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Score one for the students: New student Senate seat a mixed blessing

BY GINA STACK

Despite a new student seat, the representation of students on the Dalhousie Senate will actually be decreasing slightly next year.

The new seat, confirmed at Monday's Senate meeting, will result from the upcoming amalgamation between Dalhousie and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS).

In addition to the new student seat, there will be three new seats for the deans of TUNS' departments and one seat for the principal of the new college.

The new seat makes student representation on Senate five out of a total of 69 senators, instead of the previously-planned four out of 68. Despite the new senatorial position, student representation will actually drop by about half a percentage point on the new Senate in comparison to pre-amalgamation numbers.

Despite the lack of change of student power in Senate, student representative Dan Clark said that he is pleased with the new seat.

He said that the slight drop is irrelevant in light of the fact that it could have been a lot worse had Senate voted against creating a new student seat.

"Representation is still down, but we can live with that," Clark said.

"We have 2,000 more students to represent, and we needed the new seat to offset all these other new senate members."

Clark and Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) vice-president Chris Lydon worked together to organize the amendment to the motion regarding the four new ex-officio seats.

Lydon put forward the amendment and Clark seconded it at Monday's meeting. After about 10 minutes of debate, the amendment was unanimously adopted.

Clark said that he was surprised by Senate's reaction to the amendment.

"There was no real opposition to the new seat. It was a lot easier than we expected," said Clark.

"There was some resistance because of the problems the DSU

has been having with the TUNS student union, but after I explained that that was our internal problem and it has nothing to do with Senate, they basically agreed [to another student seat]."

Lydon was very pleased with the motion's unanimous adoption by Senate.

"It was a surprise that we got it," Lydon said.

"Increasing our representation, although the percentage stays static, is very unusual at any university, and on any university body quite frankly."

Lydon said that the new Senate seat will be added to the DSU's constitution at its meeting this Sunday.

Since the amalgamation will not be complete until after the DSU holds elections, Lydon said that a student from TUNS' engineering, architecture or computer science program will be appointed to the seat by the DSU council this summer. In the future, students from the college that TUNS is becoming will be able to run for the Senate seat.

Terry Martin soared as Dal beat UNB twice last weekend. The volleyball team stands at 8-0 and ranks 4th in the nation. See page 5.

The birth of Pink Triangle Day

On February 14th, 1979, the Pink Triangle Press — publishers of *The Body Politic*, the gay liberation journal — was acquitted in court on a charge of using the mails to distribute "obscene, indecent or scurrilous" material. The charges arose from the publication of an article by Gerald Hannon on pedophilia entitled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men". In the course of its defence, *The Body Politic* attracted support from writers, civil libertarians, and feminist anti-censorship activists across the country including novelist Margaret Atwood and the mayor of Toronto, John Sewell. *The Body Politic* was tried and acquitted twice more before the Conservative government of Ontario abandoned its prosecutions.

Later that year, the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition — meeting in Ottawa on Canada Day for the 7th annual Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men — proclaimed February 14th an annual Canadian lesbian and gay holiday to be known as Pink Triangle Day. The resolution originated with Halifax's Gay Alliance for Equality. The Alliance's delegate, Halifax activist and writer Robin Metcalfe, moved the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

"We recognize the importance of making known our history, so much of which has been lost or stolen, and particularly commemorating the victories of lesbians and gay men. Given the historic importance of the acquittal of the officers of the Pink Triangle Press as the first major legal victory for the Canadian gay movement, and given the fortuitous date of that victory, we propose a yearly celebration to mark the day.

"We realize that this date, February 14, has traditionally been celebrated as St. Valentine's Day and dedicated to the expression of heterosexual affection. We take this opportunity to challenge what

Christopher Isherwood has called 'the heterosexual dictatorship' by affirming, for ourselves and the world, the existence, the strength, and the beauty of gay love.

"A central symbol of St. Valentine's Day has been the figure of Cupid, derived from the ancient Greek Eros. We intend to make this day a celebration of Eros, both as a reality in our personal lives since coming out, and as a common political goal to be achieved. We therefore proclaim February 14 as an annual Canadian gay holiday to be known as Pink Triangle Day."

Thanks to Robin Metcalfe for this information on Pink Triangle Day.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

PINK TRIANGLE DAY

The Gazette's Pink Triangle Day Supplement begins on page 9. Celebrate the culture and history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Queer community.