



STUDENT'S UNION GENERAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM MARCH 16, 17, 18/1988

Nominations are open for:

SU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President
- VP Academic
- VP Finance & Administration
- VP Internal Affairs
- VP External Affairs

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BOARD

- President Athletics
- VP Mens' Athletics
- VP Womens' Athletics

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 1 Student Representative

REFERENDUM QUESTION:

"I support a 50¢ per student per year levy in STUDENT UNION FEES for the purpose of sponsoring one new refugee student per year through the WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICES OF CANADA (WUSC) STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM"

YES NO

NOMINATIONS CLOSE:

MARCH 1 1988 1700 HRS.

Nomination Packages are Available from the Receptionist in 256 SUB. Completed Nomination Packages are to be Turned In to the Chief Returning Officer, Craig Cooper, 234 SUB.

CANDIDATES MEETING:

March 1, 1988 1700 HRS.

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM:

MARCH 16, 1988 NOON in SUB THEATRE

Any Interested Parties Who Would Like to Represent Either the "Yes" Side or the "No" Side Should Contact the Chief Returning Officer in 234 SUB.

For More Information, Contact the Chief Returning Officer, Craig Cooper in 234 SUB, 432-2231.

Student Loans program

by Beth Ryan and Michelle Lalonde, CUP and Cam McCulloch, Gateway staff

When Secretary of State David Crombie asked for student input into the federal government's student aid program, he should have been prepared for an earful.

Students have a lot to say about the flaws of the current Canada Student Loans Program and they have been eager to present alternatives to the federal government. But their suggestions amount to more than a few changes to federal policy: student groups across the country want Canada to take a hard look at just who deserves a post secondary education.

They want to see a change in the assumption that underlies government policies and university admissions regulations — that post-secondary education is a privilege to be extended only to the gifted and the wealthy.

Although "accessibility" is a catch-all phrase that student politicians have thrown around for years, today they are talking about total accessibility in the form of a government-funded education. They propose a system that offers non-repayable bursaries and grants instead of student loans. And while government officials may quickly dismiss the suggestion as "financially unfeasible", student groups have some pragmatic reasoning to back up their proposal.

"The idea of an all-bursary program is not unrealistic at all."

"The idea of an all-bursary program is not unrealistic at all. In fact, it makes good economic sense," says Stephen Scott, executive officer of the Canadian Federation of Students — Pacific Region.

"If you have people graduating with \$12,000 debts, they are not buying cars and getting mortgages and starting families and keeping the economy going. Instead it's a drag on the economy."

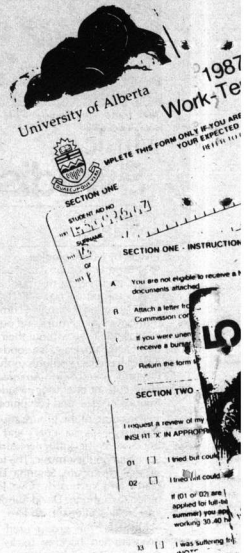
The students' society at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. has studied the costs of implementing an all-bursary program instead of an all-loans program in B.C. and found only a minimal difference in the cost.

They determined that it would cost \$17.5 million to administer an all-loans program and \$20 million for an all bursary program, says Howard.

Factors which contribute to the high cost of administering a loans program include: the number of loan recipients, number of guaranteed loans, interest charges paid by government, defaults based on 18 per cent federal rate and a remission program that reduced high academic achievers' loan payments.

The major cost covered by the government is the interest paid on the loan while the student is still in school. Students only begin to repay their loans six months after leaving school.

The amount paid by the government is even higher when one adds administrative costs and the expenses incurred in trying to recover the loans. The government also pays when a student defaults and 123,000 students



have defaulted. Jean Sprague of the Finance Board in Alberta says the government fifty cents for every loan.

While student groups are looking bursary programs or increased by the very least, provincial and federal governments are increasing the number of student loans while cut or even eliminating bursaries in programs. Sprague doubts all-bursary be cheaper than all-loans, though partial bursaries as a way of reducing debt loads at the completion of study.

In 1984, the Social Credit government eliminated bursaries and replaced with an all-loan program, cutting the aid budget from \$33 million to less million.

Student groups in B.C. launched a lobbying effort during the election campaign in the fall of 1987 contributed to positive change system. The government adopted the students' recommendations and a debt ceiling of \$12,000 and graduated student's first two years of study.

The Saskatchewan government more than doubled funding for student aid in 1987 budget but replaced bursary "forgivable loans". Repayment loans depends on financial status and academic performance.

Lyndon Surjik, the CFS Saskatchewan chair, points out that the "payable" of the loan has doubled before a student

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