

Students need parity

# MacLean and Huber on the budget crisis

by Ken MacDougall

This is the fourth and final article on the university and its budgetary crisis.

This week we talk to G. R. MacLean, Dean of Arts and Science and Professor Paul Huber, President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, in an attempt to find out where further cuts are coming and to find out whether or not they are justified.

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On March 15 and 20, the GAZETTE met with Dean MacLean in an attempt to make some sense of the budgetary cuts that have every member of faculty complaining. The figures the Dean presented do not suggest that things are going to get better in the future.

The Faculty Association, MacLean states, has asked for a 9½ percent increase in salaries for next year. To meet this demand, some cuts are going to have to be made in other areas.

The university already has budgetary commitments in salaries for next year, thus raising this area of expenditures. These included three new appointments in Biology, a department which has been short-staffed for several years but has continued to grow in size and enrolment.

There is also a department of Religious Studies to be formed next year, whose chairman has already signed a contract. There was also an additional professor hired to the department of Psychology.

The university must appoint several new Chairmen, who would come from outside the university community. The departments originally

requiring new chairmen were French, Spanish, Music and Education. (The Department of Sociology and Anthropology should also be included in the list given by MacLean. Professor Doug Campbell, who this year was a visiting Killam Fellow and who has just been appointed to the position of interim chairman in that department, was not regarded as a permanent member of the Dalhousie Faculty.)

However, it has since been stated that a new chairman will be appointed from within the Spanish Department. From budgetary viewpoint, this is ideal, since the cost required to bring in a new person from outside the community would rise considerably. The department is not very large, and it is doubtful that the added expense of bringing this person in would have been justified.

MacLean states that the university also has a person from within prepared to take the job of Chairman of the Education department. This arrangement didn't work out, as the professor decided to take a position elsewhere. This has delayed the search for another qualified person, MacLean adds.

MacLean says that he was requested to cut approximately \$400,000 from the preliminary estimate of the Faculty expenditures to meet the university's austerity measures. This has meant that positions left vacant by professors retiring or going on Sabbatical leave will not be filled.

Other areas had to be found to trim expenditures. Student

markers and demonstrators will become less noticeable next year, as will part-time lecturers.

The faculty also had to increase the amount spent on technicians, in order to bring the new Life Sciences facilities into use, so that research money could be attracted to the university to use these new facilities. This has further complicated the situation of where to cut departmental allotments.

MacLean realizes that the financial squeeze has forced the university into a situation where it may be criticized for its methods of evaluating professors. The criteria by

which professors have to be evaluated have become overly rigorous, he adds. The university must insist that persons hired or given tenure be "triple-threat" professors; persons who demonstrate high scholastic and teaching ability and general competence. The result has been that professors currently working on their Ph.D. were given only one year renewals, if competence was demonstrated and the department was judged to have a sufficient workload to allow the number of professors in the department to remain stable. Those professors having Ph.D.'s were given two-year renewals, if the criteria were

also met.

### HOW THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION FEELS

Professor Huber, President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, is not entirely certain that the behaviour of the Administration is justified in suddenly coming forth with their new austerity measures. He feels that in the past there may have been a budgetary laxness. Based on past university financial statements, Dalhousie was in a reasonably liquid financial position. However, the drop in the number of students attending Dalhousie has caused several

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