

QUEEN'S STUDENTS DISRUPT SENATE MEETING

KINGSTON (CUP) — Approximately 50 students, chanting "power to the people", broke up a special meeting of the Queen's University senate Wednesday (March 11). The disruption forced the body to postpone retaliation against doctoral student Charles Edwards and two others who last December charged a chemical engineering professor with political blackmail.

Wednesday's senate meeting was a continuation of a senate meeting held February 25, where the senate accepted the report of a special committee that investigated charges made by Edwards and the two other students: Tom Good and Glen Macdonell.

The investigation committee found chemical engineering professor Henry Becker "utterly innocent" of charges that he attempted to force Edwards out of his doctoral program because of Edwards' left-wing political activities.

At the February 25 meeting, the senate forcibly ejected Terry O'Hara, Edwards' representative on the investigating committee, after he demanded that Edwards be present during the presentation of the committee report.

Edwards and other members of the leftwing Free Socialist Movement, which conducted his defence, have since denounced the report as a "white-wash" of the incident.

At the Wednesday meeting, David Slater, dean of graduate studies and research, introduced a three-point motion calling for support of the investigation committee report, a "request that Mr. Edwards be taken from the registration of Queen's," and a suggestion to censure Good and Macdonell for their part in bringing forward accusations against Becker.

When the senate over-ruled an attempt to disallow Slater's motion on the grounds it was "out of order at this time," 10 students rose from their seats in the senate spectator's gallery, chanting, "This is out of order . . . this senate is acting out of order."

Other members of the Free Socialist Movement, who had been picketing the meeting, pushed through the doors of the senate chambers, and eventually 50 students blocked the entrance to the chamber.

Senate chairman John Deutsch adjourned the meeting and called another for next week. The next meeting will be closed to the public.

As they left the room, senators ran through a



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gauntlet of protestors, who raised their arms in Nazi and Black Power salutes, chanting "Seig Heil," and "Power to the people."

Demonstrators then launched their own debate over the move to expel Edwards from Queen's, continuing their attack on the investigation committee's report and terming the senate's action a continuation of political repression on the Queen's campus.

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