

# No help for students

by C. Ricketts

Whether or not the Department of Education will ask universities to forego late payment charges for students awaiting student aid is still up in the air.

In a meeting with Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) representatives on January 12, Dr. Peter Butler, assistant to Education Minister Terry Donahoe, said he "would personally contact all university presidents and ask for both 'consideration and a period of grace.'"

He now denies making that statement. "I said I *might* try to contact the university presidents," he said. "But it would be out of my jurisdiction to do so unless I was authorized by the Department of Education."

DSU president Tim Hill, present at that meeting, says this is not the case. "Butler said he

would contact the university presidents and now he's backing out," he said.

"If the government informs us that bursaries will be late, the university can make some accommodations for students involved," said Joyce Kelly in the Student Accounts office.

Kelly added arrangements can be made on an individual basis for students expecting their student aid cheques, but the Student Accounts office must be contacted before payment deadline on January 25.

Students who fail to pay the balance of this year's tuition fees will face late-payment interest charges. Those students in the final year of their program may not graduate if payment is late.

Consult Page 8 of the calendar for tuition payment regulations and deadlines.

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Tim Hill mad as hell; courtesy of Peter Butler.

# Used bookstore a success

by Susan Fullerton

To help fight the high cost of new textbooks, Shawn Houlihan, DSU Treasurer, organized a used book sale—the second one this year. Staffed completely by volunteers, the sale was successful on all accounts, with over twelve hundred dollars worth of

books being sold, said Houlihan.

This is the first time DSU has organized a used book sale during second term.

This time around, not only did we help students save money, we perfected the system of selling books, said Houlihan. If the store remains organized, he projects sales for September 1984 will be

around ten thousand dollars.

The original owners priced the books with the DSU adding fifteen percent to cover their costs. The bookstore actually lost about sixty-five dollars, said Houlihan.

The organizers increased efficiency over first term by using a word processor to print out lists

of available books and calculate the DSU commission. Although students may have had to wait in line, the actual production went a lot smoother, said Houlihan.

Houlihan said the bookstore could not have functioned as efficiently as it did without the many volunteers who staffed and

ran it. This was a problem last term when the two organizers spent more than twelve hours a day at the bookstore. Many counsellors worked very hard to make it a success.

"I felt it was a good cause," said Sunil Sharma, Member-At-Large, "students helping students."

## THE CRISIS IN EDUCATION

# The system and how it works (or doesn't)

by Geoff Martin

With the arrival of January, academic and financial planning becomes crucial to Nova Scotia's universities, including Dalhousie. Despite this, many students receive little information about the key players and the budgeting process, discussions of which follow.

### The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the most peaceful decision-making body of Dalhousie university, and "is answerable only to the Provincial Minister of Education, Terry Donahoe," according to the 1983-1984 *Dalhousie Student Handbook*. The Board, made up of over 40 individuals, makes all long and short range non-academic decisions affecting the university, including the drafting and implementation of the annual budget, the manipulation of Dalhousie's extensive investment portfolio, and university staff relations.

Dalhousie students are represented on the board by Tim Hill, President of the DSU, Karl Nightingale (elected), Janine Saulnier (appointed), and John Graham,

General Manager of the Student Union.

### The Senate

The Senate, by the constitutional provisions of the university, is "the body responsible for determining academic policies and priorities," and it also takes part in financial planning through its Financial Planning Committee and its debates during regular Senate meetings.

It is composed of all Full Professors in the university—as well as other elected and appointed members. It totals 300 in all, though attendance at regular meetings barely approaches this.

### DSU President

Tim Hill is clearly the most important student in the spheres of university academic and financial planning. As a member of the Board of Governors, the Board Executive Committee, the Board Financial and Budget Committee, the full Senate and the Student Union Academic Planning Committee, Hill gets a complete perspective of the planning process of the University. Traditionally, the President has been the most important student representative in Senate and probably also in the Board

(though we cannot be sure because the board's minutes are not made public).

Other students also play an important role in the Senate regarding academic and financial planning matters. Jill Allen, Vice President (Academic) of the Student Union, sits on the Academic Planning Committee (APC), and is responsible for co-ordinating student union policy regarding academic planning in the university.

Shawn Houlihan, Treasurer of the Student Union, is a non-Senator who sits on a Senate Committee, like Jill Allen. Houlihan sits on the Financial Planning Committee, which is involved in the university's budgeting process even though budgeting is not Senate's primary responsibility.

In addition, Fred Kamperman, Don McInnes, David Milne and Martin Tomlinson also sit on the Senate as student representatives and also take part in a number of Senate committees on academic administration, discipline and other matters. Other students provide input into the budgeting and academic planning process, both in the student union and committees which advise the Faculty Council of Arts and Sciences.

### The Budgeting Process

To most students (and some faculty) at Dalhousie, the university budgeting process is a mysterious procedure which is carried on behind closed doors. This view is understandable.

The annual budgeting procedure normally begins in November, with the publication of the university "budget book," containing projected revenues and expenditures.

It is drafted by Robbie Shaw and Alastair Sinclair, university Vice-Presidents (Finance and Development), and David Cameron, Vice President (Planning and Resources) will also be involved at this point in ensuring that the university goals such as the balanced budget, are met, and in seeing that the budget meets the provisions of the President's "Restraint and Renewal" program, which was implemented some time ago in response to the university's financial crisis.

The university financial system is composed of "unallocated costs" (16% of the 1983-84 university total of \$81.7 million) such as scholarships and bursaries, and "cost centre envelopes," such as "Arts and Science," "Dentistry" and "Libraries." The "envelope" is a sum of money given to each

of a number of university operations, allowing them to individually plan their activities in a decentralized manner.

For example, each of the seven faculties are given a lump sum, which they can spend as they see fit, so long as each faculty fulfills its commitments to the university as a whole. Each faculty is responsible for paying for its teaching, clerical, administrative and technical staffs, as well as for materials used in teaching.

In addition to faculty envelopes, there are general operations shared by the whole university. These non-faculty items total \$17.6 million (21% of the 1983-84 budget) and cover operations such as maintenance and heating of buildings, grounds, the physical plant, Student Services, and the costs or deficits of such operations as the Dal Arts Centre, Dalplex and other operations.

### Next week - where it all gets complicated - the Problems of budgeting.

Geoff Martin is the student representative on the Financial Planning Committee of the Faculty Council of Arts and Science.