

Council briefs

by Maria Rey

Council passed a motion Sunday night to amend Dalhousie's representation at SUNS plenaries from one to two votes. Dalhousie will ask SUNS to give the university one vote for Dalhousie and one for the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS).

Graduate student rep Joe Wilson proposed this motion because he thought it unfair for Dalhousie to receive one vote along with other SUNS members when Dalhousie's student union is so much larger than those of other member universities.

A major constitutional change was implemented by council in passing a motion to set up a Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board. This board is to be a quasi-judicial body of the student union and have complete jurisdiction in (a) the interpretation and enforcement of the union's constitution, (b) the interpretation of the constitutional validity of any decisions of the union executive and/or student council, (c) the interpretation of the validity of questioned election practices and conduct, and (d) the enforcement of proceedings against any member of the student union accused of causing damage to persons or property on campus.

The board will have jurisdiction over any damaged person or property, and will effectively set up a sort of supreme court for the Dalhousie student union. It will not have jurisdiction over academic matters.

A motion to amend this by-law, by adding a notation to the academic record of someone convicted by the board of a serious offense, was defeated, as many councillors felt such a notation would be more detrimental to the student than need be.

The board will consist of a chairperson, who must be a lawyer and former Dalhousie graduate; a vice-chairperson, who must be a Dalhousie law student; a faculty member and two other students.

Reports were accepted by council from the Community Affairs secretary, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Honoraria Committee.

From the Chief Electoral Officer's report, there arose a motion to grant the team of Thompson and Fitzgerald \$50 to reimburse their campaign expenditures, even though they did not receive the 10 per cent vote required under the constitution for reimbursement. The motion was passed. The chief electoral officer received an honorarium of \$300.

Council abolished the position of Housing Secretary at the meeting, and also passed a motion that Jan Ferguson be fired, effective March 5, for not turning in a report to council and failing to report to council two weeks ago to explain her omission.

A \$300 grant was given to the Transition Youth Program Students Association, as well as \$200 to both the Caribbean Students Association and the Malaysian and Indonesian Students Association. Dal's debating society, Sodales, was granted \$100.

From the Honoraria Committee report, council passed motions to raise the secretary's and chairperson's honoraria from \$15 to \$25 per meeting, and to raise the president's expense account from \$200 to \$500. Also the president's monthly salary will be raised from \$225 to \$240.

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