

Rep resigns amid controversy

by C. Ricketts

At last Sunday's Council meeting, yet another casualty was added to the list of recent resignations. Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) rep Ken Edgecombe informed council he would no longer take his seat.

At a DAGS council meeting Tuesday Edgecombe cited his reasons as personal and indicated he is frustrated with the way in which Dalhousie Student Council (DSU) has been handling problems. He is also resigning from his position as External Chair on DAGS council. "This position should have some responsibility to groups outside of DAGS," he said, noting he no longer had official external affiliations.

DAGS president David Jolliffe said Edgecombe had worked energetically on council and it would probably be difficult to find a replacement. Time commitments to attend DSU meetings and the relatively slow process of getting things done were the main problems, he said.

However, Jolliffe said relations between DAGS and DSU were the best they had been in years. "Since Edgecombe's resignation, the DSU executive has expressed an increased interest in grad affairs," he said.

DSU president Peter Rans said Edgecombe was a conscientious councillor who attended meetings regularly and did genuine work for Council. "His resignation gave personal and academic reasons - that's honest and that's how it should be," he said.

Rans agreed with Jolliffe that relations between DSU and DAGS have been co-operative on issues concerning foreign students, CFS-SUNS, signing of the DSU-DAGS contract and Psychological and Counselling services.

But Rans said DSU does not get involved with every society issue. "DAGS is there to look after its own internal affairs," he said, adding "If they have to ask for help, we (DSU) will give it willingly."

There have been a few issues where Rans and Edgecombe have not seen eye to eye. Edgecombe accused the DSU Executive of "being indifferent to grad issues", but Rans counters grad issues have had more attention since he "meets

with the DAGS president more frequently than have DSU presidents in the past."

Another bone of contention arose from the issue of having a tiger cub on campus during Orientation. Edgecombe argued that special meetings called were unconstitutional and he noted Rans was out of town whenever they were called.

Both Erskine and Edgecombe sat on the DSU constitutional committee formed last May, but needed a third non-councillor to complete the roster before any work could be done. Edgecombe contends Rans rejected his suggestion that preliminary work begin over the summer until the committee was completed in the fall, but suggested an alternative was to find someone to fill the spot.

"I don't think it should be up to me to recruit," said Edgecombe. "People would see it as getting my friends to sit on the committee."

Rans said Edgecombe was the reason why the committee was not filled. "I suggested we do some preliminary work and Edgecombe said no, until the committee had a full complement," he said.

There were further problems on establishing a Tiger Fund committee, designed to raise money for Bengal tigers as an endangered species and as a fundraiser for university athletic teams. "Edgecombe feels the Executive doesn't care enough about that committee," said Rans, indicating VP Internal John Russell had made suggestions for its organization.

"He indicated to me it might be valuable, but I was doing other things," Rans said. "There are problems with financial constraint."

Edgecombe's resignation was the culmination of his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the graduate text-processing issue had been handled by DSU. He said DAGS discovered grad access to text-processors would be restricted "quite by accident" when a graduate student had noticed a university memo on her supervisor's desk.

Upon enquiry at the computer centre, Edgecombe said he became aware of the President's Advisory Committee on Computing, and that the memo had been made available to DSU-VP Academic Neil Erskine. After initial disputes over the lack of communication and lack of graduate input into the

issue, Edgecombe is now satisfied Erskine understands the grads' point of view.

Graduate Studies Dean K.T. Leffek sent a letter to DAGS which was read at their council meeting. It outlined faculty policies on MICOM word processing, but not on grad use of the text-processing facilities. A proposal pending approval of a set \$75 fee for text-processing is a compromise for Edgecombe, since he opposes user fees of any kind.

"Some people said I've burnt out, but I told them they wouldn't have to worry about fees being imposed," said Edgecombe. "Basically, I've failed to represent grad students adequately on that particular issue."

Edgecombe will continue to sit on the newly formed DSU Tiger Committee.

This Week At

the GRAWOOD

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"Stripes" Tuesday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m.
"Airplane" Wednesday, Dec. 1, 8

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B.C. college students keep faculty negotiations rolling

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Students played a major role in averting strikes at two B.C. colleges last week by urging a resumption in bargaining.

When negotiations resumed, faculty and administrations at Capilano College in North Vancouver and Okanagan College in Kelowna reached tentative agreements.

A last minute settlement November 14 at Capilano avoided a full strike set for the following day.

Students sent press releases to local media, contacted faculty and college board representatives and held forums to pressure the two sides to resume talks.

Some students picketed with faculty during the one day strike November 9, as the threat of a full

strike planned by the faculty for November 15 grew closer.


Meanwhile, 21 hours of bargaining in Kelowna produced a tentative agreement that was ratified by both parties last week.

Students at the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College had earlier made a last-minute appeal to both sides to resume bargaining. About 40 students staged a sleep-in in the student services building November 5.

The next day about 100 students attended a board meeting where administrators agreed to start negotiations again.

Students also sent more than 370 letters to the negotiators calling for binding arbitration to end the disputes.

Details for both settlements have not been announced.



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