

COMMERCE

Cutbacks price U of A out of the prof market

Arlene Aaron
The Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce has been "particularly adversely affected by the stringent budget," says Dean R. S. Smith. In an interview Monday Dean Smith discussed how the cutback in provincial funding affected the business faculty. He said the most visible effects were the decrease in the number of courses offered, the decreased number of sections of courses and the increased number of students per section. In particular, because of the cut in classes, students lose the opportunity for guidance in individual study. There is little, if any, individual instruction. Referring to this and the quota, Dean Smith said, "we are denying some good students the opportunity to get an education in the Business Faculty". The quota was placed three years ago as a result of insufficient funding, despite the fact that the demand for Commerce graduates is amongst the highest for university graduates. The faculty has been trying to expand the quota but the decreased funding made this impossible so far. The University Planning Committee approved a quota extension proposal and it is

currently being considered by committees of the Board of Governors.

"The basic issue is a combination of insufficient government funding and the inability of this university to reallocate resources efficiently" says Dean Smith.

For the last few years cutbacks have created a number of problems in the Business Faculty. Due to the large number of North American Business Schools and the quotas within those schools there is a shortage of business professors. The U A Business faculty must bid for

qualified staff in a competitive market.

According to Dean Smith, the faculty needs resources to provide attractive salaries and working conditions for professors in order to compete. If the current trend in cutbacks continues there could be a serious problem filling vacant positions.

Cutbacks in funding have also hurt the postage budget, telephone budget, travel budget, and budgets for visiting speakers. These areas have not kept up with faculty growth and inflation.

"Food Science is still allocating only about 20% as much as they should allocate for normal depreciation and replacement. Similar statements could be made for our other departments."

J.P. Bowland,
Dean of Agriculture

"Overall the effect of these limitations probably is most serious with respect to such obscure things as morale and the degree of enthusiasm and commitment which our colleagues feel for the institution in which they work."


John Forster, Dean
Faculty of Graduate Studies

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ENTOMOLOGY

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graduate assistants in Entomology.

Dr. Gooding said that the department does not have the freedom it would like to have in supporting graduate students. Many grants, which also support graduate students, are restricted to Canadians or landed immigrants, making it difficult for students to obtain support. The public service function of the department has been severely crippled. Until last year, the department supported an extension entomologist. This person handled hundreds of requests for information yearly, mostly from the public and from medical personnel.

The extension entomologist identified insects and explained the cheapest method of control. Indeed, any control was required. Dr. Gooding said that this position will not be reinstated unless there is a dramatic increase in funding.

It appears that, contrary to government's expectations, cutbacks may well make the university less efficient. Dr. Gooding said, for example, that Entomology if a piece of equipment breaks down, funds to repair it are very difficult to

Broken equipment lies idle and sometimes other equipment is cannibalized for parts. Equipment that has worn out cannot be replaced. So research is slowed down, and teaching is affected.

Next summer, when office space in the department office is vacated, there will be no temporary replacements hired. Instead, highly paid academic staff will type their own correspondence and perform other necessary office duties, when they could otherwise be performing research or preparing for classes.

If Dr. Gooding is right, the loss of harmony both within and between departments so necessary for the success of this institution, might well be the worst cutback of all.

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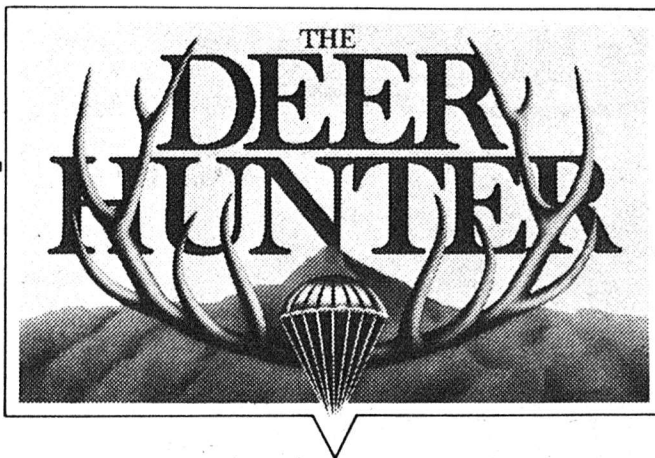
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