

Why is it a slight increase may mean a hundred dollars...

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...while a substantial cut means only seventy-eight cents?

University pulls a fast one



photo Kay Griguere

This is University president Myer Horowitz. Last year he recommended to the Board of Governors that students pay more tuition if the government didn't provide sufficient university funding. John Schlosser,

chairman of the Board of Governors, says he wants a tuition increase. He doesn't say anything about government under-funding. As if there were any doubt, we'll see what they really think about tuition at next week's Board meeting.

More cheers than jeers

by Don Millar

Marc Lalonde got more cheers than jeers in Alberta Monday night.

And that's not the only news the federal energy minister made during a forum on campus, sponsored by the Committee for the Canadianization of the Petroleum Industry (CCPI).

Lalonde drew his loudest applause from the overflow crowd when he said Canadians shouldn't be "scandalized" by American complaints about the national energy program (NEP) and said Canadians should "keep our cool."

"We should be scandalized if the government of Canada can't stand on their own two feet because some one in Washington is coughing...the Canadianization program stands" he said.

However the energy minister got mostly skeptical chuckles when he asserted "the voice of reason will prevail in the United States."

Following the forum Lalonde told *the Gateway* the feds "have a common front with the provincial

government" on the subject of renegotiating parts of the energy deal to give more money to the participants in the Cold Lake and Alsands mega-projects. The province is refusing to renegotiate to satisfy the participants.

When Lalonde was asked if he was in complete agreement with Peter Lougheed on this issue he replied, "yes absolutely."

LaLonde said "despite a capital strike by the iron industry NEP has resulted in a four percent increase in Canadian ownership of the industry in 10 months, a decrease in foreign ownership from 70 percent to 66 percent.

He predicted "if we maintain the momentum there is no reason we can't cut another 35 to 40 percent in the next eight years." That would mean Canadian ownership at a rate of 69 to 73 percent.

Other participants were CCPI members Mel Hurtig, an Edmonton publisher and former chairman of the Committee for an Independent Canada, and Harry Kostiuk, President of the Alberta

Federation of Labor.

The committee feels the feds aren't moving fast enough in implementing Canadianization plans.

For most of the night Lalonde appeared to be the dove on the Canadianization as Hurtig called for 75 per cent Canadian control by 1990 (the government target is 50 per cent) and Kostiuk claimed the tar sands mega-projects should be run by a crown corporation.

Although Lalonde's

by Mike Walker

Student reps on the Board of Governors (B of G) are up in arms over the university's proposed tuition fee indexing policy to be discussed at next Friday's Board meeting.

SU president Phil Soper and B of G rep Kris Farkas say they will try to block the proposal which would peg total tuition fee revenue at between eight and twelve per cent of the university's net operating budget. Such indexing would mean annual tuition fee increases.

If the Board approves, the policy will be submitted to the provincial government, which plans to formulate a permanent tuition fee policy by next spring.

"Any form of indexed tuition fee would permanently remove students, from the consultation process in determining the costs of their education," Soper said yesterday. The current practice has the Board of Governors recommend tuition fee levels to the government, which must approve them before they can be charged. This gives students the opportunity to fight increases, Soper said.

Anne McGrath of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) agreed.

"I think they're looking for a way of ensuring that tuition fees rise regularly with a minimum of flack," she said.

Board rep Farkas accused the university of ignoring students' resources, and the potential barrier to education posed by tuition fee increases.

"Students' resources are not rising as fast as the operating costs of the university. Not all students work in the construction industry," she said, "and those who don't are really going to feel a crunch. Their wages often don't go up by the rate of inflation from one summer to the next."

U of A vice-president Lorne Leitch defended the proposed policy, but admitted it does not consider the social impact of constantly rising fees.

"I'm speaking as an administrator responsible for drafting a budget. To have the matter settled (that tuition fees would climb every year) would be a good thing," he said.

He also admitted that the 8 to 12 percent figure is purely arbitrary. And he said he did not know to what extent tuition fees pose a barrier to education.

McGrath claimed Leitch was saying just what FAS says. "He says what we say: that indexing fees is arbitrary, that there's no good reason for pegging them at any level. And if he's honestly not sure whether fees are a barrier, why isn't the university investigating this question?"

Students' Union vice-president Lisa Walter agreed, saying, "They're going ahead without any regard for the social issues. I'm mad as hell at the Board for looking at tuition as merely a revenue."

Walter, Farkas, Soper and others say they plan to get as many students as possible out to next week's Board meeting to show the Board members that students are concerned about the issue.

Board asks 30 percent

by Mike Walker

Tuition fees will have to rise 30 percent next year to reach the level the U of A Board of Governors wants them at.

In a letter written to Premier Peter Lougheed, Board chairperson John Schlosser attacked the government for not approving a 15 percent, U of A tuition fee increase for this fall.

"University students at one time paid approximately 15 percent of (operating) costs and with your minister's refusal to increase fees this percentage will now be 8 percent of operating costs," Schlosser said.

"If you do not increase the fees and do not allow a 30 percent fee (increase) next year, the amounts will become meaningless," he said.

A 30 percent increase would push tuition fees from their present \$606 to about \$790, and total student fees (including health, athletic and Students' Union fees) from \$689 to \$873 per year.

Schlosser also suggests in the letter that tuition fees should make up a constant 10 percent of university costs.

Nowhere does he mention that the reason for the university's fee increase request last spring was the Lougheed government's inadequate funding of the university.

However, university president Myer Horowitz said repeatedly that last year's tuition increase request was a last ditch attempt to make up for the government's inadequate university funding.

Last notice

Your chance to see what nature of persons put this paper out and how to join their ranks.

The Gateway
Intro-night
Room 282 SUB
7:30 - tonight