

# Dalhousie Gazette

Vol. 104

January 28, 1972

Number 15

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## Student Senator influences decision

# Cheater brought before Senate

by Ken MacDougall

On Monday, January 17th, Senate met to discuss, among other things, recommendations made by the Senate Discipline Committee and Senate Council on the case of a student found cheating during the Christmas exams.

The student had sent another person to write the examination (a proxy), and the substitution was detected when the proxy

passed in the test. However, the proxy was not apprehended, and as he is apparently not a member of the university community, detaining him would have proven pointless.

The Senate Discipline Committee, composed of three members of faculty and two students, considered the particular merits of the case, and made the following recommendations to the Council: that

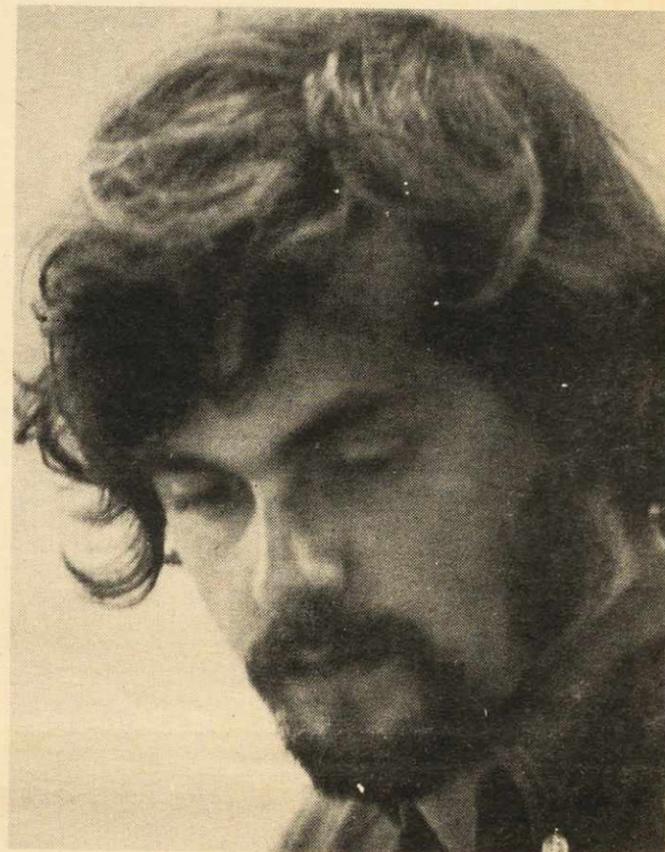
the student be required to withdraw from the course, but that no notation be made on his record; further, that identification procedures in examinations be tightened.

The Senate Council, feeling that the Discipline Committee's recommendations were not severe enough, in turn recommended that the student be required to withdraw from the course, that a notation to the effect that he was being required to withdraw from the course due to disciplining be placed on his record, and that the recommendation concerning tightening examination procedures be deferred at this time.

The Senate Council, the executive of Senate, is composed of twenty-two members of Senate, most of whom are senior officials of the university. Only eight of these officials are elected, and of the eight, only one is a student.

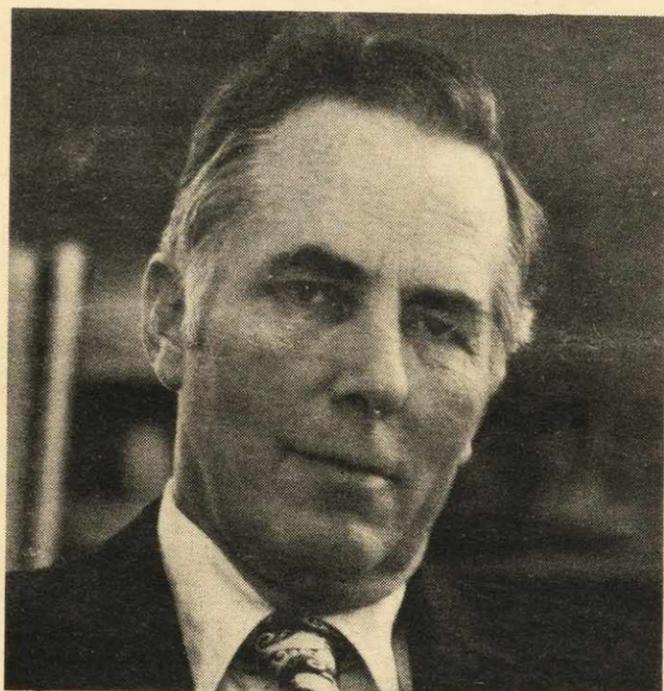
Student Senator Peter Harvison urged Senate to reconsider Council's stand. He felt that the case warranted some disciplinary action, but the case should be dealt with on its particular merits. This was the way the Discipline Committee had handled the situation.

Harvison's argument was supported by the other student



Student Senator Peter Harvison

ted coldwell/ dal photo



Dean of Dentistry J. McLean

dick kennedy/ dal photo

## "Dean Who"?

by Art Moses  
and Marg Bezanson

Ronald St. John MacDonald, the man who becomes Dean of Law at Dalhousie July 1, is best known to law students at the University of Toronto as "Dean Who".

The 43-year-old jurist earned the title for the very weak administration he has given the U of T Law School since becoming Dean in 1967.

Students active in attempts to alter curriculum and involve more students in faculty decision-making have found him friendly, but aloof. He has rarely been willing to initiate major reforms.

In fact, one leading student suggested that MacDonald has consistently abdicated his role to Associate Dean Ralph Scane and has accepted no active role in faculty politicking.

MacDonald's activity

probably reflects his closeness to diplomatic circles, having served as a consultant to Canada's delegation to the United Nations since 1966.

Some U of T law students were disappointed the Dean had spent so much time in outside interests that he devoted little attention to the law faculty.

"He has been an absentee dean and many law students are complaining that he spends too much time on business not directly related to the affairs of the school," a student representative said. "He doesn't command the respect of students and we never see him."

"But he is very authoritarian when decisions have to be made. When he is forced to, he does it himself."

MacDonald is not a staunch conservative. But he is hardly a progressive, and "Who's Who" lists the dean-designate as a

supporter of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Although students in recent years have acquired 10 seats on the 17-member faculty council at the U of T law school, most major decisions are made by the students' dean's office, and MacDonald appears reluctant to concede students more than an advisory role in decision-making.

Faced with decision-making power in his hands MacDonald has been slow to act, and has often allowed important issues to slide from day to day, while allowing Associate Dean Scane a relatively free hand in administering the faculty.

Dalhousie law students can expect few changes when MacDonald assumes office, except for increased emphasis on international law.

"I'm looking forward with  
con't. on p. 2

senators, Andrew Cochran and Brian Smith, Student Council president.

Smith felt that because the student was being prevented from graduating this year (the course in question was compulsory for his degree), that this was sufficient punishment. Further, the very fact that the student was required to drop the course was enough penalty, as the student was effectively prevented from applying to any of the professional schools, due to their rigid screening processes. The student would also lose an entire summer of productive labour due to the need of obtaining one credit from summer school.

Professor Burroughs, in a stinging attack on Senate Council's recommendations, stated that the need for a

notation on the student's record was the equivalent of carrying a "criminal record" the remainder of his productive labour life. He termed the punishment "grossly disproportionate to the offence".

Professors Flint, Waite and Cameron agreed with the student senators, although not necessarily for the same reasons as Burroughs.

Cameron felt that some stipulation must be made in the motion that the student be unable to register for additional half-courses. In this way, the Senate would be establishing some standard pattern for disciplining, although this addition to the motion would not apply to this student.

It is interesting to note that  
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