

Manitoba referendum may be controverted

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The recent referendum at the University of Manitoba, in which students rejected membership in the National Union of Students, may be controverted because of inaccuracies in the anti-NUS campaign.

At its next meeting on March 18 the student union council at the U de M will consider whether to refute the results and hold a new referendum next fall.

According to student council representative Bill Gillies, the refutation is necessary because the student union funded the anti-NUS campaign.

By giving them money, he said, "we aided and abetted this

misinformation" distributed prior to the referendum.

"I don't think we acted too responsibly. If we funded this, it should have presented the facts."

According to NUS committee chairperson David Woodbury, the referendum may have lost because students were misinformed by the anti-NUS committee and, "as a result, were not able to make a rational choice."

He questioned the propriety of the tactics used by the anti-NUS campaign. "To be charitable, it would not be too harsh to claim that the leaflets that group published were grossly inaccurate."

Among the inaccuracies he mentioned were:

- claiming that the cost to the student union would be \$20,000 when the actual cost was one dollar per full-time student or approximately \$16,000.

- saying that raises in NUS fees had been made arbitrarily without consultation when the increases were first approved by a plenary and then approved at each campus by a referendum.

- claiming that NUS can make no real input at the federal level because all decisions on education are made at the provincial level. The leaflet did not mention NUS' campaigns on federal responsibility

ties like housing or employment or that the federal government provides approximately 50 percent of university funding.

According to Woodbury, the NUS committee underestimated the effect the anti-NUS campaign could have. As well, he said, it did not anticipate the tactics used by

the anti-NUS group and "were not sufficiently prepared to meet them head on".

The committee did not check the contents of the anti-NUS posters or pamphlets, he said, because the committee was overworked and "trusted the integrity of the anti-NUS campaign to get their facts straight."

NUS publishes referenda results

OTTAWA (CUP) - The National Union of Students had held 19 referenda in the past academic year, 15 resulting in pro-NUS votes, 3 failing, and one receiving a majority in favour of membership but which lacked quorum.

As a result of the membership referenda, which were established as a priority by delegates at the fall NUS conference, total membership has increased from 120 thousand in September to 173 thousand in March.

More referenda are scheduled for later this semester, and the likely membership total at year-end is estimated at 180 and 210 thousand, more than half the non-Quebec post-secondary student population.

Although the results of the past year's referenda represent a clear indication that Canadian students want and will pay for a national union, their impact on the organization has not been entirely positive.

Minister advised not to "stick it"

OTTAWA (CUP) - A Toronto based group has asked that if the British Columbia Education minister has any plans to "stick it", it should not be in his ear.

The Canadian Hearing Society warned Dr. Pat McGeer in a recent letter of "the potential danger to his hearing" if he follows advice he had received recently.

The advice, offered by demonstrators in response to sharply

raised B.C. auto insurance premiums was "Stick it in your ear, McGeer".

McGeer is responsible for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) which runs the Autoplan insurance program.

"Because sticking anything in your ear can be dangerous to your hearing," the society suggests "that you might find somewhere else to stick it."

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Search

DENVER (CPS-CU) - though a Michigan court year that dorn constitutionally protected arbitrary searches by security officers, most students who live in dorms subject to searches officials armed with search warrants.

The legality of these issued search warrants been tested in the courts schools are beginning more carefully their and seizure policies in Michigan ruling which

Accused

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