

Enraged students present case

by Alex Burton

The Financial Strategy Committee (FSC) of Dalhousie held an open meeting on Monday at Henson College to hear presentations on and reaction to their sixth progress report.

The committee, made up of

members of the administration and board of governors and representatives of the local business community, proposed a five-year financial strategy for Dalhousie that aims to reduce the present university deficit of \$33.5 million. The report recommends increasing revenue from tuition

fees by \$3.2 million as well as eliminating five faculty positions a year for the next five years through attrition.

Presentations were made to the committee by representatives of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), the Dalhousie Student Union (DSA), and the Senate

Financial Planning Committee. Brief presentations and comments were also presented by the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Dalhousie Law Society, the Dalhousie African Students Association, and the Dalhousie Kenyan Students Association.

Dale Retallick, speaking on behalf of the DFA, spoke against the proposed tuition increases. He defined Dalhousie as distinctively different from other universities in the Maritimes and told

the committee that the present funding formula for universities in Nova Scotia does not reflect this. "If Dalhousie is going to be distinctively different from its sister universities . . . if the government wants that type of university, it will have to pay for it."

Brian Christie, an administrative resource person, responded to questions concerning the type of university Dalhousie wants to be by asking whether Dalhousie

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12 per cent hike?

DSU goes on fee frenzy

by Alex Burton

Labelled "high noon", the press conference held in the Student Union Building on Monday was called by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) to outline their opposition to the proposed tuition fee increases.

The lobby was filled to capacity by students and members of the commercial press, and as a result the press conference was a lively and sometimes heated affair. The DSU was represented by Tom Digby, Vice-president External, and Dave Shannon, Student Union President.

Digby gave a synopsis of the effect the DSU feels the increases will have on students. He said undergraduate fees will rise "10 to 12 per cent, and maybe more", while professional students such as those studying law or medicine may face hikes as high as 30 per cent. Digby calculated that that was an increase of about \$200 for undergraduates and \$600 for professional students. Quoting a DSU survey conducted last term, Digby said "52 per cent of Dalhousie students receive no paren-

tal financial assistance, 51 per cent work part-time, and 49 per cent receive student loans or bursaries." The study also found that 22 per cent of Dalhousie students fit into all three categories. "It's those people who will be hurt the most," said Digby.

Shannon outlined some of the reasoning behind the DSU's opposition to the increases. Making a link between fees and the ability of various income and social groups to enter university, Shannon said, "accessibility will be denied." Shannon also expressed concern about the debt load students may carry when they are leaving university and "starting families and careers".

Shannon said the proposed increases will not only affect the student body, but also jeopardize the university's ability to solicit funds from alumni. "This support will not be forthcoming if these increases are realized."

Lara Morris, President of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), and Jane Arnold, Chair of the Canadian Federation of

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DSU hosts tuition debate

by Alistair Croll

The SUB cafeteria was filled with its usual lunchtime crowd. Three video cameras were focussed on the podium and tables which stood in the middle of the room, and a conglomeration of students, staff and administrators had pulled up chairs to watch.

Speaking for the topic before the house, *Should Dalhousie University hike tuition by 20 per*

cent?, were Howard Clark, president of Dalhousie, and Peter Butler, a professor of sociology at Dalhousie. Opposing the topic were Alexa McDonough, NDP leader for Nova Scotia, and Royden Trainor, chair of the Dalhousie Student Union.

The debate began in a friendly manner, with president Clark making some light-hearted remarks about his unlucky position in debating the topic before students. He presented some interesting background to the audience, as well as a breakdown of how tuition costs are met, and explained how students must decide whether they pay now, as students, or later, as taxpayers.

McDonough spoke next, obviously comfortable in a parliamentary-style debate. She criticized Clark for considering students apart from taxpayers, and challenged many of the statistics he had quoted.

The NDP leader expressed concern at the socio-economic disparity among university and

non-university Canadians, and said she saw free access to education as the only means to a solution. She also complimented SUNS and the Dalhousie Student Union for their studies into university accessibility.

The debate grew heated as the four speakers presented their interpretations of the various studies that have been done. As president Clark said afterwards, "I think that what has been made clear here today is that much more research into accessibility must be done."

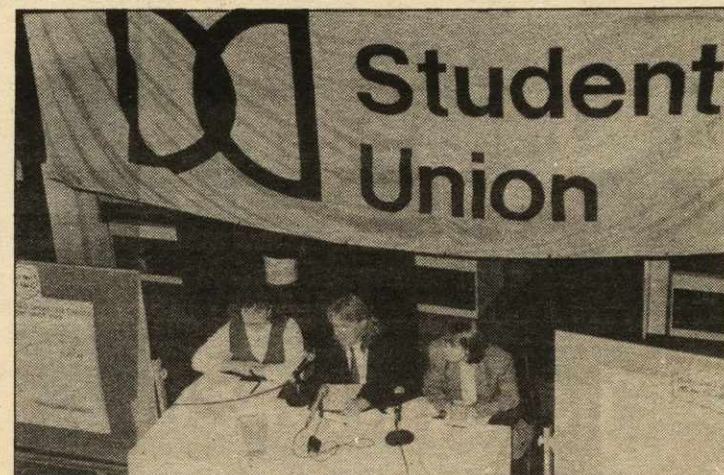
Butler, who serves as a consultant for Decima Research, a polling organization, said, "people in Nova Scotia feel universities get enough money — it's a 'user-must-pay' view." He criticized the differentials which exist between various programs, such as the fact that students pay 35 per cent of their tuition costs in arts, but only 0.076 per cent in medicine.

Butler then went on to compare

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CFS chair Jane Arnold, DSU president Dave Shannon and SUNS chair Lara Morris train their guns on tuition hikes in the SUB

photo: Rochelle Owen