

Universities set to debate athletic scholarships

BY LILLI JU

Heated debate is promised as the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union prepares to discuss the contentious issue of athletic scholarships.

On Feb. 16 and 17, a committee of the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union (CIAU) will debate the possibility of offering athletic scholarships at Canadian universities. Since the organization's annual general meeting last June, when the University of Alberta put forward

a motion to consider financial awards for student athletes entering universities, debate on this issue has been reignited across the country.

The CIAU is the governing body of university and college sports in Canada. It consists of 47 member institutions, involving over 10,000 student athletes, and is divided into five geographic regions or conferences.

Currently, CIAU regulations do not allow for entering students to receive financial awards based on athletic merit. However, student athletes can receive a maximum

award of \$1,500 in subsequent years. The CIAU also stipulates that student athletes must have an 80 per cent academic average to qualify for awards.

At a meeting on Dec. 14, the CIAU decided to bring in a facilitator to assist with the upcoming committee meeting, after it realized that a consensus would not be reached.

"We've asked for institutional papers to be submitted, as well as information on statistics and criteria for existing awards. The mediator or facilitator will investigate the real

issues on both sides of this matter," said Jennifer Brenning, Director of Operations for the CIAU. "We're going to, at the end of the two days, try to come up with a compromise position to bring forth for the membership to vote on in the upcoming June annual general meeting."

But even reaching a compromise will be a challenge.

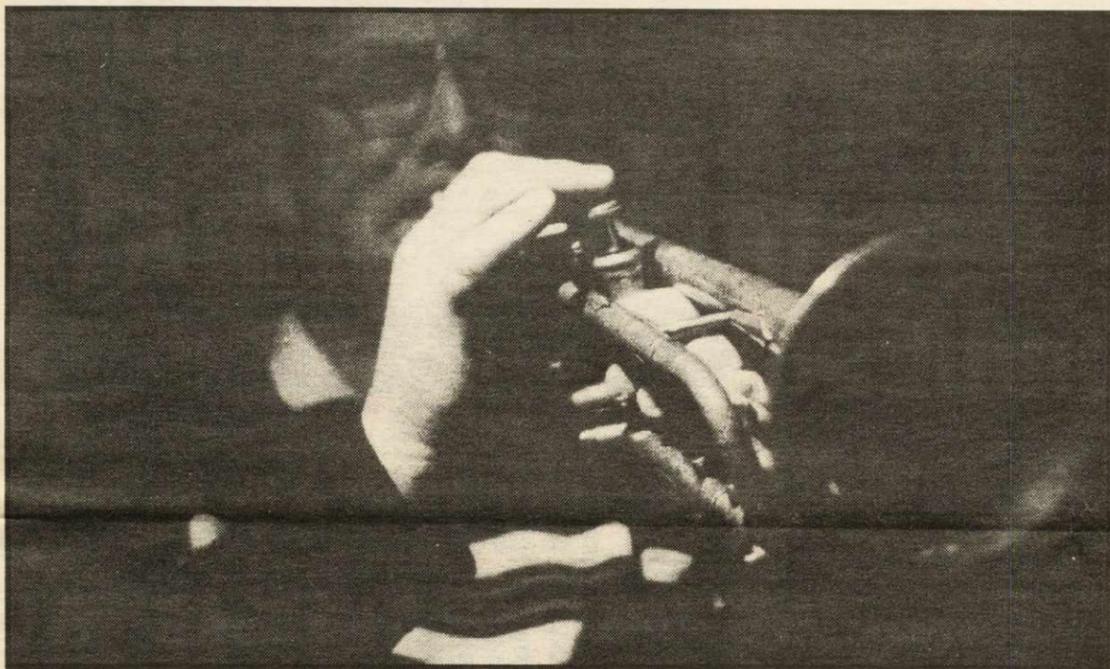
"I don't think there is a resolution, unless whoever they have as a mediator comes up with some magical solutions," said Frank Butler (of Memorial

University of Newfoundland), president of the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association (AUAA), who will be representing the region at the CIAU awards committee meeting.

"There's no consensus within the AUAA, and I don't think there's a major consensus across the country."

The most vocal conferences on this issue have been the Canada West Universities Athletic Association (CWUAA) and the Ontario University Athletics

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LONE TRUMPETEER: Halifax was full of blow-hards this weekend. But the Gazette checked out a few of the musicians who didn't appear on the Metro Center stage. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Acadia faculty strike approaches

Faculty association votes overwhelmingly in support of strike

BY MICHAEL NASH

WOLFVILLE (CUP) — Faculty at Acadia University could be on the picket lines by the beginning of next week.

On Feb. 2, just over 91 per cent of faculty who participated in a strike vote cast ballots in favour of walking out if a new collective agreement is not reached.

Last minute negotiations between faculty and the administration began Feb. 3. A conciliator was present at the talks.

Faculty association president Jim Sacouman says the strike vote confirms the faculty's seriousness in the negotiations. He adds that the vote is one of the highest in favour of a walkout in the history of Canadian faculty unions.

Sacouman says the administration has to change its attitude at the bargaining table if an agreement is to be reached.

"[The administration] have to stop running away. It's not a game. It's the lives of faculty and the lives of students that are being affected by their lack of good governance and stalling," he said.

But Acadia president Kelvin Ogilvie, commenting before the tally was known, said faculty would be harming the negotiating process if they voted in favour of a strike.

"One thing is certain, [it] will add tension surrounding the situation," he said.

Paul Black, president of Acadia's student union, says he's optimistic that the strike vote won't preclude progress in further talks. He says that both sides must reach an agreement quickly in the

interest of the students.

"If both parties cannot see their way clear to an immediate settlement, any claim that either is maintaining the best interests of students is false and misleading," he said.

Negotiations between faculty and administration have been on and off since September. Progress was made at talks held just before the strike vote, but there are still major differences on salaries and grievance procedures.

One sticking point between the two sides is an apparent disagreement over just what the negotiation's sticking points really are. The administration is pointing to the salary issue as the major stumbling block in the talks, while faculty members have expressed significant concern over clauses in the new contract which they say impinge on academic freedom.

Dal faculty prepares for strike vote

Negotiations on pause while both sides wait for provincial conciliator

BY KAVERI GUPTA AND SHELLEY ROBINSON

Dalhousie's faculty association is prepared to hold a strike vote following the end of scheduled talks between themselves and administration later this month.

The vote, scheduled for Feb. 18-20, will determine whether the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) executive can call a strike.

"It was clear very early on that we weren't going to settle," said Dr. Michael Cross, chief negotiator for the association.

The two sides have been at the table since last September in an attempt to work out the terms of the professors' latest contract. Negotiations hinge on professor salaries, and faculty hiring.

Dr. Ismet Ugursal, DFA president, says the University is compromising education by not responding to professors' demands for more competitive salaries.

"We are being driven out of the market," he said. "We will have to do whatever is necessary to achieve an acceptable level of education."

Independent talks between the two sides came to an end on Jan. 30. However, prior to negotiations, both sides jointly agreed and applied for a one-day provincial conciliator in case independent deliberations failed.

The department of labour usually appoints a conciliator within two weeks. The conciliator brings "an objective, neutral point of view which he/she uses in an

effort to bring the two sides together," said Whidden, the communications officer for the department.

Michelle Gallant, university spokesperson, says the conciliator is just the next step in the negotiation process, and refuses to comment on the possibility of a strike.

"[Conciliation] is not an unusual part of the negotiation process. Both parties felt it would be helpful given what had been accomplished. "A lot really will depend on the discussion and progress that's made," she said.

And Cross says that stalled negotiations between the administration and faculty are common, adding that in all negotiations since 1986, talks have only finished at the table once.

"There is an unhappy tradition at this university of not being able to resolve differences, both sides contribute to this," he said. "It never helps to not be able to settle at the table...we don't talk effectively to each other."

Ugursal says he hopes the current impasse will not negatively affect future relations with the University.

"The perspective shouldn't be that [the administration and faculty] are on separate sides. The ultimate goal is for a good university," he said.

But he won't rule a strike out of the question either.

"If no agreement is reached with the conciliator, we run out of options and strike becomes the only option to carry on."

Inside

"There is entirely too much charm around, and something must be done to stop it."
—Dorothy Parker

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On the weekend, men's hockey stomped, pounded and spat in the general direction of the UPEI Panthers.
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