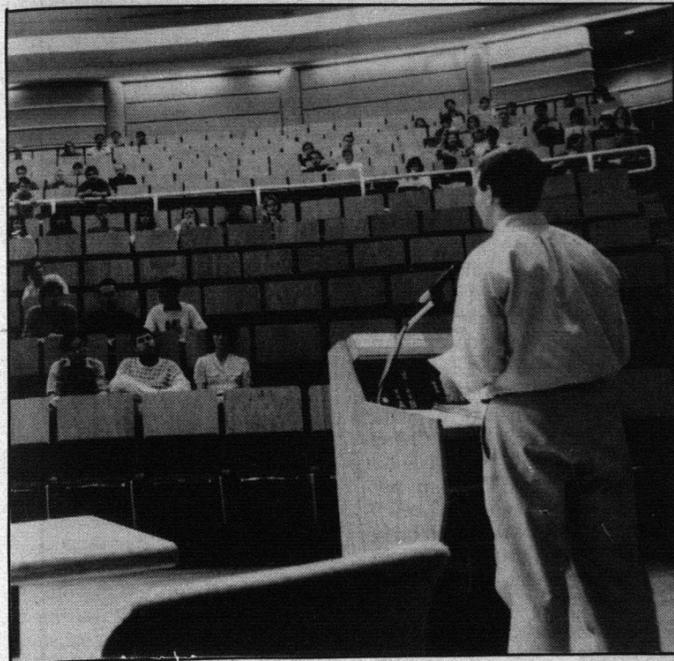


Concerns expressed at medical students forum

Faculty doesn't expect \$35 student gift to jeopardize provincial funding.



Kevin Law

Medical Students' Association president Ken Brown addresses concerns at Tuesday's forum on the faculty's proposed student giving program. The donation asked for is "about the price of pizza and beer for one night out," said Brown.

by Kevin Law

Following in the footsteps of their Business counterparts, the Medical Students' Association held a forum Tuesday apprising medical undergraduates of a referendum on student giving.

Medical Students' Association president Ken Brown, and Referendum Giving Committee chairman Marion Dobberthien began the forum by noting there is a need to establish a separate fund for students because other levels of funding are no longer enough to maintain excellence in medical education.

Brown and Dobberthien said the keynote difference between this and other forms of funding is that students will have a direct role in deciding how the money from this contribution will be spent through a fund advisory committee. The committee will be comprised of faculty and student representatives of which students will comprise the majority.

The fee, set at \$35, is to be a charitable contribution. However, some concerns about student giving were raised by students attending the forum. The affordability of the

fee, which would be paid at registration, was cause for concern. Some students felt they were already financially overburdened, but Brown felt the fee, to be paid once a year, was not an undue hardship.

"That's about the price of pizza and beer for one night out," Brown said, adding that there would be a refund mechanism put in place for students that could not afford to pay.

Another concern came from a student who asked why the donation was going to be tacked on at registration, and why a voluntary contribution, given at the students' own convenience, was not acceptable. Acting director of Development, Pat Warmington said that voluntary contributions are hard to administrate when the exact amount of total contributions is unknown. Projects are easier to plan with set finances to work with, she said.

Other concerns included possible downgrading of government funding if private fundraising was seen to be successful. Dr. Wilson, dean of Medicine, said the government encourages fundraising, noting "there is no suggestion we would

lose funds from the provincial government."

Brown and Dobberthien reiterated the positive aspects of the proposal, saying that a vote on the issue will be taken every three years giving all incoming undergraduates an opportunity to approve the referendum and make future changes. Dobberthien said that interns have also been approached about contributing and other efforts will be made to generate contributions from alumni and the outside community.

According to Brown, the main goal of student giving is to provide additional educational value through various student oriented projects. Such projects include travel bursaries for undergraduate students to study medical specialties at renowned facilities, such as pediatrics at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. As well, upgrading of the study area in the medical science building is also being considered.

Students debate controversial referendum

Yes and No sides battle over Student Giving Program

by Lisa Hall

The faculty of Business's question-and-answer forum on their student referendum turned into a debate Tuesday, as students representing both sides expressed their points of view on the controversial referendum.

Business students are voting today on a referendum that asks them to decide if they want to begin a 'student giving program', which would have them donate about \$75 per year towards a fund that would stay in their faculty.

Don Herman, the Business Students' Association president, spoke for the 'vote yes' side. "We as students have to decide if we want to contribute to a program that will enhance the quality of our education," said Herman. If the program goes through, students will be able to vote, by checking off items from a wishlist, on what they would like the money would go towards.

Jim Romeril, a fourth-year Business student who spoke for the 'vote no' side, said he thought "the idea that students should contribute is good, but I'm dead set against the way the group has gone about it." Romeril spent much time criticizing the operational process of the referendum. "The referendum was a surprise to students. We had eleven days to find out what it is all about," he said, and this did not allow enough time for students to examine the issue and ask questions about the program.

Romeril also accused the 'vote yes' side of misleading students with their poster campaign, as they

changed their posters and the message on them three times. "It wasn't changing everyday," said Herman. "It was carefully thought out." Roger Murray, the student who planned the poster campaign, later admitted that "it blew up in our faces," but that he never meant to mislead students.

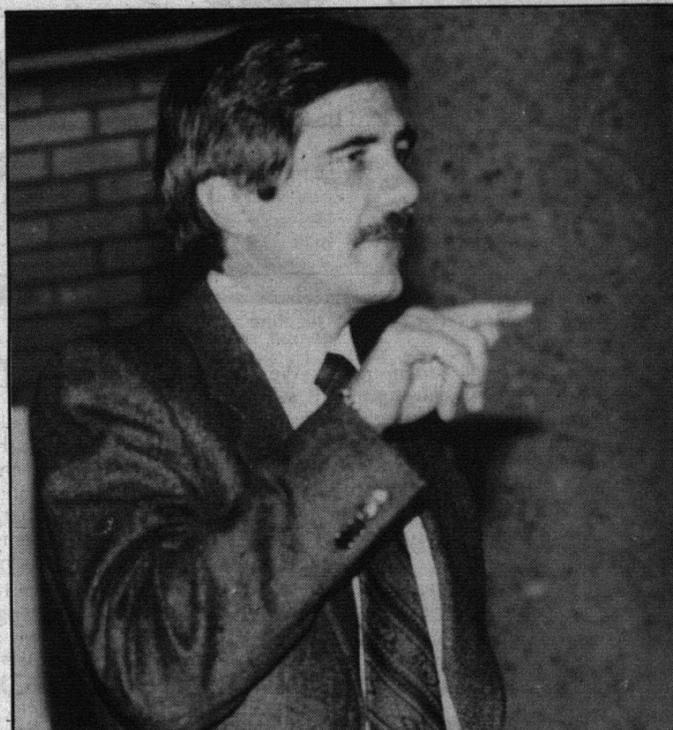
While Herman stated that the donation program always had "a mechanism so that students who feel strongly (against it) do not have to contribute", Romeril said he was under the impression the program was mandatory, and only found out otherwise that day.

Romeril added that the faculty has said a fund of around \$120,000 was needed or it wouldn't be effective. "If only half the students decide to contribute, then it won't be effective. And if I contribute and other students do not, that's not fair."

The dean of Business, Dr. Jean-Louis Malouin, also spoke, and stressed that this fund would help maintain the quality of education in the faculty. "Our resources are drying up," he said. "If we have to make a choice to cut something, the quality we have goes down."

During question period, one student asked why the faculty would make up half of the board which decided how to allocate the funds. Herman explained that "the faculty would be there for guidance. This program would give access to a lot of money. We would need help."

After hearing the comments of the Development office's acting director, Pat Warmington, on the



Ron Sears

Dean Jean-Louis Malouin stressed the importance of quality in Business education.

giving program, another student suggested Warmington seemed to be quite involved, and questioned if the idea to hold the referendum was a student initiative, which the BSA has always claimed. Warmington defended that she presented the idea to the different student associations, and it was up to them to decide if they wanted to act upon it.

GSA votes 'No'

by Randal Smathers

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) has come out against the business referendum on proposed extra fees.

In a statement which has been posted in the Business building, GSA president Stephen Downes has denounced, on behalf of the GSA, the referendum. "This referendum should not go ahead. It is

a sneak attack, a carefully planned trap which was sprung without warning and which will hurt every student on campus."

The statement, on GSA letterhead, denies that the referendum was a "recent student initiative". They maintain that the proposal began with the university administration over a year ago. A memo from Pat Warmington, acting director

of Development, and dated November 11, 1988, which refers to a similar program in Manitoba and the possibility of one being developed for the U of A—has been circulated.

The statement also attacks the unfairness of the referendum, which the GSA says favours the "yes" side, and the possible implications for other faculties if it is passed.

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