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Council discusses changes

by Nancy Ross

At the Student Council meeting of Sunday, December 2 more proposals were put forth by the Constitutional Committee to supplement the extensive Constitutional revisions made last year.

These proposals, which deal mainly with changes in the representation of students on Student Council are constitutional. There is still time for the council to do some fine tuning on the revisions made last year before they are passed and become a permanent part of the constitution said Dick Matthews, council president.

The discussion of these revisions was emotional said Matthews, as it involved elimination of a few positions and the right for other representatives to vote.

Proposed changes were as follows: the number of the members at large should be reduced from three to two; Arts, which has 3 representatives, should now only have two; Science, which at present has four members, should be reduced to three; Ardmore should lose their representative along with Fenwick. It was felt that there should be only one representative for the

men's residences and only one representative for the women's residences as well. Education would lose their representative. Also it was proposed that the Senators representatives (5) and the Board of Governors representative should have the right to vote on council.

One main complaint about this re-structuring was that since council's size would be decreased it would be harder to have counsellors on all the committees. In the past it has been hard to find non-counsellors to work on committees because of the lack of interest, so some people were concerned there wouldn't be enough members to work on all of the committees.

Other people on council were concerned about Education losing its vote. Dick Matthews said they would be represented by the graduate studies or Arts representatives and the number of people enrolling for education was dropping anyway.

The main reason Fenwick is losing a representative is because they do not have a council to report to as do the other residences.

Provisions were also made concerning the members at

large positions. It was felt by the Constitutional Committee that preference in choosing this member should be given to persons representing particular groups of students not adequately represented under the Faculty electoral system (e.g. International students, TYP students, Part-time students or first year students). Elva Hammarstrand, Senate representative, took a stronger stand on this issue than did the rest of the council, stating that International students should have a definite seat.

On the whole, Hammarstrand said the re-structuring was fair as well as progressive. She said council is definitely moving in the right direction.

The Constitution Committee said the re-structuring of council will serve to increase the effective representation of students at Dalhousie.

These proposals will be voted on during the next council meeting of January 13. If a 2/3 majority is obtained in council, then sometime later in January these proposals will be presented to the general student body to be voted on. If they are then accepted by the student body, they will then become part of Dalhousie's Student Union Constitution.

Full anti-calendar ready for fall of 1981

by Marlene Peinsznski

A Student Council Committee has been set up this year to evaluate courses and eventually supply the students of Dalhousie with an anti-calendar.

The committee, consisting of three student council members and two students, has been allocated a sum of \$4400.00 for their research. They plan to approach council soon to ask that a portion of the student fees be set aside next year for their use.

Rod Brittain, chairman of the committee, said calendars of this type which have been produced in past years were of little use to students. The

reason for this was that they contained tables, means and standard deviations which most students found too confusing.

The present committee, in an attempt to make the calendar more useful for course selection, have taken ideas from those produced by Berkley, Carleton and the University of Calgary.

They are presently concerned with two things: discovering what the students don't want in a course and providing the professors with feedback as to how well they are teaching the course.

The sample calendar contains information on class size, grade distribution and the

work load of a course. It also provides a summary of student response to the course. This will include an assessment of the work load, relevance of the assigned readings, fairness in marking, professor's lecture style, etc.

At the end of each course entry there will be a reply from the professor. He will designate any changes in the course content and justify including any material that the students feel is irrelevant. The professors are not obligated to reply, but Brittain is confident that most will co-operate.

Questionnaires are now being processed, and if all goes well, Brittain hopes to have a full anti-calendar ready for use in the fall of 1981.

CKDU proposal 'well received' by council

by Paul Creelman

The proposal for the change of CKDU radio to an FM station format is a controversial issue at Student Council.

Preliminary figures released at the Council meeting last Sunday made it very clear that the proposed change would be a serious step. The Capital Budget required for the changeover was estimated to be on the order of 75,000 dollars.

Station manager Mike Wile said the change to FM is a necessary step in the growth of the radio station.

"In the last three years we've always worked to make our product better, and it's constantly gotten better. I think it is at the point now where we can give it to the rest of the community. We think that's the next logical step. . . ."

Wile was asked to comment on the amount of funding requested.

"It would be a real shame to stop at this point," said Wile. "It's like having a book and not having anyone to print it, or writing a piece of music and not having anyone to

perform it. They (Council) have got to have a little vision in this respect. Of course everybody's going to say it's a lot of money, but just look at the University. Even in these difficult times, the University has money, and the Student Union has money, and it's just a matter of how they want to get the money to who wants it. I think we have a good argument for asking them."

Dick Matthews, President of the Student Union, took a hard line stance in regard to the future of CKDU.