

NEWS

Dangerous precedent

Dalhousie's fee hike could echo through N.S.

BY DAWN MITCHELL

HALIFAX (CUP)—Dalhousie University is setting a dangerous precedent by raising tuition fees, student leaders say.

Dalhousie's board of governors voted overwhelmingly to hike tuition

fees by 10 per cent for the 1992-93 academic year. Fees were goosed by a staggering 25 per cent for the 1991-92 year last spring.

Hundreds of students endured two gruelling board meetings to protest any increase and to demand a tuition fee freeze.

They said last year's hike did not improve the quality of education, or expand accessibility to the university despite \$900,000 in bursaries and on-campus jobs funded by the increase.

"We've heard students state that an increase in tuition fees of 37.5 per

cent over two years is racist, sexist, and elitist," said Beth Beattie, a student representative to the board of governors.

University president Howard Clark said a freeze defeats the goals of higher quality education and increased accessibility.

"A zero per cent tuition fee increase will lead to nothing other than a further cut to budgets, reduction to faculty members and staff, and will achieve nothing else than, for one year, recognizing those particular student concerns," Clark said.

Student union president Peter Pottier said the cuts would happen regardless.

"I think the board members understand there are major problems, but their solution right now is to throw money at it," he said. "They're going to walk away knowing there are bigger problems than just tuition [fees]."

The tuition fee hike will raise an estimated \$1.7 million, \$250,000 of which will fund bursaries.

Dalhousie is the first university in the province to set next year's tuition fees, and this may set a precedent for others throughout the province and the country.

The New Brunswick government has announced a one-year freeze on payments to universities, which may lead to an average fee hike of \$400.

Students at the University of New Brunswick have just started their campaign to freeze their fees.

Ontario universities will have to deal with a one per cent increase in their operating grants, which will mean cuts to faculty and limits on enrolment.

Almost every other university will have to look for new ways to cope with the five-year freeze on the federal government's funding of Established Programs Financing. EPF money is transferred to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers estimates the freeze will cost the system \$4.4 billion.

Tina Sweeney, a Dalhousie student councillor, summed up the students' position on the fee increase.

"We're not just between a rock and a hard place," she said. "We're being jammed, we're being squeezed, and another increase will just cut students off and those students will be gone."

From sperm whales to killer cells

BY LILI JU

Where can you go to learn about everything from sperm whales to gene fragments? The sixth annual Cameron Conference.

Every year the honours students in the biology department present their independent research projects at their Cameron Conference, sponsored by the department and the Dalhousie Association of Biology Students.

This year 34 students presented a wide variety of topics including fertilizer and pesticide use on golf courses, moulting and mating in lobsters, cystic fibrosis, down's syndrome and natural killer cells in your body.

"At a time when most of us have been struggling with parts of the university that are not working (i.e. the freeze the fees campaign, and the overcrowding of classes) it was rather a treat to spend a day with some of the success stories at this university," said Dick McBride, a retiring biology professor.

McBride also remarked on the increasing diversity of research topics honours students choose.

"[There is a] marvellous interaction between researchers and bright, young, creative students... It is a privilege for us as university scholars to be able to work with these bright young students," said McBride.

Susan Dufault, an honours stu-

dent studying sperm whales in the Pacific, thought the conference was "quite successful." She said it provided "a great experience for scientists to present their work to their colleagues... [and] have other people look at your work and raise interesting questions."

In general the students who participated in the conference said they enjoyed working on their honours projects. As one student put it, "it [working on an honours thesis] adds a different perspective to your undergraduate education and lets you face realistic research problems."

The participants credited the suc-

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Dalhousie Winter Carnival 1992

Tuesday, February 4th

2 pm to 6 pm - World Games
McInnes Room

Register at the Student Union Enquiry Desk

Wednesday, February 5th

9:00 pm - Tom Cochrane
McInnes Room

Thursday, February 6th

12 Noon - Charity Car Stuffing
SUB Lobby

9:00 pm - Tom Cochrane
McInnes Room

10:00 pm to 8:00 am - Alumni/
Society Broomball Tourney

Register your team at campus activities (494-1282)

Friday, February 7th

Munroe Day

Ski Trip to Ski Martock

Buses leave at 9:30 am \$7 per person
(Transportation only)

Saturday, February 8th

Charity Ball

Featuring the Champagnes

Tickets: \$40/ couple
\$35/ couple (students)
\$20/ single

Cocktails at 7:00 pm
Dinner at 8:00 pm
Dancing 'til 1:00 am

