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Program slashes needed, says report

by Marie MacPherson

"The University is not likely to offset the budget deficits projected without significant reductions in programs and faculty costs associated with these programs."

So opens Recommendation 1.1 of the Senate Financial Planning Committee's report titled "Deficit Reduction: The Continuing Struggle."

The report, completed in June 1992, contains suggestions for some harsh measures to offset Dalhousie's predicted deficit of \$5.5 million for 1993-1994.

The document was brought to the Senate on September 14, 1992 where it was tabled. While not approved, it

is currently sitting with the Senate Academic Planning Committee.

Taking into account that the provincial government's average increase for Dal will be 0% for next year, and also considering the lifting of the salary freeze in 1993, the Financial Planning Committee suggests a departure from across-the-board cuts for all programs.

According to the committee, the answer is twofold: either totally eliminate certain programs or reduce programs through cutting specific parts, such as majors.

Professor Ray Carlson, chair of the Financial Planning Committee says, "One of our main purposes was to encourage discussion within the

Dal community. Faculty, students and people employed by Dal must be made aware of the seriousness of the deficit and of the process being followed. Program reductions would have the most significant contribution towards reduction of the deficit."

The collective agreement with the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the University inhibits such targeted reductions, and is currently the main obstacle to such cuts.

Professor Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, president of the Dalhousie Faculty Association says, "The DFA strongly urges that academic planning, in this case program reductions, be done for academic reasons."

Article 25 of the collective agreement states that reductions can be implemented for "bonafide academic reasons" that justify the reductions.

Sinclair-Faulkner is not only vehemently opposed to such cuts for financial reasons, but also cites the future integrity of the Senate.

"What happens if the (program) cuts are enforced and 2 or 3 years down the road the decision comes before an arbitrator? No arbitrator

on this planet could call these academic cuts. They are straight out financial cuts," says Sinclair-Faulkner. "All respect would be lost for the Senate if the collective agreement is violated."

The report is currently sitting with the Senate Academic Planning Committee, who have been asked by the

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Senate to identify programs where reductions are academically justifiable and make recommendations to the Senate on its findings.

Mausumi Banerjee, V.P. Academic for the DSU and the only student representative on the Aca-

ademic Planning Committee, related to the Senate the concerns of the DSU.

Banerjee says, "The DSU is strongly opposed to program cuts if quality education is compromised."

"Students must have the complete story and information before decisions are made. We don't want to be given the three options of program cuts, professor loss, or tuition hikes when there are potential areas for reduction," says Banerjee.

On the side of the proposal for program cuts is the Budget Advisory Committee to the President. In the Committee's first report to President Howard Clark, it was stated that, "BAC agrees with the Senate Financial Planning Committee that the University must make significant reduction in programmes and faculty related costs through the elimination of major parts of programmes."

It is expected that the Academic Planning Committee will report back in December to the Senate with its findings. If the committee does see academic justification for such program cuts, a procedure for elimination and reduction will be included.

Bridging the learning gap

Perchance to read

by Gazette Staff

At a Dalhousie Student's Union council meeting on Sunday, November 8, Tina Hayward was appointed to the position of Literacy Coordinator on Dalhousie campus.

"It feels really great," said Hayward. "That it's finally resolved is relieving for everyone involved: I've been bugging the DSU for ages about this, and there was a paperwork mix-up, so I was sent to the Department of Education and then back to the SUB before my appointment was realized."

Hayward is one of six students who took part in an extensive training session this summer for the express purpose of learning how to pro-

affiliated with the Halifax Vocational School, and the training was extensive. We were all certified instructors by the end of the course, qualified to instruct adults in reading, writing, and basic arithmetic. It would be such a waste not to use it," she said.

Now that she has been appointed, Hayward's agenda is in its formative stage. "I'm meeting with Keith Sullivan from the school of education on Thursday morning, and he's going to advise me on how to proceed," she said.

Hayward has already decided what her first action should be: "I'm going to see about setting up another training course on campus, maybe sometime in the new year, maybe as soon as January," she said.

"It gives you such a great background. It's so fun and so important. I came out of it realizing I had something really special, because university students generally find it hard to conceive of not being able to read. It's important to me to be able to make a difference this way," said Hayward.

The training program will probably be made available to five to six interested students, who in turn will tutor adults from the Dalhousie community for at least an hour a week after the screening process finishes matching teachers with learners. The targeted applicants from the summer course included adults seeking literacy through Veith house, although the program is open to any applicant.

"That's what the program is about," said Hayward, "it is to bridge the gap between those who want to learn and those who want to teach."

"I realized I had something really special"

vide illiterate adults with the necessary education to make them literate. The program was organized by another Dalhousie student, Terry Nickerson.

Nickerson approached Hayward and five others with the two week, thirty-hour training course, and proposed the program would get off the ground this year at Dalhousie with himself as Co-ordinator.

Hayward wound up with the job because, "he just disappeared. Terry didn't come back to Dalhousie this year, and none of the others were interested in the position, so I applied for it. I mean, the course was

An enviro-friendly campus

by Adam Newman

Dalhousie, in conjunction with two environmental consulting firms, has received a grant to help reduce the impact the university has on the environment. The Cooperative Agreement on Sustainable Economic Development awarded the money to Dal, Porter Dillon Ltd., and Griffiths Muecke Associates last July.

The \$56,000, three-year grant, part of Canada's Green Plan, will be used to develop a course on waste management, and to improve waste reduction and recycling techniques on campus.

"We would like to help support and design ways of improving reduction and recycling," said Anne Muecke, who along with Stuart Hattie is working on the project. Her company is currently working on a waste management plan for the Metro area.

But Muecke and Hattie cannot do it alone. "We would be very glad to work with as many people as possible, and we urge students at Dalhousie to become involved," she said. "Efforts to reduce and recycle will only succeed if they participate."

Muecke and Hattie presented their projects last Saturday morning in the Council Chambers of the Dalhousie Student Union. Five members of the

Campus Environmental Action Group showed up, as did Mike Murphy of Physical Plant and Planning. Despite the poor attendance, Muecke said they are willing to make another presentation in January "if there is sufficient student interest."

At present, eight percent of the university's waste is recycled, a figure Muecke said could be improved. Because Dalhousie falls under the Industrial, Commercial, and Institu-

The course will offer hands-on experience in waste auditing

tional (ICI) category, the Metro Authority does not offer a curbside pick-up service, and the university must look after its own recycling. Physical Plant and Planning oversee recycling on campus. Muecke and Hattie will work with them.

Many American universities are setting targets for waste reduction which are quite ambitious, said Muecke. For example, the Univer-

sity of Vermont aims to produce 40% less waste by the year 2000.

While Muecke and Hattie will not be setting policy, Muecke feels that changes can be made. "Dalhousie has the opportunity to become a leader (in waste reduction) amongst Canadian universities," she said. "It would take a lot involvement and cooperation (to realize that goal)."

Not all students are cooperating. Some use recycling bins as trash cans, and the result is both costly and damaging to the environment. Paper must be hand-sorted, and any paper that is contaminated by other waste cannot be recycled.

Recycling is, however, the last and least important of the three Rs. Waste reduction is the best thing people can do for the environment.

The course on waste reduction and management will be designed in cooperation with interested faculty members. It will provide students with hands-on experience in waste auditing, an essential first step in any waste reduction program. The employment opportunities for students will be great. Said Muecke, "There aren't enough trained personnel to meet the demand in this field."

"Waste Management and the Environment" will be offered as a third-year Science credit in September 1993.