

Dalhousie tuition raised \$75

by Arnold Mosher

Tuition at Dalhousie University is 75 dollars higher this year, following a decision by the university Board of Governors last August.

Dalhousie Student Union president Gord Owen, a board

member, said general inflationary trends led to an increase in university operating expenses. He said inadequate government funding forced the Board to boost tuition to meet these expenses.

Owen said labour union

demands for increased wages were among expenses the Board had to consider.

The university's actual cost-income breakdowns are kept secret, and Board of Governor's meetings that deal with Dalhousie's budget are

closed to the public. It is known, however, that tuition fees account for ten per cent of total income, with government funding providing 70 per cent, and university investments supplying the rest.

Owen criticized the recommendations of the Maritime Provinces High Education Committee, the body that advises maritime provincial governments on the levels of funding for post secondary education. The MPHEC in its report last spring recognized a twelve per cent increase in operating costs for universities, but advised governments to raise funding by only nine per cent, leaving the gap to be filled by tuition hikes.

The report also suggested tuition be "tied" to the cost of living.

Owen said the MPHEC seems to be trying to make universities less accessible to lower income students. He said the Commission is "not objective".

MPHEC reports show a net loss of students from the Maritimes to other parts of Canada. Owen said if the pro-

vincial government continued to force students to bridge the gaps in funding, it is probable that more students would leave for universities in other parts of Canada. The net result, he said, will be a drain of trained people from the Maritimes.

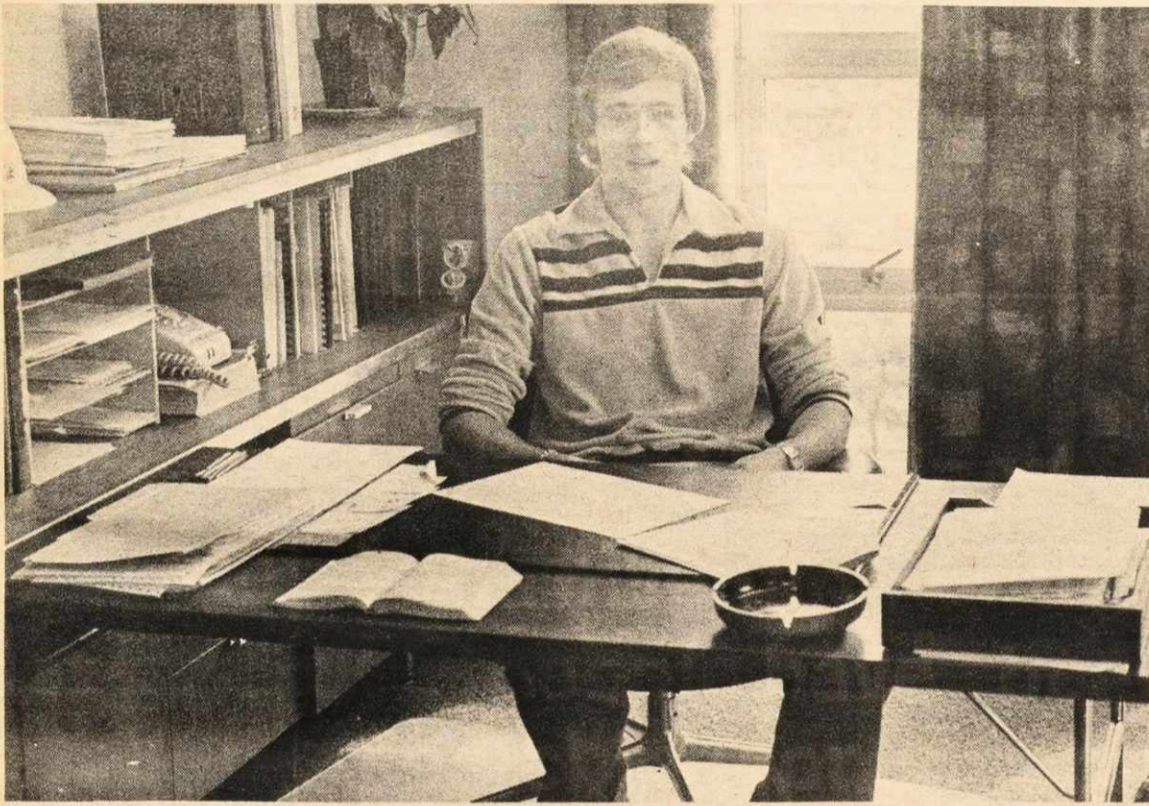
He said the Nova Scotia government has lost sight of the fact that "investing in universities is investing in the future."

He said the onus is now on universities to act collectively to persuade the government of the long term benefits of higher education.

Dalhousie President Andrew MacKay said he did not think increases in tuition at Dalhousie this year would mean students would leave for other universities.

He rejected suggestions that the university is becoming elitist, saying maximum accessibility is still a goal.

MacKay said the Atlantic Association of Universities has initiated a "soft sell" campaign to publicize the long term benefits of post-secondary education.



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