

## CROSS CANADA

## CFUW survey women's concerns

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Canada's universities are being surveyed to find out how they deal with women's concerns.

The Canadian Federation of University Women, a national alumni group, is surveying university faculty groups, students and administrators, said CFUW president Peggy Matheson.

"We expect to have the kind of report that will be impossible to ignore," she said. The organization wants to aid universities in determining how to help women, she added.

The survey asks whether the university has an effective sexual harassment policy, and whether it ensures physical safety for women on campus. It also inquires about employment equity, tenure and curriculum issues.

Anne Innis Dagg, an academic advisor for the University of Waterloo in Ontario, co-authored a 1988 book on women in Canadian universities. She said the survey is very important.

"I suspect that they'll find that things are getting worse against women, especially with sexual harassment, because women are starting to speak out," Dagg said.

She said she is pleased the survey addresses gender bias in university curricula.

"We have 53 per cent of undergraduates being women, but what they are getting is still this male-based curriculum that is sometimes destructive of their self-esteem by implying that women are unimportant."

Nancy Hepinstall, the national women's commissioner for the Canadian Federation of Students, said the situation for female students varies widely across the country.

"Today's students are also tomorrow's professors, and tomorrow's developers of curriculum, and they'll be the ones that will be turned on or off by the current academic climate, and that is important to recognize," she said.

She said the survey will be very useful for feminist activists, who will be able to use data to back up their claims of discrimination.

"It will be good to point to numbers or findings in the survey when it comes out and say 'Look, there are problems and it's not just us who are saying that there are.'"

## Aids in the workplace controversy

MONTREAL (CUP) — Quebec's guidelines for dealing with AIDS in the workplace will do little to eliminate discrimination, says a member of a Montreal AIDS activist group.

The province's health ministry recently published a 51-page booklet entitled "AIDS in the Workplace: Let's do something about it." The brochure is supposed to help businesses deal with harassment and discrimination against HIV-positive employees.

Douglas Buckley, a member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), said the document doesn't do enough. "It hasn't gone far enough to give incentives to commercial employers to promote humane treatment [of HIV-positive employees]," he said. "It only suggests that private businesses follow the public sectors' example."

The booklet suggests ways to distribute AIDS information to employees, offers AIDS hotline numbers, and lists videos about dealing with AIDS in the workplace.

Nicole Marois, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, said the brochure is a step toward ending AIDS discrimination in the workplace. An "impact committee" will evaluate the effectiveness of the document, she added.

## Indecisive SEED funding

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government is stalling its annual announcement on summer employment funding, fuelling speculation about a cut to a popular program.

Funding for the Challenge Initiative is usually announced early in the year, but not a word has been spoken about money for 1992. The federal program funds SEED (Summer Employment/ Experience Development) which provides wage subsidies to employers creating summer jobs for students.

Last year, the Progressive Conservative government increased by \$3 million over 1990, bringing the total up to \$80 million. That marked the first boost to the program since the program was introduced in 1985 with a budget of \$149.3 million.

Since then, announcements about the program have usually been characterized by cuts, much to the chagrin of students. At its peak in 1985, SEED helped create 87,000 jobs, while in 1990, the number had dropped to only 47,000.

The national average unemployment rate for students last summer hit 14.5 per cent.

## NEWS

## BoG cuts accessibility

BY JENNIFER BECK

It looks like one accessible Board of Governors meeting is all students will get. The Executive Council of the Board of Governors has reacted to student's demands for accountability and openness by becoming more exclusive.

During its most recent meeting on February 16, the Board of Governors Executive Council decided to consider a new structure for the Board. Under the new plan, the Board in its entirety will meet only four times over the course of the year. The Executive Council will meet regularly, every two weeks.

Presently, the Executive Council consists of the President (Howard Clark), the Chair of the Board, and the chair of each Board committee. Dalhousie Student Union President Peter Pottier is concerned about the lack of student representation on the Executive.

*"This closes the door on student responses"*

"Presumably the structure of the Executive will be altered to include a student representative: that is, the student council president," says Pottier.

Theoretically, this puts the student council president in a position of greater power, but in reality the student representative has little immediate influence on decisions made by the executive.

"Any student council president on the Executive will have no real immediate power. He or she will have to first report to the student council before acting [within] the executive. This really closes the door

on student responses," says Pottier.

On March 17 the entire 55-member Board will meet to discuss the Executive's proposed changes. The Executive need not seek the approval of the Board in order to pass the proposals.

"Everyone I've spoken to [on the Board] hasn't liked the change. In fact, the Premier said to me that the

Board of Governors was neither as accountable nor as responsible as they should be. There are 27 provincial appointees on the Board; hopefully they will raise some debate at the March 17 meeting," says Pottier.

"After the open Board meeting, where so many ideas were circulated and so much was aired, this cutback is really frustrating," says Pottier.

## Society changes name

BY MARIBEL T. REYES

Dal Mature Students Association is now Dal OPTAMUS. The new acronym stands for Dalhousie Organization of Part Time and Mature University Students. At the Feb. 28 general meeting DMSA voted overwhelmingly to change their society name.

"We hope that Dal OPTAMUS will better reflect the optimism and positive outlook of mature students," said Neil Mellors, the new president.

According to Mellors, "This acronym should provide better recognition of the issues and problems that face mature students and for the organization as a whole."

During the Feb. 28 meeting a new executive was placed in office for the 1992/93 year. The newly elected executive consists of Neil Mellors, president and Ciona MacSween, vice-president.

"The goals for the upcoming year are to continue to build on the high profile activities of September's "Return to Learn" and January's "Safe Sex Week." The feedback we received indicates that both activities were well received and thought to have been of benefit," Mellors said.

MacSween and Mellors indicate they will carry on talks with other

groups on campus.

"We'll continue Dal OPTAMUS' constructive dialogue with Henson College, Dal Student Union and the several departments of the University's administration," said Mellors. He feels that this ongoing interaction will benefit mature students.

"We'd also like to continue the fund raising efforts into the upcoming year and also promote Dal OPTAMUS both on and off campus," MacSween added.

Constitutional changes passed at the Feb. 28 meeting called for the inclusion of the new executive position of "past president" which Mellors said, "will give the new executive logistical support from the previous administration."

Also passed at the meeting was a motion to have four general meetings per academic year. MacSween said, "We hope this will give the members and other students on campus a better idea of when the general meetings will be held."

MacSween suggested that defined dates for meetings will be of benefit to members and executive alike. "Hopefully this change will provide students with a forum to participate freely in the issues and activities that are felt to be important to Dal OPTAMUS," she said.



Members of the Cultural Diversity Planning Committee meet to plan events. See Kalendar on pg. 19 for schedule.