

CASA

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In an interview with the University of New Brunswick's student newspaper, *The Brunswickan*, FitzPatrick said that he knows where the money for the Fredericton conference was spent.

"I know how to give an accounting for it that will be legally accepted in the opinion of my lawyer.

"I do not feel I have done anything morally wrong, ethically or legally and I am ready to defend myself as need be."

Fitzpatrick also told *The Brunswickan* that the total amount in dispute for the Fredericton conference is more like \$7,000, not the \$8,100 CASA officials allege.

CASA officials also say Fitzpatrick signed an unauthorized cheque for \$225 while at the Ottawa office. The cheque was subsequently cashed.

"It was only the national director Alex Usher [ill at the time] who was authorized to sign cheques at that point in time," Hough emphasized.

Pat Fitzpatrick said that a mistake occurred but that it was someone else's.

"This matter can be easily re-

solved should this thing ever go to court or come to an investigation," he said.

Also in dispute is about \$2,000 in petty cash that CASA officials say was to be used to pay hotel and meal expenses for a national board of directors meeting that occurred in Ottawa last December.

"The hotel was booked by Pat FitzPatrick and all of the arrangements were made for us to stay in the Travel Lodge in Ottawa," Hough said.

"We were left with the bills on that."

FitzPatrick said that he paid the Travel Lodge hotel bill in Ottawa in the early morning of December 24.

"I know where the receipt for that is, but no one has asked be, no one has talked to me."

CASA officials have said that they decided not to press charges in Ottawa because it would have been too costly to the organization.

But at a policy conference over the past weekend in Fredericton student leaders from 11 CASA student unions jointly signed a press release laying on at least two more allegations against FitzPatrick.

CASA members allege that FitzPatrick has not yet accounted for a cheque he received from the

St. Thomas Student Union for \$1,116.

They also allege that bank records obtained from the CASA national conference account show FitzPatrick authorized a \$725 withdrawal for an unspecified purpose. FitzPatrick has not been available for comment on these new allegations.

CASA officials have been available to respond to FitzPatrick's explanation.

Matthew Hough said that if FitzPatrick has an explanation or can provide receipts or an accounting for certain funds it would be great.

"Hey, if he has got receipts, let's go. Cough it up.

"If he can prove this without a benefit of a doubt this whole thing finishes. My question to him is simply why haven't you done it sooner?"

Chris Lydon, vice president academic/external of the Dalhousie Student Union, also reacted to FitzPatrick's explanation.

"Pat is a hell of a talker, but there appear to be discrepancies between what he is saying and what CASA has been able to determine.

"I do not think anybody across the country is taking what he is saying in his own defense very seriously."

Delay

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However, MacKay said he thinks that students should have input into the ASSB whether they donate money to the project or not.

At the council meeting,

MacKay read a letter from President Traves indicating that students would partake in the planning process for the new building. However, this letter does not guarantee students will have a say.

"It's a catch-22. On one hand we're under pressure to make a decision as quickly as possible. And on the other hand students have only been on campus for a month and we haven't had time to get the info out yet."

The ASSB motion currently reads:

Whereas, the DSU is making approximately a \$1,300,000 donation to the capital campaign; and

Whereas, the DSU has been asked to direct \$1,000,000 of the donation to the new Arts and Social Science Building (ASSB) being constructed across from the Student Union Building (SUB); and

Whereas, the President of Dalhousie University has verbally assured the Student Union that: students will have representation at all levels of the planning of the ASSB; little, if any food services at all, will be placed in the ASSB; and that the aesthetic image of the campus will not be negatively affected by the construction of the ASSB, or by removing from service the houses that many Arts offices reside in;

Be it resolved that: the DSU will direct \$1,000,000 of the student donation to the capital campaign fund towards the construction of the new ASSB, being constructed across from the SUB.

"Emancipate yourself from mental slavery"

Dal students encouraged to take part in national protest

BY GINA STACK

Students must protest against rising tuition fees according to a Dalhousie student activist.

Chris Riou is organizing students at Dal to participate in a protest planned for October 22.

Dalhousie will join with other universities in the city and across the country in protest. The national protest is part of the Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) Pan-Canadian Week of Action.

Dalhousie University is no longer a member of the CFS. In 1995, Dalhousie students voted to leave the CFS in favour of a new organization, the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA).

Both groups are run by and for students, but they differ in their approach to getting government to pay attention to students.

CASA prefers to negotiate with government, while the CFS uses student protests to make government listen.

Riou says that he feels Dalhousie students have become too passive.

"We need to send a message to government. If we get a large level of participation from students we can do this."

Students from Dalhousie, Kings and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design are all organizing to take part in the protest. Dalhousie students are being asked to meet outside of the Student Union Building at 3 p.m. to march from the campus to the Nova Scotia legislature.

Riou says he hopes that Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president Brad MacKay will encourage students to take part in the protest.

However, MacKay says that until Riou contacts him personally, he cannot comment on whether the student council will back the protest or not.

"We have no facts to go on, without them I can't take a stance," MacKay said.

"Some protest are beneficial, others can be counterproductive."

MacKay said that the fact that the protest is being organized by the CFS, and Dalhousie is no longer a member, does not matter to him.

"The CFS represents educational issues which is what we [DSU] are here to represent as well. If they are taking on an issue that will benefit Dal students, I'm sure council would support their initiative."

In addition to protesting tuition hikes,

cont. p.8: "Emancipate"

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