Budget squeeze means extra fees

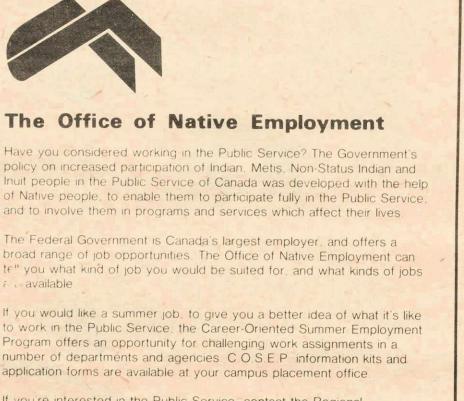
by Donald D. Betts, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science Students as well as faculty

tion. Each faculty, and within the of Arts and Science salaries very hard to achieve the neces- Ontario university with which Faculty of Arts and Science, each department, has been instructed members at Dalhousie must by to budget for a 4.76% increase in now be well aware of this univer- net expenditures assuming a 12% sity's very difficult financial posi- increase in salaries. In the Faculty

ently insoluble equation.

departments have been working

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amount to over 95% of the sary savings. After several weeks Dalhousie likes to compare itself, their budgets yet, with one exception, had not met their targets. increased and one of the most obvious ways of doing so was to charges a field expense fee of impose extra fees for laboratory classes. After all, laboratory classes take up more space, and instructors and use more classes, in short, they are more produce. expensive.

> The current proposal is that for undergraduate classes with weekly laboratories a fee of \$20 be added to the tuition fee for each half class. This fee would be collected in the usual way by the Business Office. The extra income generated is estimated to be about \$100,000. This income would be devoted entirely to the direct costs of running the laboratories, such as purchases of chemicals and other supplies, payment of undergraduate student demonstrators, etc.

When I was an undergraduate science student at Dalhousie in the 1940's student fees were \$30 per non-laboratory class and \$50 per laboratory class. With subsequent inflation these figures today would be about ten times as much. Dalhousie continued to charge laboratory fees until 1961-62, by which time the amount had declined to \$15.

At present, several other Canadian universities do have various types of special lab fees, musical and prestigious medium sized laboratory classes.

budget, which leads to a appar- of effort, the experimental science I have learned from the Dean departments had done everything there that the following fees are During the past three months contractually possible to reduce charged: the Department of Music charges a concert fee, an instrument maintenance fee and Clearly revenues had to be a locker fee for a total of \$150 per year. The Department of Geology \$100 per year. The Department of Chemistry charges \$25 per year for laboratory chemicals. In lieu require more time of professors of a lab fee, the Department of Computing Science charges \$70 supplies than do non-laboratory for notes which cost \$20 to

Dalhousie is unique among Nova Scotia and indeed Maritime universities in the number and size of its professional schools. Some of these professional schools, such as the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, are, on a per student basis, very expensive to operate compared with the Faculty of Arts and Science. For this reason students in such schools pay higher tuition fees than Arts and Science students. I am in favour of an even greater differential fee for these professional faculties. The Arts and Science faculties at other Nova Scotia universities do not subsidize the province's one-of-a-kind professional schools. Neither should the Dalhousie Arts and Science Faculty merely because these professional faculties are part of Dalhousie. I know my fellow Deans on the Carleton campus agree. Similarly there is no good reason that Arts students should subsidize Science students.

I hope and do believe that students will understand and accept applied skills fees, etc. At one old the necessity for higher fees for

Fees inequitable

by Caroline Zayid, President, ties. The government's funding **Dalhousie Science Society**

housie Student Union and the pass on limited budgets to the Science Society have passed departments. The Dean and his motions firmly opposing the department heads see lab fees as imposition of lab fees. This oppo- a way of meeting Mr. Shaw's sition is based on the principle budget at the expense of stuthat all areas of education should dents. This is unacceptable. be equally accessible.

education. The federal and pro- nors, through tuition fees. vincial governments are emphaslies is blatantly irresponsible.

groups. This is hardly surprising, tion fees for. when one considers that Dalhousie University has one of the ensured.

sidering lab fees because the uni- should not expect any less than a versity is facing financial difficul- hard fight.

has been inadequate and the In recent weeks, both the Dal- administration has been forced to

Students pay fees (high fees!) Students have opposed the dif- to the administration and it must ferential fees imposed against not be possible for every departprofessional schools, commerce ment to institute their own sourstudents, etc., and we view lab ces of revenue. If the money is fees as a more devious means of needed we believe it should be restricting accessibility to science raised, by the Board of Gover-

Arguments have been made izing the importance of scientific that lab costs are rising rapidly and technical education. To limit and that, morally, science stuopportunities in these areas to dents should pay some sort of students from high income fami- user-pay tax. The Dean has indicated that lab fees may well be A study conducted by the Stu- charged even in courses where dent Union revealed that Dal- lab costs are minimal simply to housie students, in general, tend offset general operating costs. to come from high income Clearly, this is what we pay tui-

If lab fees are imposed against highest tuition fees in the coun- science students this year, other try, in a region where summer students can expect charges for employment opportunities are so language labs, music rooms, and limited. The question of accessi- library use soon. The Student bility must be taken more Union and the Science Society seriously and, in particular, equal are committed to opposing the accessibility to all fields must be proliferation of hidden costs and mini-fees. The administration We realize that Dean Betts and may have abandoned the idea of the department heads are con- equal accessibility but they