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Registrar claims quota isn't an issue



Childerhose/Dal Photo

by C. Ricketts

The furor surrounding President MacKay's directive to accept no more foreign students after August is described as 'vacuous' by Dalhousie's Registrar, Dr. A.J. Tingley.

Tingley contends that no more than one or two students at most will be affected this year. Most visa (foreign) students had their applications processed and accepted or refused by August 1, 1982. Since MacKay's quota was imposed in late August, it was issued after most of the admissions had been completed.

"Why would he issue a directive after the fact?" asked Tingley. "The whole thing is silly."

Dalhousie has no formal, across-the-board policy on visa students. Up to now there have been programs which have had unrestricted access for visa students, whereas others, such as Physiotherapy,

have never been open to visa students.

When questioned if MacKay's quota will affect next year's admissions policy on foreign students, Tingley was unable to answer. Policies for next year's admissions procedures for all students will not be finalized until the end of October.

John Russell, V.P. Internal of the Student Union, says he has been aware of a need for some national policy of education in Canada. Disparity in differential fees, and admissions quotas are becoming more pronounced between the provinces. Quotas may not be the best method, but he holds they at least define admissions policy, and make it a part of a rational process.

"Without a sense of direction in the university's admissions policy, foreign students are at the mercy of the system," Russell said.

It is still unclear how the directive will affect enrollment in graduate studies. David Jolliffe, President of Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), maintains that there is perhaps up to 30 per cent visa students in graduate programs, a greater proportion than exists in undergraduate studies.

Tingley echoes MacKay's sentiments that English proficiency is a concern, particularly in the first year courses. When questioned about the need for visa students to pass either the English Language Test of the University of Michigan or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to be eligible to study at Dal, Tingley responded that Dal has traditionally "been lenient" in their consideration for admission to the university.

As of September 21, 1982, 682 visa students have registered at Dal. Of these, 288 are in their first year.

Computer Centre students bracing themselves

by Graeme Murray

Dalhousie's computer science students, their professors and Computer Centre personnel are adjusting their helmets and shoulder pads before tackling problems caused by high enrollment in computer science courses this year.

Budget cuts have caused the math department to scrap plans to buy 48 new microcomputers. On top of this, a new minicomputer purchased by the department arrived with only half of its computer memory, and shipping delays have held up installation of 27 new terminals ordered by the Computer Centre.

As a result of these mishaps, only 20 terminals are serving 900 students taking computer courses.

Students are expecting the worst from the computer shortages.

"It will be a madhouse," says Marc Trottier, a 4th year computer science student and past president of the Dalhousie Student Computer Science Society.

Trottier thinks the consequences of high enrollment will not be realized until students begin to work on their first assignments during the next couple of weeks.

One 4th year engineering student also taking a computer class says at times he has waited for more than three hours at the centre for someone to miss a reservation so he can use a terminal.

Dr. Arthur Sedgwick of the mathematics department says the plan to supplement the 1/4 million dollar VAXS II system with 48 microcomputers was scrapped because the government announced its cutbacks two hours after the administration approved the purchase of the microcomputers. They would have been used by first year students.

For some students, however, the shortage hasn't resulted in great difficulties.

"It's not a problem for me," said Christos Pitjiolis, a 2nd year engineering student who takes a computer class in the Centre. He felt the computer assignments were relatively easy, although when they increased in difficulty they might require more time to complete. Then, he thinks, competing for computer time may become a problem.

To help ease the crowded situation, the mathematics department has purchased a minicomputer call VAXS II. Twenty terminals have been installed and ten more will be acquired later. They will be used primarily by 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students and staff.

The problem lies with the manufacturer unexpectedly delivering only half of the computer memory with the VAXS II. Dr. Sedgwick of the mathematics department believes the situation will be reme-

died in early October.

Director Intab Ali of the Computer Centre says a classroom is prepared to receive 27 new terminals valued at \$800 each. They were ordered from a Toronto company but shipping delays are holding up delivery. The terminals will be used by first year students when they arrive.

An increase in the number of students in one class to 130 this year from 35 two years ago is typical of growth in computer courses, according to Sedgwick. He says they are so popular because the job market for computer science graduates is still outstanding, despite the weak economy. The situation is not as favourable for undergraduates, but it is relatively better than for

students in other faculties, he says.

Because of this increasing competition for Dalhousie's limited computer resources, there are plans to control computer science enrollment next year. Enrollment deadlines for non-Canadian students will be strictly enforced, and any student with a mark less than B- will be discouraged from continuing his studies, says Sedgwick.

