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Proposed cuts reflect tough times

Students unwilling to take hike

by Marie MacPherson

Dalhousie students have been informed, once again, that they will face an annual tuition fee increase of 10 per cent each year until 1996. The Budget Advisory Committee has also recommended the implementation of further differential fee increases for selected programs and for all foreign students as part of an effort to avoid a projected \$16.1 million annual operating budget deficit.

In a speech on September 22, President Howard Clark also put his support behind recommendations to reduce budgets for all faculties, and personally advocated the closing of the music, theatre, costume studies, public administration and possibly the library and information studies programs.

Clark told a packed room at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium that, "Doing nothing is not an option... Dalhousie would decline into mediocrity."

Citing frequently that the proposed cutbacks were consistent with the "central mission" of the university, Clark stated that "the average student at Dalhousie pays less than a quarter of

the cost of their education."

Fraser Matte, Treasurer of the Dalhousie Student Union, has a conflicting opinion regarding the cutbacks. "My personal opinion of the [BAC] report starts on the very first page and ends there. I don't think that the result they have produced is consistent with many of the mandates and objectives outlined."

"For example, the idea of including in clause six of the university's mission statement the word 'innovative'. By no means is this an innovative report. They have been doing this [raising tuition] for the last five years, and they will continue for the next three years," says Matte.

"I think something really innovative would be to give a hiatus to the entire business school and have them scour the campus. They could review every department and all financial aspects, and offer their recommendations."

Matte also points to the lack of administrative cuts in the BAC's report. "It seems to me if you have a dwindling campus, and have had for a while, there can't be as much to administer."

The Budget Advisory Committee has also recommended that the foreign student differential fee be raised from \$1700 to \$2700. Lynn Atwell of the International Student Centre objects to this proposal. She says, "I understand that Dalhousie has a crunch, but at the same time I worry about students in developing countries that don't have the personal money to come [to study in Canada] or the political strength to have someone in their government either sponsor them personally or to sponsor them through the Canadian International Development Agency."

"If we really want to make this campus international and have a global outlook, we have to reach the students who cannot afford to get here and, at the same time, have no way of being sponsored," she added.

The new fee structure is also designed to increase the fees in programs such as medicine, dentistry, and law by \$1,000 over three years; science and education by \$500 as well as their masters programs by \$450 for theses.

Daphne Loukidelis, Vice-President External for the Law Students Society, says, "The fee increase is a perfect example of the university shooting itself in the foot."

"Howard Clark is being extremely short-sighted and out of touch. Dal Law already has the highest fees in the country and has recently suffered a decrease in the number of applications."

Loukidelis adds, "By raising tuition so drastically, the calibre of students will go down and accessibility will be limited. And in terms of revenue generation, law alumni already bring in a lot of capital for the university."

The 10 per cent increase plus additional differential fees will result in projected tuition fees of \$5,565 for law school in 1996, \$5,715 for medicine, and \$3,534 for undergraduate arts and social sciences.



DALPHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

Above: Two Dalhousie students listen at the press conference held on September 28 to oppose President Howard Clark's proposed program cuts. Clark's recommendations provoked a powerful emotional response from those who packed the Dunn Theatre. Over thirty concerned speakers presented testimony in support of the visual and performing arts. Among them were members of many arts organizations, local political figures and representatives of Dalhousie. Evoking the strongest response, Georg Timmer, quoting Einstein, recalled that "all discoveries are made, not by calculation, but by inspiration." Asserting the importance of the Departments of Music, Theatre, Costume Studies and the Art Gallery, those involved continually reaffirmed that these programs are part of an interdependent support network in the larger community. This network serves as inspiration which, as Barbara Richman said, "open[s] a lot of minds to new ideas and ways of looking at the world."

At right: Clark and Dalhousie Board of Governors Chair Allan Shaw listen while the Budget Advisory Committee's plan is presented to the university community on September 22.



PHOTO: GAZETTE STAFF

CFS's worth to be debated

by Robert Drinkwater

The Dalhousie Student Union voted several weeks ago to delay a referendum on a proposed increase in the fee for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a national student lobby organization.

The DSU Council had originally scheduled a vote for this fall on whether to accept a hike in CFS fees from four dollars per student to six dollars. It was soon realized, however, that the DSU's constitution prohibits a referendum from being held outside of the normal winter semester voting period.

Michelle Brazil, the CFS fieldworker for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, says the fee increase was proposed at the CFS plenary in May. She says a motion was passed that would see fees increase from four to six dollars, and that the fee would in future rise with the cost of living. If the fee structure is approved by 80% of the student associations in CFS, then Brazil says the

increase will be imposed on all. The final decision, she says, will be made at the May plenary in 1994.

Brazil says the fee increase is necessary to keep up with the cost of living. She explains that CFS fees were set at four dollars in 1981, and have never been increased. Fee increases were proposed in 1986, but Brazil says that the CFS decided to channel profits from its businesses, such as Travel CUTS, into its political arm. With the recession, she explains that money from these sources have been greatly reduced.

"If it isn't passed," Brazil says, "then the Canadian Federation of Students plenary is going to have to take it upon itself to curb some of its activities, or arrange some other way of generating revenue." She says that the final decision on fees will be made by CFS in May 1994.

Though Dalhousie students will not be asked for their opinion on the fee increase until the spring, some on campus are already beginning to debate the

issue, while others are questioning whether the DSU should even bother to continue as members of CFS.

Rod MacLeod, a student representative of the Faculty of Management on Senate, doesn't think the DSU is getting its money's worth from CFS. He is particularly critical of the organization for taking positions on matters which he says are not student issues. He's upset that CFS sponsors anti-NAFTA conferences, opposes cuts to the CBC, and is officially against any increases in military spending.

"CFS has grown into an organization which, frankly, has lost touch with the students it receives its money from," says MacLeod.

MacLeod claims the only concrete piece of evidence that CFS even exists is its travel agency, and the Student Saver discount card. He maintains that Travel CUTS would likely remain on campus if Dalhousie leaves CFS, as has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

INSIDE:
Psycho soccer
Halifax Pop explodes
Letters, letters, letters
Science section debuts
and much more...