

# Dal faculty association dodged

by Glenn Wanamaker

Faculty Associations across the country are pushing University administrators to recognize them as collective bargaining units, and Dalhousie

is no exception. For the past year, Senate committees have been studying the establishment of formal negotiating procedures for settlement of salaries and related economic benefits, but Dalhousie ad-

ministrators appear to be stalling on the issue.

One year ago, the Senate Committee on Salaries recommended to Senate that "Dalhousie University move to institute negotiating procedures to reach decisions regarding salary policy and salary levels, involving representatives of faculty in an actual and formal negotiating process with officers of the administration."

The issue however has been bounced around amongst Senate, the Board of Governors and University President, Henry Hicks. No firm decision has been made.

The Faculty Association, which represents some 600 full and part-time faculty, professional librarians, personnel at the Institute of Public Affairs and various other academics, has endorsed the recommendation of the Senate Committee.

An earlier proposal which would have pitted unionized faculty against University management was rejected by the Senate Committee. Rather it proposed procedures restricted to a limited range of topics, such as the economic benefits.

When this proposal was recommended to Senate last Spring, the matter was considered but no action was taken. Association President and Economics professor P.B. Huber says Senate suggested talking with the Board of Governors. However, "The President (Dr. Hicks) delayed

matters."

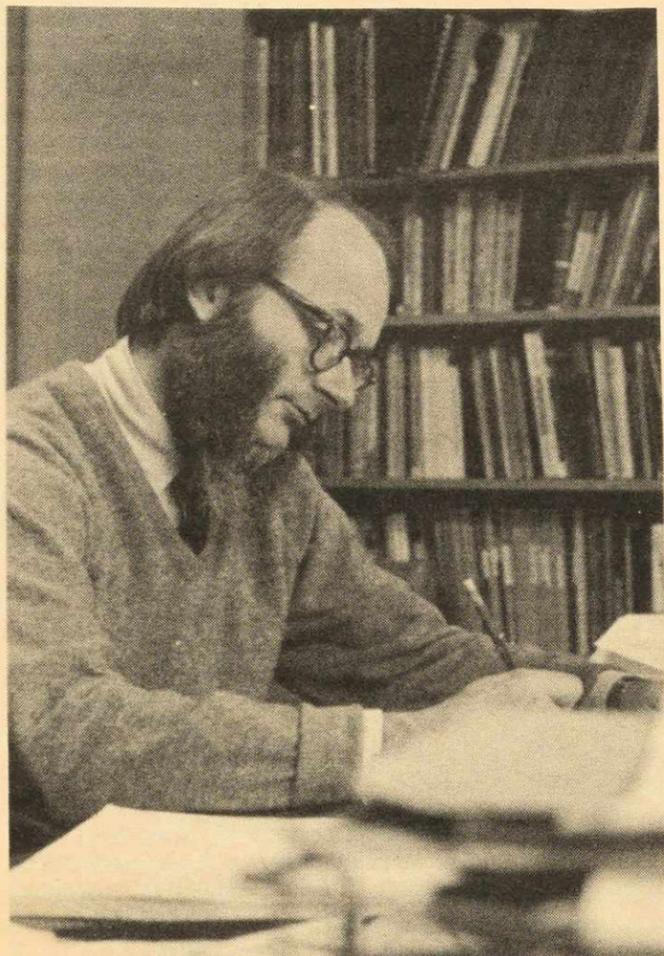
According to Huber, a later meeting of Senate Council and the Executive of the Board of Governors again "sidetracked the issue." A Fall meeting of the same bodies dumped the report into the lap of the Board again, which in turn said it would wait further word from the President.

Understandably the University is stalling; it does not ever want to face the prospect of unionized faculty striking to back up their demands. But the reasoning behind the Association's moves is also quite clear.

The Senate report states that the emergence of such procedures "reflects a growing concern of faculty for the maintenance and improvement

of their economic status in the face of highly organized bargaining techniques by other professional groups in the community and in response to increasing pressure which governments and students are able to exercise upon the Administration of our Universities. It reflects, as well, a rising consciousness of the status of the academic community."

The resolution of this debate at Dalhousie may depend greatly upon what happens at the University of Manitoba, where a nationally-publicized struggle is underway over similar bargaining rights. Nova Scotia Faculty Associations are not standing still however, as a meeting is slated for January 27 at St. Mary's University.



P.B. Huber

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## Housing crisis discussion

The housing crisis in Halifax is the subject of a panel discussion sponsored by the Dalhousie NDP. Time of the meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Thursday, January 25. Speakers will include Canon Mel French, Minister of St. Mark's Church and a prominent advocate of social change; Guilio Maffini, City Planner, involved in the Dennis Report and CMAC Task Force; Glenn Wanamaker, editor of The Dalhousie Gazette; Bob O'Jolick, Co-ordinator of Interfaith Housing; as well as others.

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