

The Letters/Opinions section of the Gazette is meant as a campus forum for all Dalhousie students. The opinions expressed within may not necessarily be those of the Gazette staff or editorial board. We welcome all submissions, but reserve the right to edit for style and content. It is the Gazette's mandate not to print racist, sexist or homophobic material.

Why should you support your part-time prof?

If you are a student who has heard that part-time professors and TAs may strike in March, you probably are afraid of possible disruption of your education. It is important that you understand that unless the working and living conditions of those who teach many of you improve, students are going to suffer in the long run. You pay tuition money to receive an education; part-time professors are delivering the education, but, in exchange, they are not receiving fair remuneration. Little of your money reaches them. Part-time teachers are keen, but they manage under difficult conditions.

1. Part-timers are "Gypsy-scholars" with no job security. As universities hire fewer full-time faculty, many professors annually apply to teach sections at several universities. Sometimes they get hired with adequate notice; sometimes they are called after classes have begun. Until they know if they are teaching—and what—and where—they cannot prepare courses or order books.

It is in your best interest if part-timers have job security that allows adequate preparation time. You deserve everything to be ready, including books in the bookstore, for the courses in which you are enrolled.

2. Because part-timers' salaries are so low—about \$5000 per full course—in order to achieve an adequate income, they often teach more than the three courses considered a full load. As a result,

their time to mark and prepare is compromised.

It is in your best interest if part-timers' salaries allow them to live above the poverty line without having to work overtime every night. Your needs (not the amount of time an over-worked prof has) should determine the assignments and activities in your course.

3. Part-time contracts run from September to April. Each summer part-timers prepare for the Fall term, choose and order books, and print outlines, but they receive no pay until the end of September. Many teach summer school courses to survive; thus, they are teaching one course while planning for those being taught in the fall term.

It is in your best interest if part-timers have salaries that will support their preparation of courses so that they begin each new term with mental batteries refreshed, ready to focus on teaching you.

4. Part-time faculty are exactly that: part-time! They have restricted office hours on the days they teach. If you have a full schedule on the day you take a course from a part-timer, you may miss your instructor's regular office hour; the instructor who teaches several places has limited opportunity (and receives no pay) to make special appointments.

It is in your best interest if part-timers' schedules allow them to be accessible to students. The more sites teachers have to travel to in order to earn a living, the less

time they can spend at Dalhousie.

5. Depending on the department, office facilities differ, but the part-time teacher may lack a telephone, may lack convenient e-mail access, and may lack privacy.

It is in your best interest if students have access to their professors and privacy.

6. The part-time faculty are highly qualified professors with post-graduate degrees. They teach the same courses as full-time faculty with equivalent qualifications, at a fraction of the salary. They are not eligible to participate in health or pension plans, or to receive benefits.

You probably are attending a university to prepare yourself for future employment that justifies the loss of salary during the years you are studying. Imagine the level of your morale if, when you graduate, you could work in your chosen field, but you worked beside people whom your boss paid thousands of dollars more than you. Imagine your frustration if, after months of negotiations, your boss offered you a pay raise equal to the price of a cup of coffee each working day. This is reality for part-time professors at Dalhousie.

It is in your best interest of Dalhousie University presents a model of a work-place where people are treated fairly, where you can learn the principles of fair play that you will carry with you as you enter your careers.

Part-timers want to be able to be part of a positive education

experience. They do not want to be treated as second-class instructors, because they are not; nor do they want you to have the impression that you are being taught by second-class instructors, because you are not. But, if the over 200 part-time professors at Dalhousie accept the current offer from the administration, their second-class treatment may have an impact on your education.

Both part-timers and Teaching Assistants need the support of students this term. The pay part-timers are requesting is reasonable: \$7200 per course. Yet the administration says this is an unacceptable demand. Teaching the same number of courses as a full-timer but at several universities, part-timers could be paid about \$21000 per year. Dalhousie is rejecting the opportunity to hire fully-qualified faculty at less than half the cost

of full-time faculty. It is offering unreasonable and unreasoned remuneration to TAs that will in many cases reduce their current incomes. The administration is gambling with your futures with tuition money you have paid. They have little to lose, but you do, and part-time faculty and TAs do.

Do yourself a favour. Support part-timers and TAs. With your help, we may be able to convince the administration to be fair without having to resort to a strike that would disrupt all our lives.

Join our rally on Friday, Feb. 13; we can make it an unlucky day for those in the administration who think we don't count—or that we can't count! What is being offered does not add up to a good education for students of Dalhousie.

DR. JUDITH A. DUDAR
Part-time professor

CUPE 3912 is holding a

RALLY

Friday 13 February

Come out and protest Dalhousie's treatment of TAs and part time instructors!

Dal's TAs and part-timers are among the lowest paid in Canada - despite the fact that Dal's tuition is among the highest! Next year Dal plans to pay TAs even less than they are already paid! This can only harm the quality of education at Dal!

PROTEST THE CUTS TO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM!

Schedule of Events for Friday, 13 February

11:00 CUPE 3912 members and supporters from MSVU, SMU and Dal meet in the courtyard at DalTech (just off Spring Garden Road, across from the public library). Materials will be available to make placards and signs for the march and rally.

11:20 Begin march to Dal's main campus. We will proceed down Spring Garden Road to Robie, south on Robie to University Avenue, and into Dalhousie's main campus on University.

12:00 Rally outside Killam Library at Dalhousie University. On hand will be speakers from CUPE and other interested organizations.

Let's make our voices heard!!

Want to help out? Questions or comments?
Email CUPE 3912 at: cupe3912@is.dal.ca

Simpleton Sex Games

Thanks.

Thanks to that security prick. Thanks to idiot guys everywhere. Thanks to Bill Clinton — thanks to all the assholes everywhere who use authority as a means of getting in other people's pants.

Thanks for taking years of trying to reach out to women, to try and convince them that we are not all overly-macho inherently, sexist dillholes, that we are just

as insightful and understanding as women. Thanks for taking all that and flushing it completely down the shitter.

You ruined it. Any chance of men and women coming closer to mutual understanding you demolished in pure dickhead fashion. Now we are back to square one, caught in the crossfire between male chauvinist pigs who defend such assinine antics,

and feminists who believe the only good thing about men should be flash frozen to insure future generations of their pro-creation ilk.

It is hard enough in this hormone-clouded, Generation X, totally insane sexual minefield, to work up the nerve to even talk to a woman, let alone ask her out. Now anytime I try here at

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