

# Medical students asked for yearly contribution

by Philip Preville

The Medical Students' Association (MSA) is sponsoring a referendum on student giving which asks students in that faculty to contribute 35 dollars annually to a Fund for Undergraduate Medical Education.

The MSA referendum has no designated "yes" or "no" committees which are publicizing the opposite sides of the issue. The MSA supports the Fund, but MSA President Ken Brown says there is no official "yes" or "no" side. Photocopies have been distributed stressing the positive aspects of the fund, which bear the signatures of MSA President Brown and the Chairman of the Referendum Giving Committee, Marion Dobberthein. Brown knew of no official mechanism of making funds available to students wishing to publicize a "no" vote, but added, "if someone wanted to print material, I can guarantee that the information would be given out."

"This isn't a placard-carrying situation," said Brown, adding that the

mood was more one of getting the information out to students for discussion. "No one has expressed a desire to run a 'no' campaign," he added.

The referendum will be held Tuesday, November 14. All medical students have exams that day, and the MSA is considering passing out ballots attached to the exams. "We aren't sure if they will let us attach a ballot to the exams," said Brown, "but everybody will get the opportunity to vote."

The Fund will be administered by a Medicine Fund Advisory Committee. Although the exact makeup of the committee has not yet been determined, it will include both student and faculty representatives, with students occupying a majority of the board's seats.

The MSA was approached by the university development office last year with a proposal to hold a referendum. Brown says that the MSA "spent a whole year looking at it and adjusting it until we felt comfortable with it."

Brown cited a lack of funds as the primary reason for wanting to establish the fund. However, Brown does not see the situation as one where the students are subsidizing government operations. "The province provides and will continue to provide a very good quality education," he said. "This fund will be used for the little extras and add-ons that will enrich our degrees."

The top priority for the fund is that monies are to be used as travel bursaries for undergraduate students. In the third and fourth years of the degree, med students spend a great deal of time training in

hospitals. However, if a student wishes to study a particular specialization not offered in an Edmonton hospital, he or she may travel outside the city or the province in order to do so.

Brown sees the travel bursaries as something which can greatly increase the value of a U of A medical degree. "If you are a University that travels a lot, your school becomes recognized. Alberta is one of the least-travelled schools. Increasing travel bursaries will allow the people to see the good training we get here."

Brown also stressed the long-term aspects of the fund. "The

people who are voting on it are no doubt the ones who will benefit the least for the first few years, the fund won't be large enough to start a travel bursary program. It's a legacy that we want to start now."

Because the \$35 contribution is termed a "gift", a renewal vote will be held every three years. "You may have to pay two mandatory years before you get to vote, but you will have your voice within your term as a med student."

Brown says the faculty of Medicine has been very helpful throughout the process of setting up the referendum, but that they have not been involved in any campaigning.

## U of M giving programs in place

by Lisa Hall

The "student giving" concept being considered by U of A faculties is one that has come from the University of Manitoba, where several faculties have started similar projects.

About ten faculties, including Engineering, Nursing, Agriculture, Science, Pharmacy, and others have started a fund, the result of referendums which had students decide if they wanted to donate a small amount of money every year.

"The money goes towards things that the University normally wouldn't fund," said Jeff Hearst, the vice-president of the U of M Students' Union. "This included research scholarships, student activities, field trips, teaching aides that normally wouldn't be here — they are all things that are not covered by baseline funding."

There is also a user committee, made up of students and faculty,

interest generated from the fund is spent," added Holden. "The capital is invested."

Holden said faculties were enthusiastic to the idea of student giving and the fund promoted "excellence in the faculties."

Virtually every faculty which has attempted to implement the program has been successful. Architecture, however, could not implement their giving program. "The results of the referendum must be advanced to the dean and then to the Board of Governors for approval," said Holden. Architecture's proposal was declined, even though the 'yes' side won the referendum.

"The referendum was poorly done," admitted Hearst. "There was little promotion on either side. No one knew what they were voting for. The Board of Governors took into consideration that the referendum didn't have our blessing and didn't approve it."

Another referendum in Manitoba's faculty of Architecture is currently in the works.

## Science quotas partially passed

by Rajan Bhardwaj

The Faculty of Science took another small step towards instituting quotas, as the Science Faculty Council passed an amended version of the original quota proposal last Friday.

The quotas can affect many students. The original proposal dealt with the number of students entering the Faculty for the first time. The number of new first year students is proposed to be held at 900, with 400 continuing first year stu-

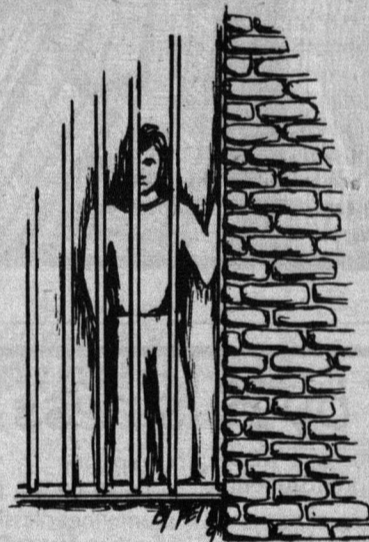
dents in the Faculty. As well, the original proposal allowed for 100 transfer students going into their second year, and 150 third year transfer students entering the Faculty of Science.

As well as the quotas for new Science students, there were quotas proposed for students already in the Faculty. Originally, it was proposed that any Science student with a GPA less than 5.0 in one academic year be dropped from the Faculty, and not be readmitted. This part of the proposal was not

passed by the Science Faculty Council.

The proposed quotas would limit enrolment to the Faculty of Science to a maximum of 4,044 students. The total number of students in the Faculty in the 1988-89 academic year was 4714.

The Faculty of Science had the fourth lowest operating expenditure in 1987-88. The financial stress that the Faculty is under can only be alleviated by instituting quotas or by increasing funding, said Associate Dean Dave Beatty.



## Arts also to be limited

by Winston Pei

Another step has been taken to establishing a quota for the Faculty of Arts.

The Arts Faculty Council passed a resolution yesterday stating that the Arts Faculty has moved to reduce enrollment to a fixed limit equivalent to 80 per cent of the 1989-90 enrollment. This reduction would take place over the course of the next five years, beginning with a drop next year to 5,503 students and proceeding to a target quota of 4,586 students by 1995. These numbers are subject to change depending on variations in enrollment from year to year.

Arts Faculty Council English department student representative Teresa Pires said that while the resolution passed by a large margin, many members expressed their dissatisfaction at being forced into such a decision. Pires says that "quotas in Arts are necessary if everyone is to receive a quality education. If quotas are also instituted in the Faculties of Education and Science, the Faculty of Arts has no choice but to do the same."

The resolution has still to pass through a number of boards, the General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors for approval before the quota becomes a reality.

### "Both groups make presentations in classrooms about the referendum"

who decides what projects the money should support.

Students that are interested in starting the program in their faculty must approach the administration for the mandate to hold a referendum.

Funds are allocated by the Students' Union to the 'yes' and 'no' side of the referendum to allow them to campaign. "Both groups make presentations in classrooms about the referendum," said Judy Holden, the Fundraising coordinator with the department of private funding. "The faculty can get involved by helping to answer questions during the class presentations, but the faculty does not provide funding to either side of the referendum."

Students in faculties which vote in the program are committed to pay the contribution for a few years, until the program is reviewed and the referendum is held again.

The students' donations are combined with some donations from the faculty and corporate sponsors, and members from each group sit on a board which decides where to money should be spent. "Only the

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