

Presidential short list leaked

by Tom Regan

The short list of the Dalhousie Presidential Selection Committee containing the names of the four final candidates for the position of president at Dalhousie has been leaked to the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

The names were made known to the *Dalhousie Gazette* over the phone Monday by a caller who refused to identify himself. The caller, who said he was close to the Selection Committee, said he was leaking the names because he felt the whole college should be made aware of the people that the University was considering to replace Henry Hicks. The caller said this would insure that a wider range of opinions and options would be made available.

The caller identified the four candidates as Robert Fleck, of the Ontario Art College in Toronto; E.A. (Peter) Robinson, dean of Erindale College in Toronto; A. Chant, a zoologist from the University of Toronto; and Andrew MacKay, vice-president of Dalhousie University.

All the names identified by the caller have been confirmed by two members of the Selection Committee who also asked to remain unidentified.

Members of the Selection Committee reacted angrily when informed of the leak. Graham Wells, vice-president of the Dal Student Union and the student member on the Committee, laid the blame for

the leak on the shoulders of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA).

"Whether or not they admit to it, it is a deliberate breach of confidence on the part of the DFA," said Wells.

"Two-thirds of the Short List would not have allowed their names to stand if they didn't have reasonable confidentiality."

Wells said the charges the DFA had made about the "cloistered" nature of the Selection Committee were "absolute rubbish".

"All groups on campus were given representation on the Committee," said Wells. The DFA had three members before they withdrew, students had a member. At least 40 people have knowledge of the short list and have been consulted. It is no question of not being representative."

Wells said the leak could seriously effect the process of selecting a president.

"We face the chance of losing some top quality candidates if this list becomes public knowledge", said Wells. "These men have highly paid, good positions elsewhere. We had to entice them to come here. They applied in confidence and we feel confidence should be kept. If the list is let out we face the prospect of facing a situation like York or University of New Brunswick. When the list became public at York all six candidates withdrew and when they released the names

at UNB the selection process turned into a bear pit."

Dick Matthews, president of the Student Union and one of the 40 people who knew the names on the short list, said the situation was totally reprehensible.

"It's a form of anarchy", said Matthews. "This person

has gone against the wishes of the senate, the board of governors, the students. He's released information that is totally confidential to specific members of the university community. It's a terrible, terrible outrage."

Matthews said the leak will upset many of the groups on

campus.

"Every group on campus should be at least insulted that a certain group has

broken the rules that all of the others agreed to. I wouldn't be surprised to hear that the other groups on campus will

be very angry over this leak."

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Withdraws from committee

Faculty wants broader debate

by Paul Clark

The Dal Faculty Association (DFA) sub committee has withdrawn from participation in the process of selecting a new Dalhousie president over a "fundamental disagreement over openness of discussion."

"The (Presidential) Search Committee refused to allow us to breach confidentiality and we decided to withdraw from discussion rather than be involved with a process we disagree with," said Susan Sherwin, president of the DFA.

The DFA subcommittee had been invited to participate in an advisory capacity in the selection process with the Presidential Search Committee (PSC). The decision for a replacement for Henry Hicks has always rested with the PSC which is composed of three members of the Board of Governors (BOG), three representatives from Senate and one student. The BOG must ratify this decision.

A DFA newsletter written this November 20, called "The Making of the President", says that from the Subcommittee's first September 28th meeting with the DSC, they "urged a broadened and more open procedure upon the Committee." But "concrete procedures" were left unclear, regarding the function of the committee and the extent to which discussion with other faculty members was permitted, the newsletter says.

Dr. H. Cooke, co-chairman of PSC, and Sherwin exchanged letters and there was a PSC-subcommittee meeting on November 15. But "the problem of the lack of exposure of the internal candidates

was not resolved, nor were the final procedures of interview and selection fixed," the newsletter states.

Another letter, arising from an "emergency meeting" of the DFA Executive, was sent and was responded to by a reaffirmation of the PSC's position that information on candidates is "not to be communicated to other members of the Dalhousie community", the newsletter says.

As a consequence of the DFA executive's belief "that a process open to the Dalhousie community is necessary to the successful selection of a new President", and the Board of Governor's refusal to loosen its confidentiality requirements, a November 26 newsletter says the DFA Executive has moved to tell "its subcommittee to withdraw from further participation in this process."

The newsletter concludes, "Unless the Search Committee is convinced to reconsider its procedures, the air of mystery will continue until then. No one can know if faculty members support their choice until after the fact."

PSC co-chairman Cook, asked about the correctness of the account given in the newsletters, said, "There is nothing wrong in the first newsletter, except that only partial facts were given." He didn't comment on the second newsletter.

He said there was a "very clear understanding" from the beginning that the Search Committee wanted to keep discussions confidential.

Cooke said that confidentiality about the selection processes was needed to avoid a situation like that of the

University of York, where the names of the five presidential candidates were announced and all of them withdrew.

He also cited the University of New Brunswick (UNB) where "everything was open, with the end result they failed to get a president".

Cooke said he wanted to "steer a middle course" between total secrecy and total openness, allowing a "reasonable sounding board of 40 people" to participate.

Asked if he thought students and the general faculty should have a right to know and discuss what was going on, he said he didn't think it a "particularly good idea".

"It would be embarrassing (to a presidential candidate) to have it announced he was brought in, but wasn't good enough".

He said some candidates, when approached about the position had said, "Yes, they would be interested, on the understanding that it was confidential".

Supporting openness for the selection process, the DFA's November 20 newsletter says that, in spite of press reports, Professor I. Unger, chairman of UNB's Presidential Search Committee, "terms a success UNB's astoundingly open method of interviewing candidates".

Also, at St. Mary's and the University of Prince Edward Island, it is claimed, "broad faculty input was received following the general circulation of the names of the short list of candidates".

SUNS

Government input

WOLFVILLE (CUP)—In an effort to make the provincial government more aware of student concerns for post-secondary education the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) will co-ordinate a postcard campaign, draft a brief, and try to meet with the provincial cabinet.

The strategy was decided by delegates from eight institutions at a conference November 24 and 25.

The postcards, emphasizing the need for increased government funding and no tuition hikes, will be presented to the government in January.

"The idea is to lobby before any announcements are made," said Mike McNeil, SUNS chairperson.

"Students can be in a better position than just responding. It's harder to change the government's mind afterwards because it looks like they're backing down," he said.

McNeil said if the cabinet would not meet with them the postcards and accompanying brief would be presented to whoever would.

SUNS will also be meeting with the provincial department of development. The department administers various employment programs containing about 3,000 jobs. 85 percent of the positions are filled by students and youths.

McNeil said the department will run down the entire program and outline the constraints they are under.

"SUNS will offer any improvements we see to ensure as many students as possible are employed," he said.

Education Minister Terrence Donahoe has spoken out against increasing the debt load in the student aid plan, McNeil told the conference. Donahoe joins the education ministers from Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan in opposing increases in the loan ceiling, he said.

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