



It's cold out there: TUNSF members on the picket line

PHOTO: DEEPAK SETH

and lasted 23 hours, but the negotiations broke down once again. The only difference this time was the presence of government conciliation services orchestrating the talks.

A union meeting on Monday the 25th at 5:15 p.m. was attended by over 90 per cent of the members. "This meeting reconfirms the mandate, which is intended to allow TUNS to catch up to and achieve comparability with the competition," says Emodi. "The mandate received over 90 per cent support."

Emodi says, "We discussed at length the effects of the strike and voted unanimously to make up for lost time. This may involve teaching extra time, such as longer days."

Board of Governors chair Bill Gates says the administration is "extremely frustrated". "We gave them our very best offer. We were not prepared to play cat-and-mouse," says Gates, the general manager of the Halifax Water Commission.

"The students are the ones being hurt. The timing was obviously designed so the students would take the pressure," Gates says. The TUNS student union is refusing to take sides.

Though many of the university's 1200 students are concerned about losing a semester, there seems to be no progress in the talks. There is also an official lockout at the school.

"I'm four months away from graduating," says student council president Colin Dickson, an engineering student. "I don't want to lose a day. We're in the middle and being tugged by both sides."

Emodi says, "We're ready any time the board wants to resume. There is no scheduled meeting between the two sides, but there is some talking going on in the background."

In responding to the claims of advancement from both sides, Dickson says, "The only good news is when the strike is over."

Arts & Science invites students to Stay another year

by Ellen Reynolds

Dalhousie is implementing its new Advanced Major Degree in Arts and Science next year, but only in some departments.

Assistant Dean of Arts & Sciences John Baxter met this week with the chairs of individual departments to discuss the implementation and its effects.

The new 20-credit degree will be available next fall in most departments of Arts & Science. The course requirements will be changed to provide a more varied education.

This advanced Major will run parallel with the present 3-year degree for approximately 3 years, according to Baxter. "It's kind of an experiment and we'll see how popular it becomes. The Advanced Major Degree must prove itself by competing with the 3-year degree," says Baxter.

Although most departments agree that the Advanced Major is a good idea, several are doubtful that their department will be able to offer the program as soon as next year without new faculty appointments and some restructuring. "We're stretched to meet the needs of a 15-credit program. We can't implement it next year," says Graham Taylor, Chair of the History Dept.

"We would want the courses to be more rigorous and distinctive from the 15-credit degree. We are not happy to see a 4-year degree simply by adding 3rd-year courses. We would like to offer 4000-level courses," says Taylor.

Alan Kennedy, Chair of the English Department, says imple-

menting the Advanced Major in the department is contingent on promises made last year for new faculty appointments. "We need those appointments. Until that happens, it's highly unlikely we will be able to go ahead with it," says Kennedy.

Bill Jeffery, Vice-President Academic of the Student Union, likes the idea of a 4-year degree, but agrees that university resources is a crucial issue to consider, as is student aid. "The 4 years would mean a possible debt of \$12,000 instead of \$9000," says Jeffery.

There is also a question raised of why a student attending for 4 years would not take an honours instead of four years in an Advanced Major. "It would be absurd not to do honours if you have good results," says Michael Bishop, Chair of the French Department. He also expressed concern over the cost of another year for students. "It'll take time for people to be convinced to spend the extra money," he says.

James Holloway, Chair of the Spanish Department, doesn't anticipate much demand for the Advanced Major, but explained how more courses would affect the department. "Since we have a limited number of professors, we may not have the privilege of continuing to teach what we know best," says Holloway.

Baxter says the Advanced Major will be distinct from the honours program, and says, "The central reason for the new Advanced Major was to offer a richer, more comprehensive B.A. and B.Sc."

Walk to nowhere

by Martin Doucette

With files from Canadian University Press.

After 19 months of negotiations failed to produce a contract, professors at the Technical University of Nova Scotia walked off the job on Jan. 15th.

The 101 members of the TUNS faculty association are looking for a six per cent salary increase in each of the next three years. The college's Board of Governors' last offer was 3, 3, and 4 per cent.

But although the collective agreement specifies that only salaries are negotiable, professor Tom Emodi, a spokesperson for

the union, says the issue is the quality of education at TUNS.

"Five years down the road, some of the degrees here won't be worth very much. The quality of the programs is definitely on that way down. There's an inability to attract the right people."

Emodi says at least 7 of 18 teachers who have left the university in the past five years went on to higher-paying jobs elsewhere.

TUNS, which offers degrees in computer science and engineering, is competing with Ontario's four big universities and conglomerates like IBM and Lockheed for professors.

Talks took place January 22nd

Brain Brokers: Dalhousie open for business

by Brian MacDonald

Representatives of both the university and the business community seem to be in agreement over the usefulness of a technology transfer office, which is tentatively set to open in March.

The office, which was approved by the Senate last fall, will "be responsible for the transfer of the intellectual property of the university to the pri-

ivate sector," says Bob Fournier, Assistant Vice-President of Research, who is overseeing the setting up of the office.

According to Fournier, the technology transfer office will in part "act like a broker, uniting ideas coming out of the university with those who can best practically apply them."

Although the office will be funded by the university this year, Fournier hopes that some

time in the future it will be self-sufficient, paying for itself through both government research and royalties from the private sector.

For the faculty at Dalhousie, the office will "assist and encourage research and assist in commercializing their knowledge, whatever form that knowledge takes." Fournier notes that research at Dalhousie covers a wide variety of ideas and a technology

transfer office is needed to make the general public and business community more aware of this research.

Terry Sims, Chair of the Halifax Board of Trade's Economic Development Committee, believes the creation of a technology transfer office is a step in the right direction for improvement of the local economy.

"Nova Scotia has an enormous

resource of research facilities," says Sims, who adds that the office will generate interest on the part of the business sector for those facilities.

"A technology transfer office will make it easier for a member of the business community to find out exactly what research is being done at the university which relates to his or her business."