

university? You're not alone

I THINK I CAN
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We are concerned that the University of Alberta can be criticized, with some justification, for being a catch-all institution, but we are not convinced that this is an inevitable state of affairs.

We would suggest that the department of Advance Education and the universities together with the secondary school system can design and implement better programs designed to insure that students registering at a university or any other post-secondary educational institution have made appropriate program choices.

2) *The University has rendered learning unnecessarily unenjoyable and stressful.*

University studies are, in our view, inherently stressful, boring at times, and certainly difficult. It is our view as well, though, that the

When students fail to take an interest in their studies, too often they presume the problem must lie with themselves.

University of Alberta may render the learning process unnecessarily stressful and difficult because of such factors as antiquated teaching techniques, over-evaluation of students, excessive academic workloads for students, and oversized classes.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that an attempt was made during the last decade to establish a Centre for Instructional Development at the University of Alberta. That such a proposal went down to defeat seems all too typical of an institution where the prevailing educational philosophy seems to put too much onus on students to motivate themselves without recognizing the corresponding responsibility of the university to render the learning process as enjoyable, meaningful, and exciting as possible.

3) *University accreditation has ceased to be a worthwhile goal for students.*

If a student perceives that university accreditation is no longer respected within the professional or business world or that there no longer appears to be a sufficient number of jobs for graduates, then we may expect that student's level of motivation to probably descend.

Further, the University is certainly responsible to students for insuring that the standards of its graduates meet the requirements of the appropriate professional association. If this is not the case' the University is clearly not meeting its responsibility to the students in question.

Do we teach students in our public schools, generally speaking, to be demanding of themselves and the educational system in which they are enrolled?

There is abundant evidence to indicate that where students are rewarded adequately for learning, they learn the most important skill of all: to *like* learning.

Too often, it seems that when students at whatever level of educational endeavor fail to take an interest in their studies, they presume the problem must lie with themselves. They may be told that they have a "motivation problem" and they are advised to make an appointment with student counselling.

Notwithstanding that students may suffer from personal problems, like anyone else, it seems evident that the student may find his or her motivation diminished by poor teaching techniques, oversized classes, a professor who has taken a personal dislike for him or her, and the lack of jobs for graduates.

In closing we would suggest that in order for excellent scholastic work to go on, the scholars and the University must demand a great deal from each other.

Where we are not currently achieving our aim of producing excellent scholarship, it is precisely because students and University are not demanding enough of each other.

The Senate Commission on University Purpose is eager to hear from students on what they think the university's purpose(s) is/are, and how well it is doing it/them. Call the Senate office at 432-2268 for details.

Some students are not interested in programs appropriate to them.

to use that some students have not chosen appropriate or relevant to themselves. All to be meeting social obligations by being at chaps by registering in certain programs. s only one post-secondary option of many in r, post-secondary educational institutions do places where people can learn things or hey are simply convenient places where 1 specific skills or facts.

gh, that the university has been over sold in niversity education is considered more types of education by some. Many people hat a university education is the only way to nteresting, well-paying job.

attention that certain first-time students at erta receive their first impartial academic st day e registration. This pinpoints one of lents make in appropriate post-secondary nts very often. on't receive adequate career

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