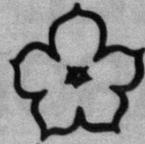


The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

La Presse Active



La Faculte Saint-Jean

Research policy reviewed

by Dawn Lerohl and Pat Kiernan

The University of Alberta is currently engaged in discussion with the provincial government over a policy which takes away a portion of a professor's research funds, instead giving the money to the University to cover overhead costs.

Last year, Advanced Education put into effect a policy which entitles the University to 65 per cent of the salaries and benefits component of provincial research grants and contracts.

Professors opposed the policy on the grounds that funding for research is competitive and the overhead charge makes their bids less attractive. In order to compensate for the overhead charge, professors are forced to tack on an additional sum above the direct cost.

The overhead fee attempts to recover the intangible cost of using university facilities. Overhead includes such factors as building and equipment use, library maintenance, as well as cost to the department, faculty and central administration.

This policy was purportedly imposed by the province in an attempt to see that the costs of research do not jeopardize other functions of the University such as teaching. The province is also thought have wanted to demonstrate, by example, to the federal and other funding agencies, the need to meet the indirect cost of research.

"The danger is that research projects will be underfunded — there is

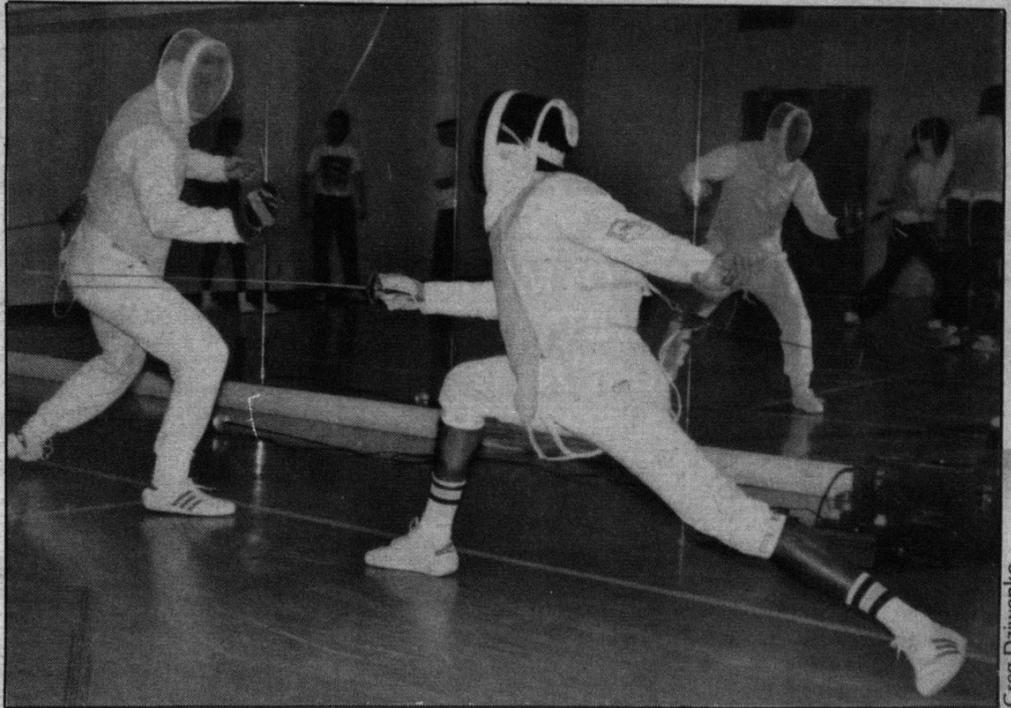
not enough left over after the overhead is charged," said Dr. Robert Busch, Associate V.P. Research. He adds that "the policy is well-intentioned. It recognizes the reality of the cost of research. But the need is for additional funding for research projects to meet indirect costs rather than cutting back the money available to researchers. We are in favor of receiving the indirect costs, yet not at the expense of vital research."

Although this policy has been in effect for over half a year, the effects have been minimal because the university has compensated the professor through a complicated pay-back system.

"These schemes are temporary. The pay-back on provincial contracts and grants will disappear in the coming year," said Busch.

Early in the new year the University is expected to unveil a new policy which would make the overhead cost a percentage of the whole provincial grant or the whole contract, not simply salaries and benefits. The new figures are expected to be 15 per cent overhead on provincial grants and 39 per cent overhead on contracts.

The change means little for research contracts as under the new policy the same amount of money is ultimately taken away, though a different calculation is used. But grants will be favored due to their more beneficial nature. They allow the university and its researcher both to control the direction of the research and to share in any benefits received from the research.



Greg Dziwenko

Hamlet V. ii. 296.

Medical students vote yes

by Dawn Lerohl

Medicine students have had their say, and university administrators have the next move in the lobby to implement student giving programs on campus.

Tuesday's forum resulted in overwhelming support for the student giving program. Over 68 per cent of those who voted were in favor of donating \$35 annually to their faculty. Voter turnout was exceedingly high at approximately 81 per cent of the total student body. The highest turnout, at 97 per cent, was from second and third year students whose ballot was attached to their term exams.

Ken Brown, Medical Students' Association president, attributes the high voter turnout to the importance of the issue as well as easy voting access. "I think everyone is

aware of the issue, it's something that involves money and that's why people are voting on it."

The results of the referendum will now be taken to the university administration who will decide whether the referendum was a valid indicator of student views, and if the giving program should be implemented for the 1990 fall session.

"We'll have to look at a method of implementing the results. This will involve a lot of discussion with university administration," said Dr. Douglas Wilson, dean of Medicine. He adds that, "I don't anticipate difficulties (having the program put into effect)."

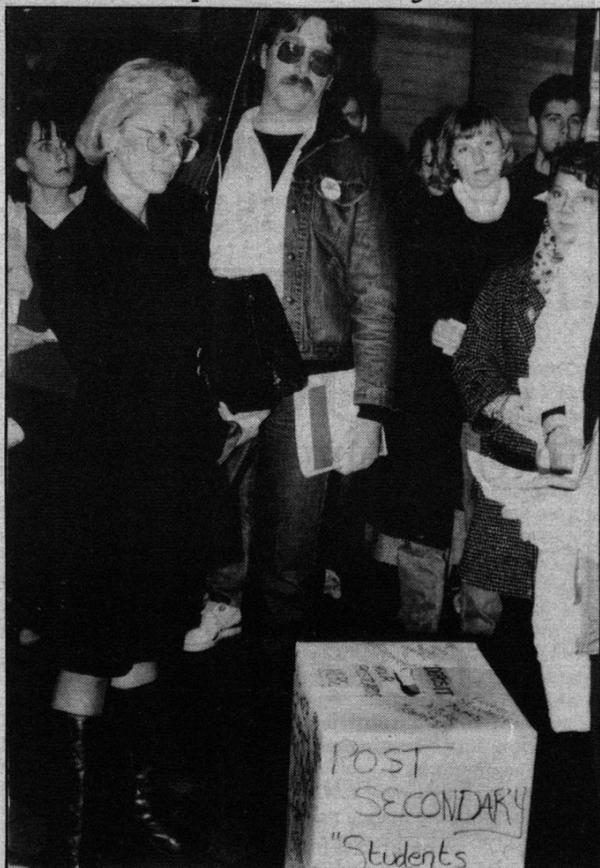
Although there have been questions raised as to the impartiality of the referendum question, both Brown and Wilson assert that the referendum was representative of

the students opinion and that sufficient time was allowed for students to learn about the issue. "They couldn't have had much more time without forgetting about it," said Wilson.

The medical students were voting on a donation which would not be mandatory. Although the issue was presented to students as a donation to be paid by all there would be a means of reimbursement for those who were opposed to contributing. "The students have certainly said everyone would be expected to pay, but at the same time there has to be a way to opt out," said Wilson.

If the student giving program is accepted by university administration and implemented in the fall a committee will be struck to dispense the funds. Some of the options being discussed are travel bursaries and furnishings for new study space.

Special Delivery



Lisa Hall

Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer was presented with a boxful of postcards Tuesday. The cards were signed by students supporting a less expensive bus pass. See story p 3.

Business students say no

by Greg Halinda

"There was a marketing problem."

That is how Business Students' Association president Don Herman described the result of last week's referendum on a student giving program in the faculty of Business. The 'no' side took 69 per cent of the vote, while the 'yes' side took 31.

Had the referendum passed, business students would be asked to donate about \$75 per year to their faculty. The three concerned parties in the referendum debate (the faculty, the 'yes' side, and the 'no' side) agreed that the concept of a giving program was not what students voted against. It was, rather, how the program was presented that business students found inadequate.

"The concept was accepted but not the process itself," said Business Dean Jean-Louis Malouin.

Malouin credited the 'no' side with raising some good comments and ideas in the debate over the issue, and he said it was good to see students discussing the matter and getting their adrenaline levels up.

Jim Romeril, a 'no' campaign spokesperson, was surprised at the size of the vote against the student giving program.

"I am happy with the results," said Romeril. "But I don't think anyone really won anything." He thinks most business students are in favour of a giving program, but just "rebelled" in the face of poor information on the part of faculty.

Don Herman claims the referendum was "a success in that we

brought out a lot of people and interest."

Herman, Romeril, and other interested stakeholders will meet with Dean Malouin in the next few weeks to discuss a better way to present the giving program. The 'no' side would like to see some improvement in the ratio of students to faculty members on the board that allocates funds to the program, which may be proposed again in 1990.

The results of this referendum saw 44 per cent of business students, or 762 out of 1721, cast ballots. Third-year students expressed greatest interest, with 53 per cent of the class voting. Members from the freshman class showed the least interest, as only 32 per cent, or 85 first-year students, voted.