in residence fees this summer. Prices will be going up from \$32 to \$40 per week, an increase of 25%.

Tom Keating, acting president of Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), said he is concerned that the increase is so large and that not enough advance warning was given to the students.

Most of the graduate students are on fellowships which last for twelve months, usually from September to September. When planning finances for this year, Keating said, many did not allow enough for this increase since they did not know about it in advance.

Students on the fellowships are required to remain at

DAGS would also like to see special houses set aside for graduates who will be living in residence for a full twelve-month period. Keating said that, ideally, reduced rates should be charged for these houses.

This set-up would be beneficial for the students since people would not be moving in and out, creating disturbances, and would be easier for the administration since they could be sure of tenants for twelve months.

Many students in the Grad houses have been complaining about the fee increase because it is not being accompanied by an increase in service, which many consider to be poor.

Keating said that repairs are slow and many rooms are small and shabby despite equal rents being charged for all.

university for a full twelve months. This eliminates the possibility of a full-time summer job to help offset expenses.

John Graham, director of housing at Dalhousie, said the fee increase is justified because the grad houses, at present, charge the lowest rent of any university residence.

The increase will only bring the rent up to the level of other residences. Graham said that any students having severe financial problems should seek help at the Awards Office.

DAGS has approached the administration to request that the increase be staggered to better allow students to cope financially. In addition, DAGS would like some guarantee for fellowship students that prices will not be raised in the middle of their twelve-month stay.



SWAP Jobs

OTTAWA—If you can't find a job here maybe you should consider leaving the country.

That's one employment possibility for students who would like to work in and holiday in Europe or New Zealand this summer.

A program sponsored by the Association of Student Councils (AOSC) and the National Union of Students (NUS) provides summer employment in another country to full-time students enrolled in a Canadian university or college.

The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) arranges job interviews and provides work visas so students can be

employed in semiskilled or unskilled jobs in Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Holland and New Zealand.

According to AOSC/NUS, the purpose of the SWAP program is to enable young Canadians entering a foreign country on an extended holiday to offset the rising costs of travel by engaging in some type of temporary employment incidental to their holiday.

Students interested in SWAP programs can contact their campus placement centres or write AOSC/NUS, SWAP, 44 St. George St., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2E4.