



## Ashley comments on harassment policy

"Sexual harassment is discrimination," according to Dalhousie Law Professor Susan Ashley.

At a meeting Thursday in the Atlantic Veterinary College Lecture Theatre, Ashley told members of the UPEI Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment, and other students, that such an issue was a major concern to an academic community in which students and faculty are related by strong bonds of intellectual independence and trust.

"Sexual harassment is not an issue specific to PEI, it is an issue talked about by everyone," she said. "It is the university's responsibility to educate itself on matters related to potential abuses of power and to seek means, both expedient and just, to deal with cases of sexual harassment."

Although the issue is discussed more openly, Ashley pointed out that people hesitate to complain about harassment.

"Some students are afraid that they will be responsible or doubtful that any remedy will be found," she said.

"Many are sickened in private and ashamed in public at the spectacle that harassment within educational institutions is difficult to determine," Ashley revealed. "Therefore, it remains difficult to gather evidence about such a sensitive issue."

According to Ashley, sexual harassment is now a growing concern on college campuses.

"Such inappropriate and damaging behavior has serious im-

plications for members of the academic community for the educational process," she said.

The Law Professor indicated that institutions of higher education need to respond in a firm and sensitive way to the problem by applying measure that may stop sexual harassment.

Such measures include educating the community about establishing a grievance procedure responsive to complaints.

Ashley pointed out that providing this procedure not only ensures the fair treatment of individual complaints but also underscores the seriousness of the issue and the university's commitment to end this form of discrimination.



Graphic: Dalhousie Gazette

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