

# Increase in Student Fees---An Editorial

In an editorial last week The Gazette urged that a referendum be held in order to determine whether or not there should be a raise in Council fees. We urged that the student body was interested in what was happening to the money which it gives to the Student's Council and therefore that it deserved to have its voice heard in such a major decision.

The Student's Forum held Thursday proved how wrong we were. Only 35 students of more than 2,000 attended the meeting.

It seems incredible that more than 98 per cent of the student body should not be interested in such matters and therefore would not attend such a meeting. Indeed it may

well be said that apathy at Dalhousie has reached an all-time high.

At the forum a suggestion was put forward from the floor which The Gazette, and a majority of those who attended the forum, regard as excellent. The idea proposed is to raise council fees by an amount of from \$12.00 to \$15.00. This increase would eliminate student admission charges for all Dal athletic activities and DGDS productions and would make Pharos free to all students. This situation currently exists at several Canadian Universities including Mount A and UNB.

The idea is sound for several reasons. It would mean that all organizations would be assured of a certain minimum income, thus making the plan-

ning of budgets a much easier task. This would also eliminate the necessity of having to gamble on an attraction being a success at the box office as for example is currently being done with "Bye Bye Birdie". In this way deficit financing as has had to be done by this year's council would be eliminated and student financial affairs would be put on a firm basis.

Above all the proposal is good because it might help to put some of that nebulous thing called spirit back into Dalhousie. By making everything free to all those who have a student's card, attendance at such things as a DGDS play, or a football game might well be increased.

We also think that the average student is not going to

notice \$15.00 added onto a bill of say \$450.00 at registration time, nearly as much as he notices the quarters he has to pay whenever he wants to see a football, hockey, or basketball game, or attend some other Dalhousie activity.

There would appear to be one major objective to such an increase, namely that it amount to making all Dal activities compulsory whether we attend them or not. This is a justifiable argument only if one assumes that he has no obligation to support such activities either in person or financially. We contend that it is the duty as each and every one of us to lend our support to these organizations. Surely we can afford to give them the help

which would come from the proposed increase.

For these reasons The Gazette will support wholeheartedly any attempts made by the council to institute such a change. The plan is far-reaching, beneficial to the entire student body, and a sound solution to the financial problems both of the present and of the future.

We also feel that if a majority of the council, and of those people interested enough to make their views known to the council, favor such a proposal the raise should be made without a referendum. For after last week's forum, it seem painfully clear that most of the student body care little for what is done with their money or how much of it is taken.

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OFTEN ...



## The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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# University Aid Increased

## Council Amendments Alter Student Election Methods

Next year any ten Dalhousie students will be able to get together and put forward their own candidates for the posts of president and vice-president of the Students Council.

This radical change from past procedure was made at a meeting of the student council last

week in an effort to interest more people in student government. In previous years, as well as this year, candidates could only be nominated by a department or faculty.

The amendments read: "The president (first vice-president) to the Council of Students of a

list containing the signatures of ten students, all of whom are full paying members of the student body, plus the written consent of the nominee. The president (first vice-president) shall be voted upon by the entire student body and shall not represent any faculty or department on the Council."

The new regulation also includes other posts on the Council, when nominations will be made "by the submission of a list to the Council of Students containing the signatures of ten members of the faculty or department which the student will represent, plus the written consent of the nominee."

### Two Needed

However, in every case, there must be at least two candidates for a position.

The question was brought up at the meeting as to whether or not the new regulations would receive farcical treatment in the hands of irresponsible students. But it was generally felt that the new nominating procedures would serve to increase student participation in Council elections.

"There is a difference between the farcical and a touch of color," said Hal MacKay, "and color is something that is lacking in student elections at Dalhousie. Perhaps this will serve to liven things up."

The amendments to the constitution were prepared and submitted by Sharon Connolly, Dal NF-CUS chairman.

### One Nominated For President

Only one nomination for the post of president of the Students' Council had been received by the Council when the deadline was reached Jan. 12th.

Al Robertson, a third year engineering student, who is also studying for the degree of Bachelor of Science, has been nominated for the post. There had been no nominations for the post of vice-president.

All seats on the Council have to be contested, and it was still uncertain at press time as to what was going to happen. The Council held a meeting last night to discuss what president Dick Thompson termed "a deplorable situation."

## But Dal Officials Wary

Ottawa (Special) — "You will be asked to increase the federal grants to universities..." said Governor-General Georges Vanier last week as he delivered the throne speech at the opening of Parliament.

But what is meant by the single reference to university aid is anybody's guess here.

"We know what has been asked for in the past", said Dr. Edward Sheffield, research director for Canadian Universities Foundation, "but we can't say what we might receive."

He said the federal-provincial tax-sharing arrangement act terminates on March 31 of this year and that a new pact will have to be negotiated.

What has been asked for—in a 1960 brief to the government by the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges—is an increase in the per capita provincial grants from \$1.50 to \$2.50 with supplementary grants of \$5.00 per student in graduate, dentistry and medical schools. More funds to aid university construction and financial assistance for building student residences were also asked.

The funds for student residences were made available in 1960. The other requests are still pending.

### BULLETIN

Prime Minister Diefenbaker Monday announced additional details of the increased aid to education.

The Prime Minister said in the Commons that present federal grants would be increased one third, present federal grant of \$1.50 to each student in university would be increased to \$2, he said.

However, the Prime Minister offered awarding of the grants would remain on a basis of provincial population, rather than on the basis of the number of students within universities.

In making the increases known Mr. Diefenbaker said they were designed to meet the vast challenges of communism.

Both administration and student leaders at Dalhousie University have welcomed proposed increased aid to universities, but both have asked the federal government to change the present basis on which grants are made.

Announcement of increased federal grants to Canadian universities was contained in the speech from the throne, read last week at the opening of Parliament.

Asked to comment on the proposed increases, Dr. A. E. Kerr, Dal president, said he was "very glad" to hear the announcement.

However, Dr. Kerr said he hoped the federal government would move to end the "disparity" which he said now existed between Nova Scotia universities and other Canadian universities.

He said unless the grants were awarded on a basis of student population within the provinces, the disparity which now existed between colleges in Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada "would be increased to Nova Scotia's disadvantage."

Grants are now made on the basis of total population within provinces. Thus, although Nova Scotia has more university students per capita than does Ontario, its grants for universities are now made on the basis of the total population within Nova Scotia.

Dalhousie's student council was one of four Halifax college councils which sent a telegram to Prime Minister Diefenbaker asking the present basis of grants be changed.

Signing along with Dal student council president Dick Thompson were council presidents at St. Mary's University, the University of Kings College and Mount Saint Vincent College.

The telegram was also sent to Revenue minister George Nowlan—Nova Scotia's representative on the federal cabinet, the 11 other Nova Scotia members of Parliament and provincial premier R. L. Stanfield.

A brief backing up the telegram will be sent later.

A spokesman for the group said it was hoped all universities in Nova Scotia would sign the brief.

The brief will be brought up for discussion at the three-day Atlantic regional meeting of the National Federation of Canadian University Students which opens Feb 9 at Dalhousie.

The telegram also asked the federal government to change its present basis for the grants to the student population of a province, rather than the total provincial population.



Miss Nancy Parker, a first year Arts student at Dalhousie, was crowned Commerce Sweater Queen for 1962 at the Sweater Queen dance last Friday. (Photo by Bissett)