Non-Canadians get 61% of research money

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University professor Robin Mathews has opened a new front in the campaign against de-Canadianized universities and scholarship by disclosing that 61 per cent of Canada Council research grants in 1968-69 were awarded to "non-Canadians."

In a forum here Feb. 15 the English professor said he had three times asked the Canada Council to release the breakdown figures of Canadian recipients of the grants, but that the requests had gone unanswered.

Mathews said private discussions with council personnel revealed the 61 per cent figure.

The accuracy of the figure, based on the definition of the "non-Canadian" phrase, has been questioned by a Canada Council spokesman. However, both parties agree that "non-Canadians" in this case, means persons who received their first degree outside of the country.

Mathews said a council reply to his first request stated there was no method of determining proportions of Canadians to non-Canadians on the grants list. He said he was not satisfied with the answers and sent a further inquiry.

Mathews said the letter went unanswered for five months, but meanwhile an independent study of York University revealed that 68 per cent of council research grant recipients were non-Canadians in 1968-69.

Disclosure of the York figures brought a reply from the council that 63 per cent not 68 per cent of council research grants at York were to non-Canadians, Mathews said.

Mathews said he had made a further request one month ago for a break-down of the Canadian recipients and a request for the names of the academic panels who made the selections.

He said he had received no answer to his request and suggested the council had "gone into hiding because they are afraid to make public the absolute disaster of granting now going on in Canada."

Canada Council assistant director Frank Milligan said he doubted the accuracy of the relationship between the "first university degree" and citizenship. He said such non-Canadian academics could easily become citizens in the time they spent in Canada.

Mathews has been campaigning for the Canadianization of Canadian universities since the fall of 1968.

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