

Faculty pass strike vote

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN and KIM MUNDLE

Professor J. Andrew Wainwright sits patiently at the Dalhousie Faculty Association booth in the SUB lobby. It's Monday lunch hour at Dalhousie university and hundreds of students are streaming through the SUB on their way to the cafeteria. Some students pass by the booth but many others stop and ask Wainwright questions about the DFA and their successful strike vote.

After negotiations with the Dalhousie administration stalled the DFA turned to their 728 members to ask for support in a strike vote. From Oct. 23-25 580 of Dalhousie's faculty and librarians took to the polls and of those who voted 477 cast a "yes" ballot to strike.

Wainwright is just one of the many faculty members taking time to see that students understand the issues in the DFA's negotiations with the administration.

He says with 82 per cent of those who voted in favour of strike action it's clear the DFA has the support of its members.

"Maybe not all of them would sit at this table but it's obvious from last night's strike vote that we have the majority of faculty's support," says Wainwright.

And as someone who supported the strike vote, he feels strongly that action was necessary.

"At a deadlock in negotiations a strike vote was legally necessary if any action was to be taken other than continued deadlock," says Wainwright.

It's been a busy afternoon for Wainwright. He estimates that in four hours he's spoken to nearly 25 students.

DFA President Sandy Young says it's essential that students understand the vote was taken as a means of pressuring the administration into settling.

He says the sole intent of the strike vote was to bring the negotiations to a nice, quiet conclusion.

"When negotiations cease to be fluid then we'll look at action," says Young. "That's not the case right now."

The decision to move to a strike vote was made at a DFA general meeting and came after reports from their negotiating team that things were going nowhere in their sessions with the administration.

A successful strike vote puts the DFA in a position to pursue a wide range of options.

Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, DFA campus support committee member, says he thinks the best actions are those that hurt students least while still putting pressure on the administration.

Possible actions for the faculty

association extend from boycotting all Dalhousie-sponsored events to establishing informational pickets at the university.

"Going out indefinitely is our last alternative," says Sinclair-Faulkner.

And he says he doesn't think that the DFA will have to resort to such drastic methods.

He says the DFA's position is reasonable and people should be able to see that.

For now the administration and DFA negotiating teams have returned to the bargaining table.

The largest issue still unresolved by the negotiating teams is that of salary.

Increases to faculty's salaries are made up of two components—a career development increment and an income maintenance change.

The career development increment refers to an increase based on the assumption that a faculty member's value to the university increases with the amount of time they spend at Dalhousie. This is a lump sum figure and is presently set at \$1,000.

The income maintenance change is closer to what is known as a cost of living increase and is a percentage increase.

The Board went into negotiations offering the faculty a zero per cent increase in the income maintenance change component.

Later they came up to an offer of a 1.54 per cent increase.

Sinclair-Faulkner calls the board's offer "outrageous". The DFA is asking for a cost of living increase in both components of their salary package. They also want a catch-up clause in the contract that would have them making the same in real terms in 1988 as they were in 1978.

"We don't believe the board can't go above two per cent," says Sinclair-Faulkner.

Settlements at other Nova Scotia universities range from a high of an 8.5 per cent increase at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and St. Francis Xavier to a low of six per cent at Acadia.

Other issues that remain unresolved between the DFA and the administration include the pension plan and a clause dealing with extracurricular activities of professors.

The board has proposed a clause in the collective agreement that would make deans responsible for knowing what every faculty member is doing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They tabled this proposal in April and the issue has not been resolved.

"This makes no sense from either a practical viewpoint or from a point of view of academic freedoms," says Sinclair-Faulkner. He fears this clause would be used to



Direct Action brought satisfaction to someone displeased with this sexist ad on the bus shelter at the corner of Inglis and Robie. Photo: Mary C. Sykes, Dal Photo.

"whip certain faculty members into shape."

The university also wants a percentage of royalties on patents, publishing projects and lecture fees paid to professors. They claim that since some of the work was done on academic time they have rights to the money.

What they are forgetting, says Sinclair-Faulkner, is that professors' publishing and lecturing helps

to enhance the prestige of the university.

In the coming weeks DFA members will continue to staff a booth in the lobby of the SUB to answer any questions from students. And although Dalhousie Student Union president Alex Gigeroff says space is available in the building for an administration booth, they've yet to take him up on the offer. □

Waterloo sues CFS predecessor

WATERLOO (CUP)—In a move that could leave the Canadian Federation of Students in deep financial trouble, the University of Waterloo student council plans to sue the National Union of Students, CFS's predecessor, for thousands of dollars in membership fees it paid to the organization in 1982-83.

Council members claim that NUS owes them about \$15,000 in membership fees that it must pay back because the union did not abide by its by-laws. Council president Tom Allison says NUS "for all intents and purposes" has ceased to function.

In 1981, NUS delegated all of its

responsibilities, including financial ones, to CFS. It effectively became a "dummy corporation" of CFS, according to former NUS chair John Doherty.

Allison said the council paid its membership fees to NUS in 1982 and withdrew from the organization in 1983 at a student union general meeting. Allison says the withdrawal was effective immediately.

NUS, however, did not recognize the pull-out until May 1984 and has launched a suit against the council demanding payment of 1983 fees.

The council's counter suit will be filed in court this week. Allison

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Dalhousie council spineless, gutless jelly fish?

By KATIE FRASER

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) decided to remain neutral on the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) strike vote at their Oct. 28 council meeting.

David McCann, student representative on the Dalhousie senate, was the only councillor to come out in direct support of the DFA. He says that because Dalhousie pays its professors lower salaries than other universities they might lose valuable staff.

DSU president Alex Gigeroff says although he's concerned about the low wages, if faculty's wages were increased something else would lose out.

He says council's stand on the issue of support for the faculty has caused them to be called "spineless, gutless jellyfish."

"At this stage we don't want to further create a division in atmosphere when negotiating is still going on. It is important that the parties negotiate in good faith," said Gigeroff. "We are talking to both sides. I'd like to see more students express their views, and to see those views get back to both sides."

If negotiations break down and a strike occurs, Geoff Martin, student representative of the Board of Governors, says the students could sue the Board of Governors for tuition fees. He says that when the cleaners went on strike in Howe and Sherif Hall, the students there successfully sued for a \$70 rebate.

"I think eventually the question of justice will have to be addressed. Salaries are well below the national average," said Martin. "If we are not paying competitively, we are going to make it less likely for good recruitments and we will lose our good people."

"Anything that happens at the university will have an impact on their capital fund drive," says Martin. "The donors are interested in how stable the University is. If for example there was a strike, this wouldn't show unity. It would be a negative factor for the campaign."

Gigeroff says the strike will not only damage Dalhousie's reputation in the community, as far as the fund drive is concerned, but it also would create divisions within the university community itself.

"What most concerns me about the entire affair is that it's furthering the sense of division in the university. There is an uncomfortable atmosphere in the University," says Gigeroff.

"I want a settlement." □