

Survival in the 80's

FAS gets their ACT together

After two years of relatively little opposition to government funding cutbacks, students at the University of Alberta are organizing.

ACT! — the Anti-Cutbacks Team will have its first general meeting this Wednesday, September 16. The team so far is a closely knit group of about 10 dedicated individuals who have worked all summer to prepare effective anti-cutbacks campaigns for this fall.

"The major purpose of ACT! this year is to develop grass roots support," says chairperson Amanda LeRougetel, emphasizing that a lot of help is needed, thus the general meeting.

It is crucial that any student lobby shows the government it has widespread student support, says LeRougetel.

"I'm of the firm conviction that if you present students with facts — that one third of the political science courses listed in the university calendar are not

offered this year — they will respond with support," she says.

"You don't have to have days and days of time. All you need is ten minutes to say to someone on the bus 'Did you know the federal government is going to cut back its education funding?'"

It also helps, LeRougetel says, to take a solid mandate from the 40,000 members of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) to Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman.

FAS formed the Anti-Cutbacks Teams on all member campuses last March, but so far only the U of A team has organized. The ACT! mandate centers on four issues: cuts in Established Programs Financing (EPF), provincial funding, tuition, and student aid.

ACT! will also this year organize University Nights — one for media and the community, another for provincial MLA's. Both are an attempt to inform

non-students about university issues.

But the Anti-Cutbacks Team's first campaign late in September will attempt to inform students about university issues.

"The funding issues don't seem to have a very high profile on this campus," says LeRougetel.

"Some people think the Students' Union isn't political enough," she says.

"There are others who think, as I do, that there are incredible numbers of students on this campus who could put a lot of pressure on people we choose to put pressure on."

"It's a shame to miss this kind of support."

A shame particularly, says LeRougetel, in a year when university financing is in extreme danger due to proposed 1.5 billion cutbacks in federal Established Programs Financing transfer payments.

"If nothing else, at least we have to get students familiar with the term EPF," she says.



Domino Effect felt through funding shortage

by Wes Oginski

Effects of funding cutbacks are being felt through the entire university.

Liz Lunney, v.p. academic in the University of Alberta Students' Union, sent questionnaires to deans of all the faculties (and chairmen of departments in the faculties of Arts and Science).

"When pleading our case to the government and community we need to trace the effects of cutbacks," she says. "It is important they know we are presenting facts and not rumors."

The facts are devastating.

Many of the effects reported by the faculties caused by budget cutbacks follow a general trend.

Many faculties are unable to hire new positions when funds are decreasing and enrolments are increasing.

Class sizes then increase, and the workload on the instructor goes up. The instructor thus is unable to devote as much time to her/his other work.

Enrolment per faculty may not have increased across the board, but increased service demand has.

Service demand is

represented by option courses. Many faculties require, for example, that undergraduate students take at least one Arts course.

Unfortunately, only the faculty enrolment is considered at budget time. Although there may be a heavy increase in the service demand following a general increase of university enrolment, faculties like Arts whose enrolment is static will suffer.

"Arts has a very high service enrolment," says Lunney, "but that is not reflected by faculty enrolment." The highest service demand programs are thus the

programs losing support.

"Funds for liberal arts and science programs are not there," says Lunney.

What follows is a breakdown of the more serious problems reported in the questionnaires by the faculties, but first the operating expenditures must be understood.

"In order to understand the Academic units (of the survey), you must understand the structure of funding," explains Lunney.

"University operating expenditures reflect the cost of maintaining the daily activities of the university. They include Facul-

ty, Faculty Service, Library, Physical Plant, Student Services, Public Service, Administration and Utility expenditures."

"A general overview of the university's operating expenditures for the past decade indicates an increasing proportion of the budget has become fixed or non-discretionary..."

"The university faces escalating fixed costs; the rate of funding from the provincial government does not (and has not for several years) kept pace. This year, as a direct result of continued underfunding, the university had a deficit of \$1.8 million in its operating budget."



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