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### **Dalhousie students condemn proposal for massive fee hikes and faculty cuts**

HALIFAX– Dalhousie students are outraged by a proposal to increase fees by as much as 28 per cent. The Budget Advisory Committee of Dalhousie University released a report today recommending fee increases for all students, and funding cuts to all faculties.

“Dalhousie is shutting its doors to students of low and modest incomes when it should be trying to make education more affordable for everyone,” said John Hutton, Vice President (Academic and External) of the Dalhousie Student Union. “The University has millions in cash reserves and, yet, is proposing students pay more and get less.”

If the Budget Advisory Committee recommendations are accepted, tuition fees will increase by 24 per cent in engineering and pharmacy, which amounts to \$1906 and \$2009 respectively. For students at the Truro campus, fees will increase by 28 per cent or \$1782.

The report also recommends that tuition fees in all other faculties, ancillary fees, and international differential fees increase by 3 per cent and all faculty operating budgets be cut by at least 2.5 per cent.

In 2015, the Liberal government gave universities a one time opportunity to increase tuition fees without any restrictions. This tuition “free for all” has resulted in tuition fee increases of as much as 37 per cent in Nova Scotia.

“Dalhousie President Richard Florizone and Minister of Labour and Advanced Education Kelly Regan both benefitted from low tuition fees and a well-funded public university education,” said Hutton. “Now, along with other university presidents and legislators, they are denying the same opportunities to today’s generation of students and youth.

The Dalhousie Student Union will be holding a rally to oppose the fee hikes at Dalhousie’s Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday, February 9th. The rally will start at 2pm at the Student Union Building.

*The Dalhousie Student Union is the province’s largest student union, representing over 18,500 undergraduate and graduate students at all campuses of Dalhousie University.*

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