

## 'Central mission' a myth-FASS Dean

by Neil Donald

Dalhousie President Dr. Howard Clark and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Graham Taylor appear to be at odds as to whether there is any "central mission" inherent in the Mission Statement of Dalhousie University.

According to Taylor, "President Clark has taken the Mission Statement and reinterpreted it in terms of a 'primary' or 'central' mission, whereas the Mission Statement document has twelve points, none of which is emphasized over any other."

Taylor emphasized that a number of the mission statement points provide a strong argument for keeping the applied arts departments.

"Dalhousie's 'Mission' includes 'providing a rich and coherent undergraduate educational experience, unsurpassed in Canada' and 'offering graduate education... in programmes that reflect the highest international standards,'" said Taylor. He went on to say that the role of the theatre and music programs is undeniable in terms of these stated 'missions' of the university, and he pointed out that the uniqueness of the costume studies program in North

America further emphasizes this point.

Taylor also said that the 1989 Mission Statement of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) specifically precludes any conception of the applied arts (music and theatre) programs as less central or important to the faculty than the humanities and social sciences programs.

"The President said that the Theatre and Music Departments are not 'vital to the central liberal arts core of the faculty,'" said Taylor. "We as a faculty are saying that all of our departments are 'central', and our faculty's Mission Statement does not make those distinctions between core and peripheral programs."

At a FASS meeting on Tuesday, September 28, the faculty as a whole voted unanimously to authorize Taylor to develop a budgetary alternative to the proposed applied arts cuts. A press release from that meeting specifically offered reassurance to all applied arts students that the faculty was "committed to the continuation of all academic departments and programs in our Faculty."

President Clark could not be reached for comment.



All dressed up and no place to study.

DALPHOTO: GEOFF INESON

## Profs say Clark has broken agreement DFA to launch grievance

by Jen Horsey and Richard Lim

The Dalhousie Faculty Association has announced its intention to block President Clark's recommended department cuts. In a message circulated on September 27, DFA President Colin Stuttard says that Clark is justifying the cuts by using the wrong article from the collective agreement between the DFA and the Board of Governors, and consequently, the DFA will be invoking the grievance provisions of the contract.

"President Clark has clearly stated that he is recommending closure of academic units for financial reasons," says Stuttard. "He finds no fault with the academic performance of the units he has targeted." Stuttard goes on to explain that Clark "is violating our collective agreement because he is attempting to bring about cuts in academic programs using the procedures of Article 25." Article 25 only permits program changes or cuts for academic reasons.

In an interview, Stuttard reiterated that, "The whole context for the President's remarks were financial, [yet] at a

meeting of representative employee groups, [when] asked under what articles was the President making his recommendations, he said 'Article 25'." Consequently, Stuttard feels that Clark has invoked the incorrect clause in recommending the closure of the Theatre, Music, Costume Studies, Public Administration, and Library and Information Studies disciplines.

Not just that, but Stuttard also claims that even if Clark had made his recommendations on academic grounds, he has circumvented the proper channels for any program cut. "It's up to Senate to decide whether there shall be any closure of any programs for academic reasons...there's no role for the President under our collective agreement under Article 25."

Therefore, Stuttard contends that the section of the DFA-BoG contract which Clark should have cited is Article 27, which permits academic programs to be cut for financial reasons. However, according to Stuttard, for Clark to invoke Article 27, he would first have to state that he was using it and then, before any layoffs or cuts

have happened and if requested by either the DFA or the Senate, the Board of Governors must establish an independent committee to review the recommended cuts.

In Stuttard's view, Clark is using Article 25 to avoid the intricacies of the correct article. "[It] seems to be the object of [Clark's actions]...to sidestep this article because of the safeguards and the independent review."

Stuttard suggests that Clark is deliberately avoiding Article 27 not just because of the procedural difficulties he would encounter, but also because he would not succeed. "All the programs we have, have been approved by Senate, and then approved by the BoG, and approved by MPHEC [Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission] on behalf of the government... The BoG made a commitment that it would support these programs by providing the financial resources... necessary for these programs to continue." In Stuttard's opinion, Clark was both contradicting the decisions and breaking

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## Students may have final say on CFS question

by Robert Drinkwater

Dalhousie's student government is ready to play hardball with Canada's national student lobby group.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has been served notice by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) that Dal students will be asked to decide whether they wish to remain a part of the organization.

Lisa Lachance, the DSU's Vice-President External, made the announcement at the DSU Council meeting on October 3, and asked for Council to endorse the Executive's decision to send a letter of objection to CFS.

She explained the action came as a result of fears that Dalhousie students might be forced to pay a proposed two-

dollar per-student hike in CFS fees even if they reject the plan in a referendum.

A vote on the CFS fee increase has been scheduled to be held in conjunction with the DSU general elections in early March. Currently, Dal students each pay four dollars towards CFS fees, and will be asked in March to approve or reject an increase in this amount to six dollars. But Lachance says the CFS plenary, which will meet in May, could still approve an increase in fees from four to six dollars for all member campuses. This could bind the DSU to pay the increased fee even if students vote against it.

Lachance told Council that Carl Gillis, National Chair of CFS, had

assured her that Dalhousie students would not be forced to pay a higher fee. However, Lachance said this was not a good enough guarantee, as Gillis' term of office will end this spring and his successor might not uphold the promise.

In the motion presented to Council asking for its endorsement of the notice to CFS, it was proposed that a referendum on membership would only take place if students rejected the fee increase. It also specified that the membership vote, if needed, would be made at the next DSU Annual General Meeting. At an AGM, all students have voting rights.

Putting the question of CFS membership to a general meeting was opposed by Hal Maclean, Howe Hall

Representative on Council. He said he feared that the meeting would be open to abuse.

"I've been involved in stacking meetings before," he stated, adding, "A referendum is a lot more difficult to fix than an AGM".

Maclean made a motion that students be asked whether they wish to remain in CFS at the same time as they vote on the fee increase.

Members of the Council Executive, however, pointed to a CFS by-law which demands six months' notice for a membership vote. This, they said, would mean that a vote could not take place until the end of March — a time of the semester when it might be difficult to get the minimum required number of

students to make the vote valid.

Maclean doubted the CFS rule was legally binding, but DSU Treasurer Fraser Matte warned Council that the national organization might take the DSU to court.

"There have been implicit threats and action made to members schools who have broken CFS rules," Matte said.

After an hour of debate, Council endorsed only the Executive's proposal to tell CFS that a membership question is coming. Discussion of how, or even if, Dalhousie students get to say 'yes' or 'no' to CFS has been delayed until next week. It was hoped that by then, the DSU could get a legal opinion on the validity of the CFS 'six months' notice' rule.