

Business and Medicine hold forums

"Student giving" concerns will be addressed

by Lisa Hall

Forums are being held today to give Business and Medical students more information about extra fee programs. This proposal called "student giving" will be the subject of a referendum in both faculties, where students will decide whether or not they want to start such a program. In this system students will be obligated to make a yearly contribution to their faculty for three years. The contributions will remain in the faculty, and students will help determine where the money should go.

Presentations will be given about the program, and students will be able to ask questions about it.

The idea of student giving was brought to the University of Alberta by the university's development

office. The development office is a fund-raising branch of the University.

Pat Warmington, the acting director of Development, visited the University of Manitoba, where similar programs have been started in several faculties. "I wanted to find out what the program was about, and see if the U of A could benefit from it," said Warmington.

Warmington felt the program was worthwhile, and made presentations about the idea to faculty deans and student associations.

Both the Business and Medical Students' Associations decided that they would like to try to implement the program. "They are very keen and think it will be good for their fellow students," said Warmington.

The development office helped the students' associations' and their

faculties work out details. They had to decide how to administer the fund, and what amount to ask the students to donate.

Business students are asked to donate \$75 per year. Medical students are asked for \$35.

"We determined that we needed a fund of \$100,000 to \$150,000 to have some impact," said Jean-Louis Malouin, the Dean of Business. After doing some calculations, it was determined that about \$75 was the right amount to ask for.

If the students vote in favor of the program, each faculty will be setting up an advisory committee, made up of students and faculty, who will decide what projects should be helped by the fund.

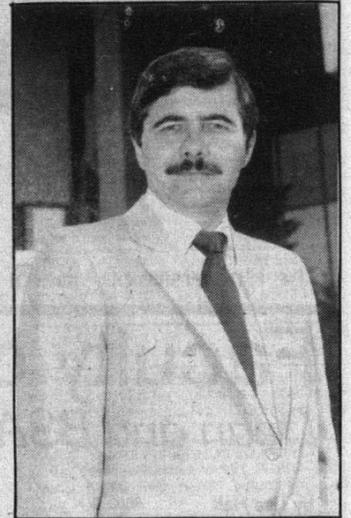
Other faculties are also interested in such a program. Warmington

said that Physical Education and Recreation, Science, Pharmacy, and Dentistry are all waiting to see the results of the referenda in Business and Medicine.

If the initial referenda are successful, the programs will still need approval from the University's Board of Governors. "I think if there is a strong student response (in favor of the program), the Board of Governors will consider them as an indication that the students want to start giving," said Warmington.

The Business forum is slated for 2 pm today in the Business building's fourth-floor lounge, while Medicine's will be at noon in the Bernard Snell Hall.

The results will come soon. The Business referendum is on November 9 and Medicine's is on November 14.



Dean Jean-Louis Malouin

Referendum lacks official approval

Effort may be wasted if board rejects vote

by Randal Smathers

You may safely ignore the rhetoric of "mandatory donations." The upcoming referenda in Business and Medicine, which, if passed, would see students in those faculties be required to "donate" money to their faculty, are actually referenda on fees, no different from the Library and Computing Fees, or tuition.

Dr. Allan Warrack, Vice-President Administration for the University, indicated that donations cannot be forced. Therefore, even if the referenda pass, the "mandatory donations" they would produce would have to be treated as fees, and thus would require

approval by the Board of Governors.

Warrack also said that such coerced donations could "arguably be considered tuition," and therefore be subject to the provincial government's tuition ceiling. Judgement on a case between Administration and the Students' Union to determine whether or not the Library and Computing Fees are tuition is expected in January. Such a ruling would likely set a precedent for the proposed Business and Medicine "donations."

Warrack said that the Administration is not opposed to the referenda: "We welcome the

widest possible discussion on matters of fees. Without changes to the fee structure, there can be no prospect of solving the University's financial difficulties."

He also said that the passing of the referenda would indicate that "A lot of students understand our financial plight...expressed through a straw vote."

Any voluntary donations may be made to specific sections of the University, and if matching funds are available, they also go to the same place. But the fees, because they are not "donations," would not be eligible for matching funds.

SU 'can't stay inactive'

by Pat Kiernan and Dawn Lerohl

Though the Students' Union doesn't want to directly influence an independent faculty association, SU V.P. academic Suresh Mustapha says they "can't stay inactive" on the Business referendum issue.

"This issue is important for students in other faculties. We've got to consider the implications because students are going to feel as though they're being nicked and dined to death."

Up to this point, the SU has had little involvement with the Business Students' Referendum being held this Thursday. The Development Office, which first introduced the idea to the various students associations, contacted the SU two months ago with the idea. The SU were given no further information until

posters started going up last week, says Mustapha.

The SU executive are currently gathering information on the issue and are unable to answer with any certainty on their views.

"It's an important issue, but little information is available to us. Initially it appears to be a good idea, but we must look into the implications," said Mustapha. He adds that questions must be asked regarding whether the 'No' side has been given ample opportunity to state their case.

The referendum brings forward the "question of what fees are legitimate," said Dave Tupper, SU president.

The mandatory contribution does not appear to fall within the SU definition of tuition, so Mustapha doesn't think the SU's tough stance against tuition hikes should apply.

But Mustapha feels that raises other concerns for students who cannot afford to make the contribution. "If it's not tuition, that might be a problem with the SFB." The Student Finance Board is responsible for allocating student loans.

"It's too late now to cancel the referendum," said Mustapha. "Instead it is a question of how it (the vote) will be treated."

Because the concept of the giving program has not yet been approved by the university administration, the vote is little more than an opinion poll. The results will be considered by officials when they decide whether or not to add the contribution to next year's fees.

"I don't think we should interfere as long as it's a fair process," said Mustapha. He adds that, "How the results are going to be treated depends on who motivated the balloting, and how was the treatment of both sides."

Tupper adds that although the business students are going ahead, "the result will not carry any immediate weight. We need time to look at the whole issue."

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