Morin finds rationale Differential fees for Quebec

QUEBEC CITY (CUP)-Quebec Education Minister Jacques-Yvan Morin says that the province's decision to triple tuition fees for international students is justified by a huge influx of visa students following a similar move by Ontario and Alberta last year.

But university officials at McGill and Concordia universities say international student enrolment has in fact dropped off at both institutions this year, and are questioning Morin's assertion that the fees are not intended to keep visa students out.

Morin said Feb. 17 the differential fees are in place to distribute visa students more evenly across the country, and suggested the ministry might extend provincial loans and bursaries to students from francophone countries in Europe and

The differential plan announced Feb. 14 will raise fees for international students entering Quebec universities next year by \$1,000, and will come into effect either in September of this year, or January

The McGill University senate affirmed Feb. 22 its "implacable opposition" to the two-tiered system, but rejected a proposal supported by the students' society to find alternative financial support for visa students within the university budget. Administrative vicepresident Leo Yaffe cited a similar, unsuccessful plan at McMaster University last fall in opposing the measure.

The students' society plans an information meeting Feb. 28 to bring students together with resource people from the Ontario

Federation of Students, the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) and perhaps representatives of l'Association nationale des etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ)

ANEQ has no official position on differential fees, but according to information officer Daniel Pauquet, the organization "has always upheld the rights of foreign students to have the same rights as Quebec students.'

McGill student representatives will meet with ANEQ representatives, and with the executives of the student associations at both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses of Concordia University this weekend to develop strategy.

McGill students' society president Terry Reed described the government move as a "symbolic

political act designed more to expand government control over universities than to save taxpayers

Studies by the CBIE show that international students are not a drain on Canadian taxpayers according to Reed, himself a visa

"They have to show they're self-sufficient before they're allowed in, and there's no question they're sponging off Canadians," he said. CBIE reports have also noted that the amounts of money injected into the economy by visiting students easily offsets their educational costs to the taxpayer.

Reed says the saving to the universities in money will be minimal, less than one per cent in McGill's case, "Much of the budget is fixed costs, so the only changes will be transfer payments.'

'The move will only serve to make McGill more parochial," Reed

Profs face charges

QUEBEC (CUP)-The idea of students in chemistry classes learning how to make bombs and stage commando raids on their college apparently didn't agree with Quebec Education Minister Jacques-Yvan Morin, and so six professors at CEGEP Limoilou will face charges

The six chemistry professors were suspended Nov. 25 for setting up imaginary scenarios to stimulate interest in introductory chemistry courses. Students were told of arbitrary actions by the ministry of education, which they were to respond to by leading a commando attack on the college and holding the college against the provincial police.

During the scenario, the professors told students how to prepare bombs, grenades and

The ministry of education pressed charges of possession of explosives without a permit after the college administration lifted the suspensions in early December. teachers face fines between \$50

U.S. tuition is climbing

DENVER (CPS-CUP)-Undergraduate tuition fees will rise by as much as 11.1 per cent this year in the United States, according to statistics released by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

For state residents, tuition will rise 7.3 per cent, to a median of \$694 from \$647. For non-residents, there will be a jump of 11.1 per cent, to \$1,637 from \$1,474.

Tuition for students attending graduate and professional schools of state universities increased considerably more than undergraduate tuition. Double digit percentage increases were reported for both resident and non-resident students attending schools of medicine and veterinary medicine.

More than half the colleges and universities cited inflation for the increases, and more than a third cited the "need to maintain program quality.'



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