

Senate creates special appeals process

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Students with academic grievances arising from Dalhousie's recent strike have a new, speedy way to get their appeals heard.

During a meeting on Monday, Apr. 6, Senate moved to create a

special appeals process at the request of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

The normal process — still in place for appeals unrelated to the strike — typically takes at least two months to complete. It would seriously inconvenience graduating

students, says DSU president, Chris Adams.

"This just makes things faster," Adams said, "and it is [Senate's] mandate to ensure students fair treatment after the strike/lockout period."

The special process works as follows:

- If a professor conducted classes, tests or assignments during the strike, or subjected a student to unfair evaluation following the strike, there may be grounds for appeal.
- To make an appeal students must first approach either the faculty member involved, the chair of the department, or the dean.
- If the problem remains unresolved, a written appeal with a description of the grievance should be submitted to the secretary of Senate (second floor Arts and Administration

Building).

• If the appeal is judged to be related to the strike/lockout, then it will be heard by a three-person panel. On the panel will be one student, one faculty member and one officer of Senate.

• The panel — which will take days rather than months to reach decisions — will be in place until May 22.

Senator and Dean of Science, Patrick Ryall, supports the appeals process. He is aware of three professors who continued to teach through the strike, and wonders what other transgressions might have occurred.

"The regular appeals process is very dragged out...we've got some very specific problems that are strike-related," he said.

"If one student thinks they were disadvantaged by something going on in the strike...we should just get

on with it."

Many of the problems arising may have been caused by misunderstandings, says Adams.

"There were some professors who disregarded policy and did not treat students fairly," he said. "However I think that ninety-nine per cent of the time it was a case of professors either misinterpreting policy or being unaware."

Both Ryall and Adams say that, in most cases, appeals will be resolved within the departments.

They also agree that this process is about protecting students and not recrimination against professors — many of whom continued teaching because they thought it was in their students' best interest.

However, Theatre professor Jure

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*A detailed computer graphics program revealed that this is how Tom Traves would look if we actually gave him a jack-ass (award).

JACK-ASS AWARD: Dalhousie president Tom Traves is this year's winner of the Gazette's Jack-ass Award given to the person who says the most patronizing and insulting thing all year. Traves locked up the award on Mar. 17 when he spoke the following words to protesting students: "These problems will not magically go away. Shouting 'bullshit', shouting 'boo' does not make the problems we are faced with go away—it would be nice but it doesn't work that way in the real world." (Thanks Tom, I feel like I really learned something today.)

Strike ends...issue remains

BY KAVERI GUPTA AND SHELLEY ROBINSON

The strike is over, the collective agreement is set — but one of the issues that led to the clash between the faculty and the administration remains.

Professors were asking, and striking, for salary increases and faculty replacement. While the collective agreement granted professors a 13 per cent salary increase over 44 months, it largely left faculty replacement up in the air.

The agreement includes a plan to form a joint committee between the DFA and Board of Governors' members to address concerns over the replacement of retiring faculty, called complement. The committee will make recommendations to the university Senate in six months' time.

But 46 early retiring professors will have already left by July 1. And

the university has committed only to leaving positions open, not necessarily filling them.

Dr. Ismet Ugursal, president of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) says the DFA got what it could from the administration.

"We didn't get specific numbers in the agreement," he said. "Instead we have a process which has very strong teeth."

"This is the best we could have achieved."

University spokesperson Michelle Gallant agrees that the process for reviewing complement is a good one, but says the barrier to faculty replacement is the same as it has always been — money.

"I think everyone shares the concerns...that we are unable to replace retiring faculty," she said. "But the real challenge now is resolution of funding."

"This is why it is unaffordable to

rebuild complement."

Gallant says the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education's proposal for an additional \$22-million in funding for Nova Scotia universities is critical, but just the beginning.

"That would be a wonderful first step towards allowing the university system to have the resources it needs to be strong and viable," she said.

But Ugursal says that Dalhousie — with the second highest endowments in the country, and low professor salaries — must have cash somewhere.

"Dal doesn't have money? I mean come on, something is wrong here."

In the end Ugursal says he knows there are no easy answers to such long term problems.

"This unhappiness does not evaporate from one day to another," he said. "These type of labour disputes have long lasting effects."

Debate over athletic scholarships heating up

BY LILLI JU

Debate over athletic scholarships has heated up across Canada since the release of the "Draft Scholarship/Awards Policy" by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union on Mar. 24.

The organization's members will discuss and vote on revamping athletic scholarships at the upcoming annual general meeting in June.

The Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) is the governing body of university and

college sports in Canada. It consists of 48 member institutions, involving over 10,000 student athletes, and is divided into five conferences.

The draft policy is the product of an early February meeting of the CIAU's Awards Review Committee with a facilitator. It contains recommendations on athletic awards and scholarships for entering and continuing student athletes.

"It is a medium-sized step in the right direction," says Ian Reade, director of athletics at University of

Alberta, one of the more vocal supporters of changes to the CIAU awards policy.

But not everyone involved in the CIAU agrees that the proposed policy is a good thing.

Even though many of its members recognize the need to improve the current CIAU awards policy, they are divided on some key issues such as the restriction of awards to out-of-province students and caps on the numbers of awards that can be offered in each sport. Those

universities without heavy athletic funding are also concerned that they do not have the money to match awards given by richer universities and that the new policy will lead to a two-tiered system.

Currently, CIAU regulations do not allow for entering students to get financial awards based on athletic merit. However, student-athletes can receive a maximum of \$1,500 in subsequent years, with a CIAU stipulation that an 80 per cent average must be maintained to qualify for

awards.

The most significant change recommended by the draft policy is that institutions should be able to offer entering students an athletic award. The draft policy also recommends that the maximum be raised to \$3,000 to reflect the increasing costs of education. However, to balance between academic standards and athletic excellence, awards will be paid to the student-athlete retroactively, after the

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The editors of the Gazette would like to thank all those who contributed to the paper this year.

WHETHER IT'S BIG OR SMALL, YOU CAN ALWAYS WRAP YOUR FISH WITH IT.