

Finally, staff association gets contract

by M.L. Hendry

After being eight months without a contract, the Dalhousie Staff Association last week ratified a new two-year contract by a margin of 475 to 22.

The contract includes wage rate increases of approximately 24.5 to 26.5 per cent over the two year period, retroactive to July 1, 1981 when their last contract expired.

Big issues in the bargaining, according to negotiating team member Nancy Robb, were job security and evaluation. Staff Association members gained some job security provisions, including the right to arrange meetings with the University before layoffs are implemented to try to relocate the person, and, if possible, train them for another job.

People who are laid off and on the recall list now have a better opportunity to be rehired for

jobs of different classifications, Robb said.

If new machinery or technology developments are introduced which would change or jeopardize a person's job, the university will now attempt to relocate the employee. "It's not a guarantee, but it's a foot in the door," Robb said.

"Usually people's job descriptions get changed and they don't get recognition in terms of classification or wage increases," she said.

The DSA also obtained the right for members to refuse an unsafe task, and the person won't have to work in that job pending a decision by the university's health and safety committee. And if a working area or job is being considered as unsafe, no other person can be asked to do the job, Robb said.

People in lower income groups received a slightly

higher increase than those in the upper levels, Robb said. "We tried to narrow the gap between high and low wage earners, but our demands weren't met," she said.

"We got some good changes but I think the DSA compromised a great deal," Robb said. "Writing a contract is a gradual process, hopefully in the next negotiation we'll be able to reap

more benefits for our membership."

The Staff Association recently voted by mail ballot against forming a union shop, a controversy in the last contract negotiation.

No fees, more tuition

by Greg Watson

On Tuesday, an announcement was made by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Donald Betts, that surprised some and pleased many. In response to objections by the students council, arts society and science society to the imposition of differential fees for laboratory science classes, the Financial Planning Committee unanimously carried the following motion:

moved (Erskine/Osberg) that, "in light of expressed student concern brought forward by the Student Council and other student

societies, the Financial Planning Committee recommends that funds which would have been raised through laboratory fees be obtained by a uniform increase in tuition fees for all arts and science students, exclusive of Dip. Engineering students."

The required increase in tuition amounts to \$33 per student in Arts and Sciences, a 3.2 per cent increase above the 12 per cent increase already assumed.

Asked for a statement, Dalhousie Science Society President Caroline Zayid said, "This

is exactly what we've been fighting for; we think the Dean's reversal signals a recognition of the validity of our accessibility arguments and this will make it a lot easier to fight such fee increases for other students."

When asked whether she thought the settlement would polarize arts and science students, she stated that the reversal had the support of the Arts Society and was seen as a victory for both arts and science students. Besides lab fees, there was the strong possibility of extra fees for language labs, music studio use, and other services, she said.



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