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SU Prez member of administration-appointed Board of Trustees

Fox in a conflict of interest?

By SHELLY NELSON

The first major issue to confront Larry Fox as SRC President is that of a call of conflict of interest. This issue was raised when it was discovered that Fox served on the Board of Trustees and as SRC President.

At the January 14th meeting of the SRC council, Fox was questioned as to his voting procedure in the closed door meetings of the Board of Trustees. He first responded by stating that he had, and always will, whole heartedly support the CSL Exchange. However, when pressed as to his actual vote, he revealed that he had abstained.

In an interview with the *Brunswickan*, Fox stated that the motion was proposed at the Board of Trustees meeting was one that would:

- 1) Extend the closure date of the CSL Exchange to December 12.
- 2) Have the Auditing company of Touche-Ross audit the Student Union's books, a task usually done by John Weatherhead.
- 3) Ask the back rent of the CSL Exchange be paid.

As Fox pointed out, to vote a definite "yes" or "no" would defeat the purpose of the vote. Instead, Fox chose to abstain as "he felt he was a student Union president presenting the (proposal)".



SU President Larry Fox.
Photo by Anne Fraser

EUS Publication Engineering Weekend?

What? Engineering Weekend? That's right. If anyone took part in Engineering Week you know it was a good time. So, EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) plans to have an Engineering Weekend Thursday, January 31st to Saturday, February 2nd.

The weekend will start Thursday with the Geological Engineer's "Ski Day." That night the Survey Engineers will host "Night at the Chestnut" to quench your thirsts. Friday afternoon, the Chemical Engineers will judge the homemade brew and bottle labels. Friday night, the Mechanical Engineers will show us a fun time with skating, sliding, sleigh riding and sloshing at Mactaquac. Saturday, the Civil Engineers will organize broomball in front of the Riverview Arms (with half times to be spent inside). That night there will be a pub at the Riverview Arms with a Merv Burger Platter and beverage for \$1.99 to end the weekend.

All Ye Engineers are invited an anyone else who wants to attend is welcome. Keep your eyes open for posters in Head Hall detailing these events and plan your Engineering Weekend. Participate now. See you at Engineering Weekend.

On the matter of a "conflict of interest" Fox revealed that the Board of Trustees will disband after this week, as will his position on the board.

John Webster, who is the chairman of SUB Trustees, stated that the dissolution of the present Board will be decided at the next Board of Governors meeting, being held this Friday. This was confirmed

by Dr. Woodfield, University Secretary. If this motion passes, the Board of Trustees will be replaced by a "Board of Directors for the SUB", according to Webster.

It is believed that Larry Fox will be serving on this committee "to avoid the fiasco that occurred this summer." His role will be that of a non-voting ex-officio member, although he

will bring proposals forward. Fox sees no conflict of interest arising while serving on this committee. His idea of a conflict of interest, he states, occurs when an individual brings forward a proposal from which only he can gain and then votes on that same proposal. Because Fox will not be voting on his proposals, he contends that there will be no conflict of interest.

Students caught in middle

Dalhousie Faculty to strike?

By CORINNE BOONE and LOIS CORBETT
Brunswickan and Aquinian Staff

Some students of Dalhousie may be facing more than the dreaded 8:30 classes if the Dalhousie Faculty Association pickets that university on Monday.

The DFA have threatened full strike action if there is no progress with contract negotiations over the weekend.

The faculty picketed the campus in a one day strike on January 16.

And students are in a bind. While some students respect the faculty strike and don't want to cross picket lines, they feel threatened. Some think that if they don't cross they stand to lose marks for class participation, exams and late term papers.

The Dalhousie Student Union has been accused of being fence sitters. Student Union President Alex Gigeroff says that the accusation may be true, but only to the extent that Union is not saying faculty is 100 percent right and not saying the Administration is 100 percent right.

"The Banshees who scream for faculty support just aren't looking at both sides," said Gigeroff in an interview.

Gigeroff said, "The university is in a difficult financial position. Because Dalhousie is underfunded by the provincial government it cannot meet the demands of the faculty."

Dal faces a 25 million accumulated deficit and the administration, fearing money penalties from provincial government for having a debt in excess of a certain percentage of its operating grant, refuses to increase faculty's salaries substantially.



The Student Council is offering strike information to students through a special bulletin and making every effort to ensure students who respect picket lines will not be penalized.

Gigeroff said that as far as the Student Union is concerned the issue is not whether or not the faculty have the right to strike.

"They need the right. If that is taken away then it would be like what happened in British Columbia. We'd have a Bill Bennet saying, "No university is an essential service," and stripping them of that right."

The faculty want the administration to start paying into its pension fund, which it stopped doing in the spring, and to grant them a salary increase comparable with those awarded to other Nova Scotia university faculty. The administration has offered a 12 percent increase over two years, but faculty members say the increase only amounts to 4.6 percent annually, at least two percent less than other associations were granted, when additional factors are considered.

Full-time faculty salaries at Dalhousie range between 19,000 dollars and 67,000 dollars a year. Full-time salaries at Trent will now average between 26,000 dollars and 61,000 dollars.

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