

But tell me...

What is this thing they call

The Board

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The Board of Governors of Dalhousie University is the supreme governing body of the university. It is answerable only to the minister of education, Gerald Doucet.

The Board is responsible for making virtually all long-range decisions that will affect Dalhousie. It is in charge of the university's financial dealings, both in terms of obtaining money from the provincial government, in determining the salaries that will be paid to all university employees, professors and faculty members, and in speculating in stock for the university's extensive stock portfolio. They are responsible for drawing up the expansion program that Dalhousie is currently embarking upon and annexing the properties that they decide the university must purchase.

The Board of Governors is also totally undemocratic, both in theory and practice. It was only last year that students were given representation on the Board. These students consists of the current Student Council president, last year's Student Council president, and the Student Union administrator, John Graham. All three of them are sworn to secrecy on what takes place in meetings of the Board.

Board meetings are conducted in secrecy, as are meetings of the executive committee of the Board. No student or faculty member may attend except upon invitation from the Board, which is a rare occurrence. Minutes of Board meetings are marked "Confidential", and are generally impossible to obtain.

The following pages may give us some idea why the Board is so secretive and covert in the manner in which it operates.