

# Students should pay more for tuition, say University Presidents

HALIFAX/OTTAWA (CUP) -- Hinting that "the time has come" for students to pay a greater share of the costs of their education, a committee of university presidents has called for increases in tuition at Canadian colleges and universities.

The recommendation was contained in a discussion paper presented by a seven-member sub-committee of the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada to the AUCC conference in Winnipeg, October 19.

Dalhousie President Andrew

MacKay, a member of the committee, agreed that students should take more of the financial responsibility of their education, tempering this with the opinion that such a move should be accompanied by a new student aid system to ensure accessibility.

James Ham, chairperson of the committee and President of the University of Toronto, told the *Globe and Mail* on October 17 that tuition should cover up to 25 per cent of the total costs of education, saying that students themselves benefit from education.

Ham's proposal would see tuition at Dalhousie go up from \$1000 to about \$2500. Students now pay for 10 per cent of Dalhousie's operating budget, although students in undergraduate studies pay a higher percentage as opposed to those in expensive faculties such as medicine and dentistry.

Canadian students pay between 10 and 15 per cent of their educational costs.

MacKay said that tuition fees have been kept low in other provinces where governments have disallowed the universities

from increasing tuition fees. Alberta has the lowest fees, he said, of under \$600.

By contrast, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission recommends funding increases to the provincial governments on the understanding that tuition fees go up according to cost of living increases, MacKay said.

Hence fees in the Maritimes are the highest in the country.

The committee said there is public support for post-secondary education, and "in all likelihood this would find expression in a willingness to pay higher tuition fees".

"Universities are too dependent on government," Ham said. "We have a real crisis of universities surviving (government underfunding) as high quality institutions."

Meanwhile, delegates at the founding conference of the Canadian Federation of Students, held in Ottawa October 14-19, condemned the discussion paper's tuition recommendations.

"Their report isn't surprising," said Barb Taylor, chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Stu-

dents. "University administrations have traditionally supported tuition increases." She said she was surprised by the level of tuition Ham feels students should bear.

"You'll end up with a system of education that's less accessible and even more elitist."

AUCC discussions resulted from the proposed cutbacks in post-secondary education funding, expected in the November federal budget. Finance Minister Allan MacEachen warned that upwards of \$1.5 billion will be sliced from the transfer payments made to provinces for social services and education funding.

The timing of the AUCC discussion is "obvious", said Barb Taylor. "When the government is making major decisions on funding to post-secondary education, the university community should be together. What does the AUCC do? It turns against the students."

Taylor said CFS member student councils were being asked to send their college and university presidents telegrams, urging them to reject the findings of the AUCC committee.



## Dal turns away day care in a time of need

by Heather Roseveare

The recent decision by Dalhousie not to allow the South End Community Day Care Centre to temporarily locate on its premises has left the operation in a bind.

The day care centre, which has been located in a building owned by the City on University Avenue, was informed two years ago that the building would be torn down. The final move-out date is this November 15, and the centre hasn't yet found another location until its new permanent facility is opened next summer.

Valerie Blaauw, director of the South End Community Day Care Centre, says several churches, hospitals, and schools were approached. In October, the Dalhousie Administration agreed to accommodate the day care, she said.

Two portable classrooms were to be placed next to Dalhousie's existing day care, which was then approached to request the sharing of the wash-room facilities with the South End Day Care.

Last week, this plan was rejected by the Dalhousie Day Care Committee on the basis that sharing their facilities would

inconvenience the Dalhousie Day Care program.

Carolyn Robinson, student representative on the committee, explains that provincial legislation only allows the ratio of ten children per toilet. Presently, there are 60 children for seven toilets, so the addition of the 40 South End Day Care children would violate this law. The toilets would "probably start to smell, probably be intolerable."

Robinson believes the centre should have been quicker to secure a temporary location since they've known of the coming demolition of their present facility for two years.

Blaauw feels betrayed by Dalhousie's decision. She says her day care has served Dalhousie faculty, staff, and students.

As a result of the failure to find a relocation, the South End Community Day Care Centre will have to turn away two-thirds of its pre-schoolers until the new facility opens its doors next June.

Blaauw feels defeated by her efforts: "I just hope the parents can find another place to send their children until then."

## Report recommends 12 per cent increase for Maritime Universities

HALIFAX (CUP) -- A 12 per cent increase in operating grants to maritime universities and colleges is being called for by an advisory commission report released recently.

The annual report of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) details the activities and goals of the commission during the 1980-81 academic year.

The commission was originally set up in 1974 to assist the three provinces in "attaining a more efficient and effective utilization of resources in the field of higher education".

Increases in enrollment are not expected to last much longer, according to the report which recommends that governments maintain an adequate funding level to preserve the present day standards.

Last year the commission recommended funding increases of 11.6 per cent and was pleased to see the government follow through on awarding them to universities.

Also highlighted in the report were observances on and recommendations for more programmes tailored to meet local needs for the future. Such programmes would come in areas such as food sciences, computer science, communications, psychology, special education, gerontology, tourism and marine resources.

The shift away from the liberal arts programmes continued last year, accounting for only 27.5 per cent of those enrolled as opposed to 40 per cent

twenty years ago.

The commission also calls for more co-ordination in the field of research between the universities, government and industry. During 1980 research accounted for a meagre \$19.1 million.

Last year the commission recommended improvements in student aid programmes until the Federal-Provincial Task Force on Student Aid was completed. It was pleased with

increases in bursary ceilings from \$1,200 to \$1,700 and urged governments to take other steps to improve student aid.

The commission concluded that despite the predicted hardships of upcoming years, increased co-operation among all those involved in post-secondary education will serve the region in adapting to the changes that lie ahead.

## CUTS theft: security needed in the SUB

by Michael Redmond

A \$3500 theft from the Canadian University Travel Service (CUTS) office two weeks ago reflects a larger security problem in the Student Union Building.

The theft, under investigation by the Halifax Police Department, is not the first to occur in the CUTS office. Thefts of petty cash were frequent in the past before CUTS took its lock off the master key system. Less frequent were larger thefts where filing cabinets were forced open. The thieves must have had some knowledge of the office layout, said Heather Crosbie, CUTS manager.

The rest of the building has not been immune to theft in the past. Offices are frequently missing supplied, lockers are broken into, said SUB General Manager Murdoch Ryan, and

last year between \$500 and \$800 was stolen from the Grawood. There were no signs of forceable entry in the Grawood thefts, Ryan said.

In an effort to halt petty thefts, security is currently being improved. The building, which is occupied solely by cleaning staff after closing, is now checked by Dal Security hourly.

Within the next few weeks a new lock system will be installed in an effort to solve the master key problem. The present system is ten years old, and any number of master keys could exist, according to Ryan.

Max Keeping, Director of Dal Security, said any changes in security personnel in the SUB is up to the SUB management. The reason that 24 hour security has not been implemented, is due to the high cost, Ryan said.