

THE STATE OF THE UNION

Hello folks, It's me once again, Neil Ferguson, bringing you the highlights of last year's audited financial report and statements. Touche Ross and Company, Chartered Accountants, have presented us with another attractively bound report this year. I am including the balance sheet and a general statement of revenues and expenditures from the report and a brief explanation of where your student union fees go this year with comparative figures from last year. If anyone has a burning desire to discuss these items in more detail, they can visit me in the treasurer's palatial suite or they can talk to any member of the finance committee, whose names are posted in the council office area.

In the past we have often had money left over at the end of the fiscal year; this was placed in our retained earnings. Last year we drew \$48,000 from the retained earnings to support the budget in the area of unbudgeted expenses and to make up for budgeted revenue that did not come in. For example, we had to spend several thousand dollars on publicity and protest marches in averting the anticipated faculty strike, while revenue from such areas as food and bar services was below budget. While we certainly would not make a long-term practice of this, in the short term it proved to be an appropriate way of dealing with the year in question. As you can see from our balance sheet, we are in a fairly secure financial situation as our retained earnings (shown "surplus") amount to well over \$200,000. With such major purchases as our computer behind us we are looking forward to a good year here at the office of the Exchequer.

Student Union Fees

Student Union fees are collected at the beginning of each academic year. Last year there was a total of \$712,514 in student union fees collected. For a summary of where your money goes each year see **Where does the Cash Go?** below. You will note that the only changes this year are \$1 more to the health plan and the \$15 contribution to the capital campaign of the university.

Bar Services

With the ever-increasing competition in the bar scene downtown it is difficult to predict sales in our own bar services from year to year. Last year's figures were up over 1984; however, they were considerably less than budgeted. Sales were approximately equivalent to budget but the costs associated with sales were higher than budget. This seems to be mainly due to a trend in sales towards beer which has higher costs associated with it than liquor. A large amount was spent on entertainment in the Grawood last year. Since this was not originally budgeted to be charged against Grawood revenue, it had the apparent effect of decreasing the bottom line by about \$17,000.

Operations and General Operations

A great deal of money must go each year to pay for the many programs and services of the Student Union. Since the SUB is the centre of most activity in this area, we have to spend a considerable amount on its maintenance and renovation. In addition to costs associated with running the building we have many costs associated with running the many programs and services. Computerization of such things as the Second-Hand Bookstore

has increased their efficiency and is expected to reduce their overall costs, but costs in general are rising. Over the last several years the portion of the student union fee has not increased to keep up with inflation. As we are now running more programs than we were several years ago, we have been forced to trim budgets and impose controls on spending. This is healthy in terms of financial control but it does mean that some services have to spend more time in generating revenue and, as a result, have less time to spend on pure service areas.

Grants

In addition to the general services support the Student Union provides to societies we provided direct monetary support to societies to the tune of \$83,441 last year. Much of this was provided through specific grants given under contract each year to major societies, but some was given out to the Grants Committee in what we call "unallocated" grant awards. It is very important that you make yourselves aware of what your student societies are doing with your money. If you are involved with a society, keep yourself aware of what it is spending money on.

Look this information over and if you want to talk about anything, just come and see me or any member of the Finance Committee in the Council Offices, Room 222, SUB or call us at 424-2146.

This is my last time providing these figures to you. Good luck to next year's Treasurer and goodbye cruel finances.

Financially yours
Neil Ferguson
Treasurer, Dal Student Union



Neil Ferguson, Treasurer of the DSU. Photo by Mary C. Sykes, Dal Photo.

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APRIL 30, 1985

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- a) **Inventories**
Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the first in, first out basis.
- b) **Investments**
Investments are valued at cost.
- c) **Furniture and Fixtures**
Furniture and fixtures are charged at the expense of the general fund in the year they are acquired.

Building, including furniture and fixtures, which is owned by the University. The Student Union has contributed \$860,000 to date.

b) To pay grants of \$20,000 per year to the University to the year 2002 as contributions to the operating costs of the Student Union Building.

c) To make annual payments of \$35,000 to the University for the next four years as a contribution to the capital costs of Dalplex. The Student Union has contributed \$245,000 to date.

COMMITMENTS

By an agreement with Dalhousie University the Student Union has made the following commitments:

- a) To pay \$182,000 over the next seven years to enable the Student Union to use the Dalhousie Student Union

LOAN RECEIVABLE — CKDU

The loan was made to C.K.D.U. to purchase equipment for its new F.M. radio station. The loan bears interest at 10% per annum and is receivable in four annual installments of \$20,171.

WHERE DOES THE CASH GO?

Student Union fees are collected automatically by the University at registration along with your tuition fees. All changes in the amount of fee paid must be approved by the student body. In accordance with a referendum conducted in the spring of 1985 the fee for 1985-86 was raised by \$15.00 over the previous year. This amount represents a per student contribution to the University's capital campaign in return for which the Student Union was able to secure a favorable tuition agreement. The fee was also increased by \$1.00 to cover the additional cost for the health plan.

STUDENT UNION FEE

	84-85	85-86
Capital Payback for Student Union Building	\$10.00	\$10.00
Student Health Plan Insurance	18.00	19.00
Canadian Federation of Students Membership	4.00	4.00
Yearbook Fee	4.50	4.50
Students' Union of Nova Scotia Membership	1.50	1.50
CKDU-FM	9.00	9.00
Course Evaluations	.50	.50
Contribution to Capital Campaign	—	15.00
General Income for Operations	35.50	35.50
	\$83.00	\$99.00