

More UAB stuff

Saskatchewan students approve recreation fee hike referendum

SASKATCHEWAN (CUP) - A \$6.00 increase in athletic and recreation fees at the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon passed by nearly 80 percent in a referendum last week.

Although there is still some confirmation needed from council, this means that the fee will increase to \$23.50, with \$6.50 slated for recreation and the intramural programs and \$17.00 headed to athletics and the inter- varsity program.

The selling point to a good many people was that the majority of the increase asked for was designated for recreation. The \$4.00 increase in this allotment means, among other things, recreation can make some long overdue equipment purchases, as the more than 7000 students who participate in the intramural programs can verify that standing equipment is too scarce considering the number of people in the programs.

While we are disappointed at the low turn-out (23.7%) we are happy that the referendum passed said Assistant Dean Val Schneider.

Recreation Director Dave King was likewise disappointed at the low voter turn-out. "We would like to thank the students for their support as well," King added, "this puts pressure on us to improve the program in the next months and years to come."

The increase also allows assistant recreation director Bill Eng to continue with a full time position, something that was in doubt until the increase was passed. In athletics, the increase helps to offset everything from travel costs to uniform expenses. The bulk of athletic funding is still raised through fundraising, program sales, and gate receipts from non-students at inter- varsity games. That last figure is increasing as the Huskies become more and more competitive in all their sports programs.



One of the many facilities not supported by UAB fees

Photo Ken Tsai

UAB has lost strength: Wood

Athletics were originally the responsibility of the Dean of Men at the University of Alberta.

With an influx of women and interest in women's sports, the Dean of Women undertook the responsibility of women's athletics.

Finally, the athletics portfolio merged with the creation of the Dean of Students.

"It's sort of an evolution that occurred," says Dickson Wood, chairperson of the University

Athletic Board (UAB).

"About 30 years ago, UAB was formed," Wood says, before the creation of Athletic Services. "Originally it had policy decision making power. UAB actually ran the athletic program."

About 15 years ago, the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation underwent a departmental division. One of the new departments created was Athletic Services.

"Sports began to boom," Wood says, "and it became viable for the university to support sports."

"They (the University) established it (Athletic Services) to provide more continuity and administration of athletic programs," he added.

UAB retained the ability to form policy, but does not use that power, according to Wood.

"There couldn't be a dichotomy of responsibility," Wood says. The department

representatives had to report to both UAB and the dean of the faculty. "The dean became a focal point."

"Over time, UAB's strength has eroded to the state of an advisory board," says Wood. Athletic Services has policy making powers.

The UAB has a total revenue of \$752,000, over \$500,000 of which is derived from student fees. (Elise Gaudet, SU v.p. finance, estimates this equals 75 percent of the student fees paid into the Student's Union.)

UAB may not make policy any more, but it still controls the budget for athletic programs, outside the academic sphere.

In the budget, intramurals are given priority, then sport clubs, and finally intercollegiate activities. Still, the intercollegiate sports manage to dominate about 70 percent of the budget. Intramurals and clubs use the remainder.



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