



PHOTO: IAN MARDON

Marathon Dalhousie Student Union session was extended twice as councillors slogged through the budget and referendum screw-up. A weary Sherri Golding(left) and Grants Committee Chair Scott Matthews(right).

\$25 for one year only Proposal changes fee referendum

by Dale Rissesco

Student Council decided last Sunday to adopt a proposal which would modify the athletic fee voted on two weeks ago. Although almost 12 per cent of the student body voted, only 7.8 per cent voted for the twenty-five dollar option on the ballot. Minimum response for any option is eight per cent. Council decided to approve a proposal by DSU VP External Joe Morrison which would gather the \$25 levy for one year only on condition that another fee referendum be held next spring.

Councillors were concerned that students had not been well informed when they voted. Sheri Golding, Board of Governors rep, spoke for many, saying students would have voted to keep tuition down (tying the fee to a negotiated tuition) if they had known the issues.

Referendum returning officer Lara Morris defended the referendum, saying students could have been informed if they wanted to, but Golding said there was a lot of misinformation given by coaches and administrators, and the council had a duty to look out for students' best interest by examining how the referendum was won.

Although this is not the 3-year deal the administration wanted, Bryan Mason, Vice-President of Finance, says it is still useful and that present programs will be kept up. The only problem is that it limits the administration to one-year programs in terms of improving present facilities.

Tony Martin, Director of Athletics and Recreational Services, gave one example of how a long-term financial commitment might have been used. He said intramural hockey this year was played late at night. If there had been a long-term commitment to the fee, it might have been moved to a prime-time rental slot. "But since there is only a one-year commitment, we cannot bump a paying customer this year, only to go back to him next year and ask him to come back," says Martin.

Joe Morrison, outgoing DSU vice-president external, says intramural hockey is not the issue. Students will be able to decide whether the money was used effectively or not, he says, and if students are unsatisfied with the use of the fee they will be able to cancel the fee next year.

The athletic fee will be administered jointly by the Student Union and the Administration through the Athletic Advisory Committee, Morrison says. The Student Union will have ultimate control over where the money will be spent.

The Student Council also asked President Caroline Zayid to write a letter to the administration saying council was not pleased with their interference with a student referendum. The proposed letter was to express the DSU's concern that the administration should act more appropriately next time when dealing with Student Union business.

Registrar 'steamrolls' process

by Ellen Reynolds

Many students voiced strong criticism of the new undergraduate registration process in an open forum last Friday afternoon in the SUB lobby.

Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) VP Academic Bill Jeffery drafted a letter summarizing the students' concerns which will be sent to Dalhousie registrar Gudrun Curri, President Howard Clark, the Board of Governors, and the Senate.

According to Jeffery, the forum was an opportunity for students and faculty to give the input they didn't have in the planning stages. "Curri steamrolled it through," says Jeffery.

The forum, chaired by Student Council President Caroline Zayid, began with a brief explanation of the new process by its creator, Gudrun Curri. Curri has recently transferred from her posi-

tion as registrar at Scarborough College in Toronto.

Jeffery and Kim Vance, incoming VP Academic, spoke briefly on their concerns with the process. For the remainder of the time, students were invited to ask questions or comment on the new process.

With this new process, registration forms will be mailed June 7 and classes will be selected on a first-come first-served basis, so students are encouraged to mail their forms early. The first installment of tuition is due August 19, as opposed to last year's September 25 deadline. A student who is unable to pay by August 19 must show proof of application for Student Aid or apply for "hardship". There will also be a 'Registration Week', September 6 to 9, for those students who haven't yet registered or were unable to pay their first installment before August 19.

The main criticisms were of the August 19 deadline and the inefficiency of the mail-in process. Students asked why the first installation of tuition fees had been moved a month ahead.

"I haven't received a satisfactory answer from the registrar about that yet," says Jeffery.

Curri says the deadline was changed in an effort to "fine-tune enrollment" — to be able to make adjustments early and meet the "demand and supply" of students. Curri suggested payment of the first installment is proof that students will follow through in the courses they register for. Several students rejected this reasoning, saying they will still be changing classes during the first week after they assess their professors.

Continued on page 3

Morris cancels over threatened boycott

by Heather Hueston

Minister of Higher Education Edmund Morris won't be giving any words of wisdom to the 1988 class of Dalhousie library graduates.

A hushed-up meeting last week between a group of outraged library students and President Howard Clark ended with Morris' name being withdrawn as convocation keynote speaker. In return, Clark apparently asked for a ban on publicity.

Following the meeting, student organizer Kris Melnick

would say only that "the matter has been resolved" but would not confirm whether that meant Morris would not speak.

Dr. Clark told the Gazette yesterday that government pressures obliged Morris to decline the invitation to speak, but Clark could not give the precise date when he received the minister's regrets.

Morris said yesterday he informed Clark "promptly" when he realized the convocation Thursday would fall on a cabinet day, but was also unable to spec-

ify when exactly he declined the invitation. "It was some time ago," said Morris.

Morris said he finds it unusual that students would be upset over the minister of advanced education and job training being invited to speak at a university convocation, and said if such rumours are true it does not "say a great deal for their education".

Students had earlier given Clark an ultimatum, saying they would call a press conference Friday, April 8, if Clark didn't

retract his suggested speaker, Morris.

Morris said if students are thinking of the action brought against him under the Freedom of Information act, they should be aware that "all the world has heard is one side of the story. I have made no comment on it." Morris said the student reaction was surprising at a university where there is supposedly a free exchange of ideas.

Morris was fined \$100 for passing out confidential information when he released per-

sonal facts from the file of a welfare mother who had publicly criticized Morris as social services minister.

"If these students did take adversely my being invited to speak, it's a reflection upon them and the university, not upon me."

According to one graduating student who did not wish to be named, friends who planned to fly home after classes ended, said they would not bother to return for the

Continued on page 3