

Pay and benefits

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roughly \$9 an hour for the work they do.

The pay rate also assumes they do not work more than 10 hours a week. This often leaves many TAs working unpaid over-time hours.

Another problem many TAs are facing is trying to hold down more than one job at a time because they are struggling to make ends meet. Riou says that this creates very large work loads.

The TAs are asking for a raise that will give them \$15-20 per hour. Currently, pay fluctuates from department to department at Dalhousie.

The administration is offering a standardized pay rate with gradual increases over three years. Under the administration's offer, TAs' pay would reach close to \$2,500 a year by 2000-01.

By implementing a standard salary, TAs in a certain department would be forced to take pay cuts of up to 22 per cent of their current salary.

Dalhousie already pays its professors some of the lowest wages in the country — and it is no different for TAs and part-timers. Universities such as Guelph, University of Toronto and Simon Fraser pay TAs anywhere from \$6,000-9,000 per year for their services.

Part-timers are also in the same boat. They get paid approximately \$5,000 per course they teach. The part-timers are asking for an increase of \$2,200 that would bring their per class total to \$7,200. The part-timers say that other Canadian universities pay part-time professors much more and give

them other benefits.

Some part-time instructors teach the same number of courses as full-time professors, but receive a fraction of the pay and none of the benefits such as health and pension plans. This has led many graduating students to pursue post-graduate degrees at other universities.

"It is really starting to deteriorate Dalhousie's ability to keep very capable and intelligent [grad students] at Dalhousie," Riou said.

Riou also talked about the administration's ignorance towards the possible strike.

"They are underestimating us, they are not correct in their judgment. I know a lot of people who are very willing to go on strike and they know that they are doing the right thing for the right reasons," he said.

The protest will begin at DalTech. Protestors will march up Spring Garden Rd., and finish the march in front of the Killiam library, where speakers will talk about the unfair practices of the university.

The library was selected as a finishing point because of the number of students and professors that will walk by and see the rally. Riou hopes that many people will stop and support their fellow students and part-time instructors.

"People will see us in front of the library and people will stop to listen to what is going on. Hopefully they will stop and help us get our message across to the administration that we are an important part of the university and we deserve better than what they have offered," Riou said.



Pissed off players

Musicians from Symphony Nova Scotia held an information protest outside the symphony's Tuesday night performance. They were protesting on behalf of a longer season and wage increases. Currently the musicians work 28 weeks per year, but want the season returned to its previous length of 31-weeks. They are also asking for a wage increase of nine per cent over four years.

CKDU fundraising

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support us very well.

"Realistically, it just doesn't seem like we would get any more money from the university than we already are. I think we're pretty lucky to get what we do...when a lot of other departments on campus just are not getting that kind of funding."

In terms of CKDU's listening audience, statistics suggest that the station does well. But, the last time any sort of numbers were taken was in 1991. Those numbers found that at any given time CKDU had 10,000 listeners, and roughly 160,000 listeners per week.

"We probably reach Halifax, Bedford, and Sackville depending if you're living on the higher elevation of town. We're only 50 watts at the

best of times," MacKinnon said.

"It would cost us [around] \$10,000 to have our numbers taken. We have a survey that we put out when people call in and make a pledge. We send them a package that has a listener's survey in it. We have a pretty good idea of who listens and for what reasons."

The majority of the full-time staff at the station are finished school, while most of the part-timers are students. Most of the people who put on shows and are involved in the station are students.

In terms of things to improve upon next year, MacKinnon said, "We'll look at boosting our on campus profile a bit more. We have students doing shows here at the station, but as far as overall profile, it could be higher."

Graduate tuition

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"University tuition is quite similar, but most people don't realize it, because it's subsidized," she said.

Horne says subsidization for the new program was unnecessary.

"This is a program that the marketplace is willing to support," she added. "So why try to get it publicly funded?"

Kimmins says that given current government funding for universities, the program has no choice but to be self-funded.

"They must pay their own way," he said. "Otherwise it would mean diverting funds from existing programs to support them."

Students at ITI are eligible for student loans, and Horne says that many potential employers offer students jobs and agree to pay their tuition — before they even begin the program.

Horne says this year is a case in

point.

The American Intercontinental University (AIU) has guaranteed the first class of graduates teaching-jobs at one of their schools at a base salary of \$58,000, and says it will pay back students' tuition over five years.

The AIU, based in Atlanta, is using ITI as its model for similar programs across the US, and internationally, but needed teachers to expand.

ITI also has campuses in Moncton, Toronto and Ottawa, but has no plans yet to start other university-affiliated information technology education programs.

The proposed graduate program is not the first time Dal has offered a degree in cooperation with a private institution. A Masters of Business Administration (MBA) is offered in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Bankers.

News in brief

Strike averted at Acadia

An agreement was reached Monday between Acadia's administration and faculty association. The two sides settle in principle and are prepared to officially accept the deal.

There has been a dead-lock in talks for the past 19 weeks while negotiators tried to find a solution.

Students are looking forward to continuing studies without having to worry about a strike or lockout, said Paul Black, the Acadia Student Union president.

The 240-member Acadia University Faculty Association has scheduled a ratification vote for Feb. 17.

Neither side would release details of the agreement until faculty members have been informed of the contents.

St.FX to introduce new education program

Saint Francis-Xavier is developing a Bachelor of Education program with a specific focus on the African-Nova Scotian community.

The university hopes the new course will attract more black students and enhance racial sensitivity in the province's schools.

PM backs Iraqi strike

Canada supports the use of military force against Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein, if diplomatic efforts fail to end an impasse over United Nations weapons inspections, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said Monday.

"Tonight I want to lay out clearly before the people of Canada why we believe their government should support military action if he does not comply," Chretien is reported as saying in the *Chronicle Herald*.

"This gives us no pleasure. Canada is not a nation that rushes to embrace the use of force. We do not lightly endorse military action. For us it is always the last resort."

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