

Tenure takes forever

by Roger Metcalf

It is taking Dalhousie longer to consolidate and revise its regulations on tenure and appointment than it usually takes the federal parliament to deal with major legislation such as the recent privacy-wiretapping bill. Why this is so is not clear, since most faculty and students do not know enough about the new regulations to delay them if that was desired.

What the regulations reveal is that at Dalhousie most crucial decisions are not made by the governing bodies, or in the public eye. Instead, the governing bodies create structures, often

with little debate, within which the administrators act and make the important decisions.

Despite 24 pages of regulations, it will still be up to Arts and Science, especially its Dean, to decide whether its faculty members must publish or perish, whether tenured faculty must have a Ph.D., regardless of ability, and whether those who do not qualify for tenure but are performing valuable teaching or research functions will be able to stay at Dalhousie.

Like clockwork Dalhousie hears about tenure disputes every year, often starting about now. GAZETTE tries

to cover the cases where those directly involved are willing to have the facts aired, but it does not sense that most members of the Dalhousie community are fully aware of policies on tenure and hiring. This article describes the process by which relatively minor changes were made. Perhaps it reveals something about why we have the present variety of academic staff.

The decision-making process at Dalhousie may, or may not, be typified by the discussion and passage of the new appointments and tenure regulations. Three years ago the tenure regulations were amended to

restrict the right to appeal. This was done on the recommendation of an ad hoc committee after the university discovered that disgruntled faculty members were able to use the appeal procedure as a means of forcing a long review of their case. Since appeals were long and costly, and since each year brings tenure cases that are troublesome (Dombrowski, Grady, etc.), there is now little possibility of a tenure decision being appealed, much less reversed.

Concerns about the regulations were stirred when the appeals were restricted, so the ad hoc committee

decided to look into the existing regulations and practice. A year and a half later, it reported. A new and complete set of regulations on tenure and appointment had been prepared.

Senate Council received the report, and spent several hours debating the first few pages. The ad hoc committee thanked the Council for its opinions, and began to prepare a second draft, which hopefully would be more acceptable to the Senate Council. Also, there were differences among the committee members (Vice-President W. A. MacKay,

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Government Arrogant Or Incompetent ?

by Peter Clarke

Housing

On Sunday Nov. 29, 1974 Council continued their efforts to relieve some of the housing problems which Dalhousie students face each year. Members moved to endorse the action of George Lohnes, Howe Hall President, who called for the university to reverse its apparent decision to delay residence construction for a couple of years. Lohnes in a letter to student council, President Dan O'Connor claimed that the Residence planning committee had come up with a short term plan for a 350 bed residence to be constructed adjacent to Howe Hall. The University, however, has decided to incorporate the plan in to the proposed Physical Sciences Complex. This apparently

with community groups. He indicated that the committee had met with Halifax Mayor Edmund Morris and felt optimistic about securing the Mayor's support for some of the rent control and housing standards proposals. If a concrete program can be worked out early enough and if city hall will approve it, tenants may expect a better deal this fall.

Graham Commission - O'Connor then told Council of the results of the Student Union Presidents meeting with the Minister of Education. He indicated that the Minister gave no plan for a 350 bed residence to be constructed adjacent to Howe Hall. The University, however, has decided to incorporate the plan in to the proposed Physical Sciences Complex. This apparently will delay construction until such time as the plans for the Physical Sciences Complex are finalized. O'Connor moved that Council endorse the Howe Hall letter and encourage the university to build the residence first and then build the Physical Sciences Complex around it, the motion was approved. O'Connor, then went on to report to council on the lobby for rent control and housing standards in which the student union is co-operating

proval. O'Connor said that he would try but that time was a limiting factor, he agreed with Ware's appraisal of the provincial government but could not decide whether their problem was arrogance or incompetence, sighting the delaying in the Dal/Tech merger as another example.



Martin Ware

Change of Government

The change of Government Regulation that has been batted about for several weeks now, was finally presented on Sunday. The regulation is designed to switch governments' term from the present March to March to a new May to May term. This will allow next year's government to overlap starting its term on March 1st but not completing it for fourteen months. The procedure was explained by President O'Connor, council passed it with little discussion. In future Councils will be passing a budget for the year following their term, allowing members to have at least a years experience before dealing with something as complicated as a budget. The income council will have the authority to amend the budget as it sees fit.

C.K.D.U. - Radio got back into the minutes when Tom

Clahane (Arts) proposed a motion to halt CKDU's broadcast of classical music at lunch hour. Clahane claimed that the students didn't want to hear classical music at lunch and suggested that it be replaced with contemporary or light rock. O'Connor suggested that programming was still in the planning stage, and that things should be left as they are until carrier current is installed at which point changes could be made taking into consideration the demands of a larger audience. Clahane pointed out to council that six suggestion forms and a petition signed by 231 students had been received asking for the rescheduling of classical music, this he claimed was a phenomenal reaction that should not be ignored. Council, however, differed in their interpretation of public opinion and refused to accept Clahane's motion. If you have an opinion on the subject, please fill out a suggestion form at the enquiry desk in the SUB.



Tom Clahane

Grants - Late in the evening the Grants Committee presented four allocations to Council for their approval. The first \$300 to the Fencing Club for purchase of an electronic judg-

ing unit, was amended to four hundred. A lengthy debate ensued with the advocates of four hundred winning by a vote. Other grants went to Ecology



Catherine Dyke

Action Centre to help them continue their good work, and the Dalhousie Physiotherapy Society received \$350 to help fix up a meeting room with furnishing for the use of the society. Presently the Physiotherapists are meeting in a locker room. The last grant went to the African Students Society. They were given \$350 to help towards an African Student Night, this endeavor may prove as successful as the West Indian Society's "Caribanza". A lecture, African food and music is planned for the evening.

Council finished up a long night with a round of appointments to various committees. The December 15 meeting was cancelled as most members felt they would be unable to make it. Council will not meet again until Jan. 12th.

Academic and Community Affairs - Having finished with municipal and provincial governments for the evening, Council turned its attention back home to consider reports from the

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Dan O'Connor

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