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The successor to President Andrew Mackay should be named by late February. Photo by Todd Miller, Dal Photo

Candidates narrowed down

By MARK ALBERSTAT

AS THE LIST OF POSSIBLE candidates for Dalhousie's new president gets tighter, so do the lips of those involved.

The committee set up to look for President MacKay's successor is in its final stages and will make its decision in late February.

The Presidential Search committee consists of three Board of Governors members, three senators, and the Dalhousie Student Union President, Catherine Blewett.

"The list of candidates has

been narrowed down to fewer than ten," says Blewett. When nominations closed in June the committee had over 70 potential presidential successors.

President MacKay's last day in office will be August 31st. A Dalhousie rule states that a presidential search committee must be set up 18 months prior to the vacancy. This search committee was established in February 1985.

In the first phase of the process the committee "sought views about the position of president from several people on campus. During this time we met about

three times a week," says William Jones, chair of the committee.

"It is important to protect the confidentiality of the candidates until we make our final decision," says Jones. "After that the committee takes its one name to the Board of Governors for approval."

"It's a very important decision for Dalhousie and not a decision to be taken lightly. We are looking for someone with leadership, vision, obviously senior academic administration experience or the like, and we want an academic," says Blewett.

Ritchie and Associates comes to Dal

By MARY ELLEN JONES

DALHOUSIE IS BECOMING more cost-efficient with the help of a management consultant firm, Ritchie and Associates.

The motion study team was hired by Dalhousie last August to streamline and simplify areas in the university and to help managers with scheduling.

The task of making work days more efficient will continue after the study's projected completion at the end 1986.

"The system is a dynamic process and for the first time we will have the tools to manage the system," said John Russel, university liaison for Ritchie and Associates.

Staff members are concerned about the effects on employees who will be observed by the Ritchie team.

The staff is also concerned about layoffs at the University of British Columbia when Ritchie and Associates were implementing their recommendations. These layoffs were of temporary staff and not of full-time staff.

"People are very apprehensive

and worried about what will happen," said Ria Hodgson, executive assistant of the Dalhousie Staff Association. "Ritchie and Associates are following CUPE people with clipboards, and this causes stress. These people are so beautifully slick you have to like them."

Hodgson said there must be more efficient use of time, but that it should not always be at the expense of support staff and cleaners.

The project covers four main areas of the university support staff. 500-600 full time employees will be observed, including the physical plant, custodial groups, financial services, personnel and security and traffic, Dalplex, registrar's office, student awards and student services.

Robbie Shaw, vice-president of finance, said, "this process has to be done. An alternative to the project would be fewer dollars for academic programs and the termination of some non-academic services like the Dalplex," he said.

"The situation at UBC is totally different from Dalhousie. Nobody has had a salary increase

for three years. As well, the process of confrontation rather than consultation between management and labour has taken place generally throughout B.C. UBC is no exception."

Shaw said there was no system of regular meetings set up with the unions at UBC.

A series of meetings has been scheduled at Dalhousie.

"Communication is important. It's not going to be easy. It will sometimes be harder on management than employees," said Shaw.

Shaw has sent a letter to all union members saying there will be no layoffs because of Ritchie and Associates.

Hodgson said she is pleased the letters are sent, saying even if there are layoffs there will be a written statement. "It is in writing, if there are going to be layoffs it will look bad for Robbie," said Hodgson.

Although he said UBC was a training ground for Ritchie and Associates, Shaw added, "they have learned a lot and we are going to benefit."

"I didn't want us to be the guinea pigs."

School of Business could be with ten best

By CHARLENE SADLER

DAL'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Administration could rise to among the top ten per cent in North America with the addition of its new computer laboratory, said Dr. Michael Dempster at the official unveiling Monday.

The new computer laboratory and courseware development project will provide computer-based instruction for students and give them a feel for the real world by using state-of-the-art software, he said.

The official opening of the computer laboratory was marked with the presentation of a \$700,000 cheque from the Bank of Nova Scotia to the Campaign for Dalhousie.

It was known that the Bank would contribute to the Campaign for Dal over a year ago. The contribution was earmarked for the specific computer project.

Dr. Ronald Storey, acting director of the School of Business Administration, said "the project is something we'd striven for for many years. At first look it seemed too daring and ambitious to succeed, especially at this time considering the economy."

The new programme uses four levels of teaching: the integration of computers into the curriculum, the development of business courseware, the integration of instruction through realistic corporate databases, and the development of state-of-the-art business decision support systems.

"There will be more integration between computer technology and the learning process. Computers will be used in the whole programme, not just one or two courses," said Dr. Storey.

The programme will be designed to make the student more computer literate, and facilitate more individualistic learning, said Dr. Storey.

Allan Rugman, professor and director of the Centre for Interna-

tional Business Studies, said the donation is tremendous for the improvement of teaching and research techniques.

"An efficient business school needs to have computer-assisted instruction," he said.

Students say they are pleased with the new programme.

"Computers in business are prevalent," said Patrick Mason, an MBA student. "If you go to a job interview you'll probably be asked questions like, 'are you computer literate?' You have to know something about computers and are expected to, especially because of the level of management you'll be entering — the middle and upper-management," he said.

"It was slow and tedious work," said Tim Roberts, a programming assistant at the school. "Today, computers offer one of the largest job markets," he said.

The computer programme and the \$700,000 donation is all part of the Capital Fund drive, which has set its goal at raising \$35 million within five years.

Allan Shaw, an organiser in the campaign, said the whole project was rather ambitious for Dal.

"Dal did not have the connections with private corporations and the constituents," he said. "Dal never asked people to give as much as they have now, but they're giving."

Shaw does not see the computer project sending Dalhousie further into debt.

"There is no more building so they can maintain the project," he said. "As well, the new programme will attract other businesses and corporations to donate."

Don Sobey, chairman of the national campaign, said the goal was daunting, even though the response was overwhelming.

"I still think \$35 million will be hard to raise but it's only been a little over a year and already \$20 million has been collected," he said.

Dal students alarmed

By VALERIE MATHESON

DALHOUSIE STUDENTS were alarmed on Wednesday, January 9, when the fire bell sounded in the LSC Building.

The alarm was set off at 2:30 p.m. because a frozen sprinkler pipe burst and set off all the

sprinklers in the building.

Some students evacuated the building, while others stood in the corridors waiting to return to their classes.

The Halifax Fire Department responded within three minutes of the alarm and had everything under control within half an hour.