

MPHEC meets with Dal and student reps

by Paul Creelman

MPHEC is taking the wrong tack in their proposed funding outlook for the 1980's, according to Student Union President Gord Owen. Owen was the student observer at the MPHEC hearings which were held at Dal before Christmas to inform both university and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission about the outlook they each had for funding of post-secondary education in the next decade.

"The commission presented described the role that they see they will be playing in the next few years because of declining enrollment and duplication of services," said Owen.

"They see MPHEC as becoming more involved in the decision of where money is being awarded to support specific programs. I think that's a bad reflection on a trend for MPHEC funding to take. There has been talk of about encroachment on the academic freedom and integrity of universities. Rather than settling their own direction, they will be essentially forced to expand into areas

which MPHEC sees as not being adequately served and to get out of areas where the MPHEC sees duplicated services."

Owen adds that he thinks such a move by MPHEC would in fact be a considerable encroachment of academic freedom, and that the quality of education the students receive could also be adversely affected.

President MacKay says that Dalhousie already co-operates with other institutions, and doesn't see duplication of services as a problem connected with Dal.

"It's often suggested that more duplication of services exists in the region that in fact exists. Certainly there's not much duplication in the professional or graduate degree programs. Whatever duplication does occur would be in the undergraduate programs. However, it's awfully hard to look at these classes as duplication of effort. For instance, certain classes or sections may be duplicated from place to place. Everybody has lots of English classes, but it's hard to see how that could be a duplica-

tion. We're just providing what the students are asking for."

MacKay emphasizes that Dalhousie is planning on continuation of its co-operation with other institutions in the area and with the surrounding community in order to co-ordinate the needs and programs being operated.

MacKay stated that during the hearings, Dalhousie had submitted a draft on the goals of Dalhousie, and mentioned

several several particular areas of concern at Dalhousie. Without going into details of the brief (which is about 25 pages long), he noted that it contained problems Dal is having with funding right now, including some cases in which the administration is concerned its programs are not properly recognized or accounted for in the funding procedures. As examples, MacKay mentioned that the medical education programs

at Dalhousie have a significant role in the entire region, and stated his concern that it has not received appropriate funding. Also, the university's doctorate program in clinical psychology has been approved by one of the MPHEC commissions but not by MPHEC itself, and MacKay said that the university could be left in an "embarrassing position" if it finds it will not be supplied with the funds to support this program.

Rans back on council

by Alan Christensen

Peter Rans, the outspoken former Grad rep, is back on Dalhousie Student Council.

The move came as a result of a complicated shakeup at a meeting of the Graduate Society Council Monday night. It began when DAGS President Jim Philips made known his desire to resign. Philips, however, was unable to resign because there was no vice-president to replace him. The DAGS Council then made the decision to appoint Terry Dyer, who had replaced Rans as the Grad Rep on Council, as the new vice-president of DAGS. When Philips resigned, he was thus replaced by Dyer and the DAGS Council then decided to bring back Rans as their representative with Student Council.

Rans, who called his return an "accident", said that he decided to accept the position because the DAGS Council wanted him back and that he was the only one with the knowledge and desire to go back. He promised that he would continue to be outspoken as before, saying that he wouldn't be doing his job if he didn't speak out.

He said that he will be particularly concerned with SUNS and its role in voicing student concerns. The Grad Rep said that SUNS and the Dalhousie Student Union "are at a crossroad". They must, he stated, make themselves effective or "they will cease to have credibility" with stu-

dents.

Rans also stated that students don't have all the information about what is going on with these issues and that "student interest is not necessarily the same as

student opinion". He praised the "Proposal of Action for the SUNS Campus Committee", a strategy paper produced by Carolyn Zayid and Atul Sharma, calling it the "best short-term plan for action".

Funding recommendations

HALIFAX (CUP) — Government operating assistance for the maritime provinces' 21 post-secondary institutions will climb 10.3 per cent next year, if provincial governments accept the recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The commission's funding recommendations, released Wednesday, call for a total of \$198 million in provincial grants to colleges and universities.

The MPHEC also suggested an additional 0.75 per cent "equalization assistance" for eight Nova Scotian institutions. "These are institutions which have had historically low levels of support," said MPHEC researcher Margaret Smith. She said additional fun-

ding would bring these institutions on an equitable basis with other maritime schools.

Special program expansion grants suggested for PEI's Holland Community College and the Dalhousie School of Dentistry call for an additional extra 0.55 per cent in funding levels for these projects. Larry Durling, the commission's Director of Financial Planning, said these grants, if accepted, would be provided apart from the operating grants to the institutions receiving them.

MPHEC recommendations are studied by the Council of Maritime Premiers and do not bind the individual provinces. All three maritime provinces accepted last year's operating level recommendation of 8.1 per cent.

Jacobs case still alive and kicking

by Greg Dennis

Dalhousie president Andrew MacKay is handing the ball back to the university's Athletic Department in hopes those involved will deal accordingly with the controversial Peter Jacobs case.

But, in the meantime, the Dalhousie Student Union and the assistant ombudsman have vowed to continue the fight against what DSU president Gord Owen calls a "deplorable" decision.

MacKay, while still opposed to and unhappy with the decision made by men's volleyball coach Al Scott to disallow Jacob's active participation on the team because of his hair length, says he does not want to second guess Scott by overruling the decision.

"I don't think, on the basic

way we've operated in the past, Mr. Scott and his colleagues felt they did anything out of line," the president said. However, he did make it clear he was "not happy in that I wouldn't have come to the same conclusion." MacKay is also president of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

MacKay has asked the Athletic Department to issue a statement of policy or a set of guidelines outlining the standard of dress and conduct of all Dalhousie athletes. MacKay hopes that "athletic and physical qualities which best represent the university" will be the prime moving force behind the selection of varsity team members. He also said possible opinions expressed

towards Dalhousie athletes by opposition players or spectators should not be considered; a reference to Athletic Director Ken Bellemare's statement that a long-haired volleyball player might make for an unnecessary comment on the team.

Bellemare, who stood 100 per cent behind Scott's decision, said he and the school's coaches will be meeting to review the current guidelines followed by the department. Amendments concerning issues like the Jacobs case will be decided by the staff.

However, Owen and assistant ombudsman Shauna Sullivan are not too confident that a statement of policy will rectify Jacob's situation. Both are thinking about taking the

case to the university Senate.

Sullivan, who has been fighting the decision on behalf of Jacobs since October, said she started thinking about going to the Senate after hearing that MacKay could or would do little but ask for a set of guidelines. "That's the answer we got for all we went through," she said. "We've used a lot of our guns already in the Ombudsman's office so now we're thinking of going to the student reps in Senate. If President MacKay can't tell Bellemare what to do then presumably the Senate is the only one that can."

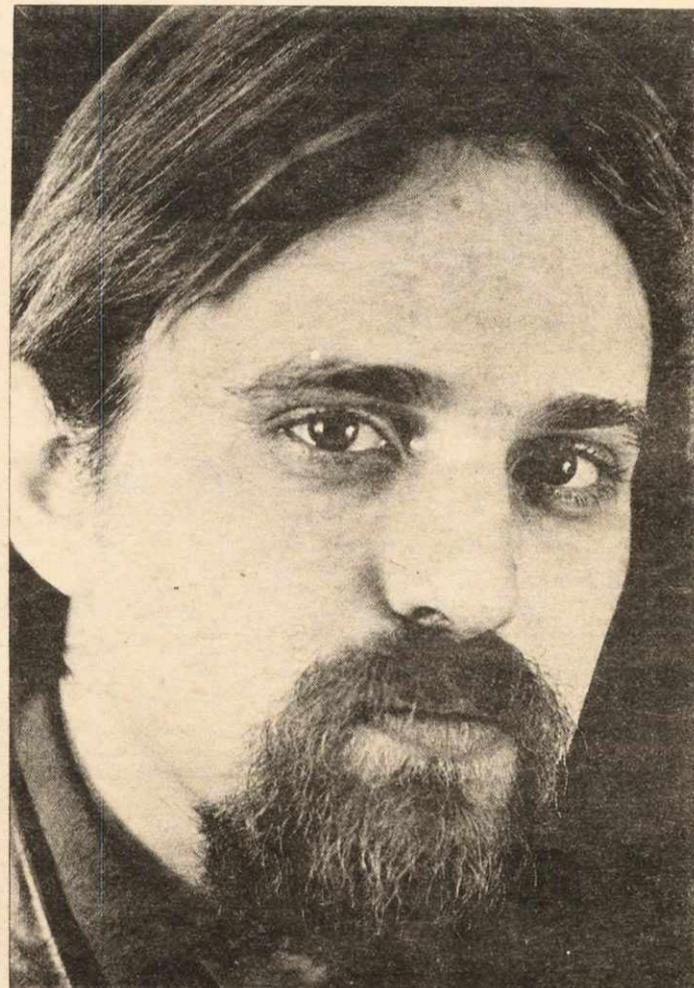
"We still think the decision is unjustified and deplorable," said Owen on behalf of the student government. "I intend to see if we can get the

decision reversed. There's still next year and next year; Peter's still going to be around."

"Some people (in the Athletic Department) think we're going to sit back now that we've blown off a little steam and let things take their course. No one is going to sit back at this point."

MacKay said it was possible that Senate might overrule the cutting of Jacobs but added "my guess is the most they would do is condemn the decision."

The Senate, which sits on the second Monday of every month, consists of 236 members, including representatives from all departments and six students (five elected and Owen).



Peter Rans, an active member of council earlier this year is now back and is expected to resume his high profile position.