

DAGS to hold by-election and referendum

BY LILLI JU

After last term's confusion over the Grad House and the resignations of seven members of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students, including the president, the association is putting things back on track "slowly and carefully".

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) will be holding a by-election for president and 21 councillor positions. Nominations for positions close on January 19, and voting will take place on January 28 and 29. All graduate students (full-time or part-time) are eligible to run for positions.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, the DAGS council met to appoint interim executive positions until the by-election.

At this meeting, DAGS received another letter of resignation. Peter Johnstone formally resigned from his position as chair, but will continue as a DAGS councillor.

DAGS council appointed Jim Leger as interim president. Leger is a PhD student in the department of anatomy and neurobiology. He had served as DAGS vp-communications and has been president of his department's graduate student society.

Malaka Hendela was appointed interim vp-executive. Hendela is a MBA/law student, who had served as DAGS treasurer until the recent resignations. Both Leger and Hendela were constitutionally required to step down from their positions as a result of the resignations, but both remained councillors. DAGS council voted to have Hendela continue the responsibilities of DAGS treasurer.

DAGS council also voted to have Melanie Altas assume the responsibilities of vp-communications as well as secretary.

An ad-hoc committee was also struck to make some revisions to the DAGS constitution that has not been revised since 1979. The proposed constitutional changes will be reviewed by a lawyer and DSU, and will have to be voted on

by graduate students in a referendum to take place at the same time as the by-election. However, a complete overhaul of the constitution will not be done at this time.

"We have to realistically focus on the critical issues," said Leger in his instructions to the committee, citing the election process and make-up of DAGS council as two of these issues.

Society funding, the Grad House situation, and the teaching assistants dispute were also discussed at this meeting.

DAGS society and Grad House funding

Funding for graduate student societies was also discussed at this meeting. DAGS will be issuing funds to its member societies upon receiving their constitutions, list of executive members, and a proposed budget.

Funding to these societies will be based on the number of graduate students in their department: \$17 per full-time graduate student and \$8 per part-time graduate student. Graduate students currently pay \$44 (full-time) and \$22 (part-time). Last year, graduate student societies received less than \$8 per student in their department.

Some students had concerns about DAGS giving more money to graduate student societies.

"Is it prudent to increase society funding in light of the Grad House situation?" asked Peter Morden, a graduate student attending the meeting.

"At the general meeting, didn't students support more fees going to the Grad House?" asked another graduate student, Greg Bak.

In response to these questions, Hendela pointed to DAGS's lack of attention and funding to its member societies.

"Graduate students are paying \$44, so \$17 out of \$44 is not that much," said Hendela. She also added that students voted to "grow the Grad House" and not specifically to pay more towards the Grad House.

According to the "grow the Grad House" proposal, up to 57 per cent

of graduate student fees would go directly to sustain the Grad House if it should continue to run as it is.

"If the Grad House loses money, we'll take steps when that happens," said Hendela.

At the Nov. 30 meeting, DAGS received a proposal for changes to help grow Grad House business from Mike Leigh, the Grad House manager. This proposal is currently being reviewed by the interim

Percentage not enough

continued from page 1...

With expensive programs like the faculties of law, medicine and dentistry, Dalhousie University would receive \$8-million more, increasing its funding to \$93.7-million annually. But despite the increase, the new plan would reduce Dalhousie's share of the total funding available.

Dalhousie president Tom Traves says while Dalhousie welcomes the recommendation for additional funding, the school should not be allocated a smaller portion of the pie at a time when it is being asked to do more by the province.

"As Nova Scotia's only research university, Dalhousie must contribute to provincial development if we want to prosper in the future," he said.

"It makes no sense to us to reduce our share of funding given that urgent provincial priority."

Saint Mary's University is slated for an increase in funding of 21.8 per cent to \$19-million annually. But St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish would benefit the most from the new formula, seeing its budget increase 32.6 per cent from \$13.3-million to \$16.8-million annually.

Dalhousie Student Union president Chris Adams says that he is "definitely encouraged" by the council's recommendations.

"The council has recognized and realized that universities are chronically under-funded in Nova Scotia," he said.

"If we don't get more money from the province, for example, students could be faced with skyrocketing student debt."

Adams said that he wished to look

executive.

Teaching assistant conflict

In other business, Greg Bak brought up the fact that DAGS has yet to participate in the current dispute between the teaching assistants and the University.

"If [DAGS] doesn't step in now, a three-year contract will be signed and teaching assistants will be

locked in at salaries that will be the lowest in Canada," said Bak. "Future graduate students will have less funding."

DAGS council decided to approach both CUPE 3912, the union representing the teaching assistants, and the University for a letter or presentation stating their positions. DAGS council will then discuss what position it will take.

at the report more carefully, but is pleased that the council "is now saying it is imperative that universities get more money".

The NSCHE's draft report will be available until January 23 to anyone who has an interest in the funding formula. Clark says that a final report will be drawn up by mid-February to be presented to the provincial government and the Ministry of Education.

He says that it is the council's hope that by releasing the report in early February, the provincial government will make it a part of the budget discussion.

Write news for the
Gazette.

We'll teach you how to
chase ambulances with
the best of them.

Room 312 SUB.

ROSEMARY GILL AWARD

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the Rosemary Gill Award in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. The selection of recipients is to be made by a committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President-Student Services, the Chair of the Student Relations and Residence Committee of the Board of Governors, and a student appointed by the Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 1998. Written nominations that include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters for support should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
1234 LeMarchant Street
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3P7

The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 20, 1998.

ATLANTIC OVERSEAS TEACHING
Institute

TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS



TEFL CERTIFICATE COURSE
Reg. with Education & Culture (NS)

Pay off that Student Loan
Enjoy the experience of a lifetime

- ◆ Dynamic experienced teachers
- ◆ M.ED (TESOL) Curriculum Advisor
- ◆ Successful placement worldwide
- ◆ Small classes - maximum 10
- ◆ Affordability and excellence

- ◆ 2 week evening course - Feb. 2
- ◆ 5 consecutive Sat.'s :Jan. 17 & Feb.21
- ◆ One week intensive course - Jan.17
- ◆ Spring Break Special - Feb.21 - 27

- ◆ Register now to secure your place
- For information:
1106 Barrington St. Halifax
B3H 2R2
(902)423-4767 Fax: 422-4724
e-mail: aoti@istar.ca
http://home.istar.ca/~aoti

MARKET STREET
JAZZ CAFE

MORE THAN JUST JAZZ

THURSDAY- Funky Club Night
(featuring one of the best DJs in town)

FRIDAY- Chris Church & Friends

SATURDAY- Hiinoo

SUNDAY- Industry Appreciation Night
(with "Sixtoo & DJ Moves")

MONDAY- Open Mic Night

TUESDAY- Lounge Lizard Night

WEDNESDAY- Comedy Night

(January 14, featuring the writers for "This Hour Has 22 Minutes")

Specials On Every Night
Open 'till 2am
Corner of Market & George Streets
492-CAFE