

G.F.C.: ecology department for U of A

General Faculties Council split down the middle in a vote on the future of environmental studies at the U of A.

A recommendation of the academic development committee which would have only "encouraged" the development of courses on the environment within existing departments and programmes, was defeated in a 43-45 vote at last Monday's meeting.

A subsequent motion which called for the ADC to "implement a mechanism for an interdisciplinary approach to environmental studies," that is, a faculty or department, carried.

In discussion on the ADC recommendation, undergrad arts rep Gary Draper complained of the "appalling lack of co-ordination" in courses on ecology. In his own case, he noted, a geography course he had taken spent only four lecture periods on environmental matters. To get any comprehensive understanding of the subject, one would have to take many such courses, "learning ecology in drips and drabs," he said.

Supporters of the ADC's go-slow approach to the development of such a programme cited what they felt to be an adequate amount of co-ordination among the various departments offering courses in the area, a lack of jobs for graduates of environmental programmes, and a reluctance to add departments or programmes given the university's financial situation.

Another split in the council was evident in the debate on changes of faculty by students with matriculation deficiencies.

The motion forwarded to the GFC was "that when a student transfers from one faculty to another after a successful year at the university, he normally not be required to make up a matriculation deficiency."



from Saturday Review

"Hadley has a lot more to learn about ecology."



The only exception to the regulation would have been lower-level courses required as pre-requisites for upper-level courses.

R. G. Baldwin, dean of arts, presented an amendment to the motion "with a wish" that the motion be defeated--and a prayer that it passed it is with the amendment.

The amendment provided faculties with the option of entirely waiving deficiencies or of requiring that a deficiency be cleared, but giving students credit in their programme for the course.

Under present regulations, deficiencies must be made up without credit.

When questioned by grad rep David McMurray under what circumstances the deficiencies might be waived, Baldwin replied that in arts, "it would be unlikely that they would be waived."

SU rep Patrick Delaney protested that the amendment was a "very, very clever device to get this body not to make a decision on the question of the transferability of credits."

The amendment and the motion both carried. tj

Kaplan seeks legal aid

Sid Kaplan, one of the students whose degrees are being held because of fines, has reached a decision to fight the university's parking fine rules--on one condition. He will only do it if Student Legal Services will help him out by providing a lawyer.

Kaplan owes the university over \$200 in fines, and has not received his degree because of a rule that allows the administration to withhold marks until fines are paid. He would prefer that the university try to collect the money owed by the 560 students, including him, saying "let them take us to court and prove it."

However, the university refuses to do so and Kaplan says it would cost him \$1600 to fight the case himself.

At issue is the legality of the parking tickets issued by the university. K Kaplan claims that the situation is analogous to private citizens placing parking meters in their back yards and attempting to collect fines levied for violations of their essentially private laws.

He is confident that if the case goes to court, he will win it. He says that he has heard of similar cases in other universities won by the students and feels that it is a case of "a few people playing God" with the students here.

Student Legal Services could not be reached for comment Monday. kc

backlog

\$2,000 BRIEF WORTHLESS---

RISKIN

At the students' council meeting last Monday, SU president Gerry Riskin attacked the long awaited tenure report prepared for the council by Pan-Alta Management Ltd. at a cost of \$2,000. Of the approximately 200 pages, Riskin said, only about 20 were of any real value. If this report were submitted to a prof by a student, the student would fail, Riskin argued.

Riskin was speaking to a motion by vice-president academic Patrick Delaney, who is responsible for having the report done. Delaney had asked that the report be accepted by council so that he could write a report to submit to the G.F.C. for consideration during the tenure debate.

Delaney maintained that without the report he could not and would not prepare a report for G.F.C. Garry West, vice-president finance, asked if Riskin had an ulterior motive for wanting the motion defeated. Eventually, after half an hour of debate, the motion was carried, but with more abstentions than votes in favour.

HUB RENT REBATES

15% in September, 10% in October, 5% in November and December: those were the rental rebates granted to tenants in HUB, following their meeting with members of the SU executive and their presentation to council. The tenants requested the rebates in compensation for inadequate facilities in HUB due to uncompleted construction.

KRAFT BOYCOTT

"Despite the assurances given to small farmers by most political candidates, government tends to support the trend of European countries and the U.S.A. towards larger and more viable farming units." In stating this, Dave Mikalson, Ag rep, said that he would not support the motion to give council's support to the Kraft boycott. The Edmonton Kraft Boycott Committee had asked that council request the the university administration support the boycott in university cafeterias. Despite Riskin's suggestion that as consumers we should be aware of the activities of large oligopolies like Kraft which are not

always concerned with the best interest of consumers, council defeated the motion.

UAVAC PROTEST

Describing the action of the managers of the Jubilee Auditorium as "clearly discriminatory", Gerry Riskin spoke in favour of a motion put by the U of A Vietnam Action Committee. UAVAC was protesting that they were prohibited from handing out leaflets to people who were entering the auditorium to attend the Trudeau rally. Inside the building other political groups did not share the same fate in their attempts to distribute leaflets. Council passed a motion calling for Riskin to write a letter of censure to the manager of the Auditorium.

SECOND LOOK

SU General Manager D. Ness questioned commerce rep Saffron Shandro on the reasons that he had not been invited to attend meetings of the Second Look committee which Shandro heads. Shandro explained that the meetings were hastily arranged and it was therefore difficult to inform all members of the committee of the time and place.

Riskin warned Shandro that the budget for the committee was precariously close to its limit of \$1000. According to Shandro, the committee has nearly completed its cost study, following which revenue will be forthcoming from advertisers. The Second Look project, which should provide 100,000 copies of a university promotional magazine for high school students and employers, is supposed to operate on a "break-even" basis.

RISKIN AND G.F.C.

Riskin proposed that as a since he was unable to attend G.F.C. meetings and since university president Max Wyman refused to accept Rob Spraggins as an alternate, that he should resign his position on G.F.C. Council might then be able to appoint a replacement. SU vice-president finances Garry West objected that it was Riskin's duty as president to sit in G.F.C. The only way the seat could be opened to someone else was for Riskin to resign as SU president. Riskin withdrew his motion.

B. of G. lay member calls for academic advice

A plea for "a great deal more guidance on academic matters" for lay members of the board of governors was made by Dora McCulloch, a lay member of the board at its October 20 meeting.

"It would be a very great pity if decisions were made purely on an economic basis," she said.

A letter on economic priorities from academic staff rep B. M. Barker "brought home" to her, she said, "how very much lay members need standards by which to judge matters which have academic implications."

Board student rep Frans Slatter took strong exception to McCulloch's remarks.

"It's not up to the academics," he commented. "The board of governors has lay members on it for a very good reason: the university is to serve the needs of society."

"Whenever anyone says 'this is academic' the board throws up its hands. The board is shirking its responsibilities if we start letting these things be decided elsewhere," Slatter remonstrated.

The discussion arose over Barker's suggestion of a mechanism to transfer operating funds from programmes with decreasing enrolments to those showing enrolment increases.

He asked that board members be provided with easily interpreted information which could be used in deciding matters of economic priorities and allocations.

Again taking up the ID card hassle between the GSA and the SU, the board agreed to study the idea of issuing a single university identification card for the next academic year, allowing student groups to issue their own, separate cards if they chose to do so.

A motion by GSA rep Mahomed Ali Adam to remove from the table an earlier motion to recognize the GSA card for this year was ruled out of order by board president F. T. Jenner because it had not been placed on the agenda prior to the meeting.

The future of the University Health Service was considered briefly, with a suggestion by Barker that the service be converted to a community health facility, serving academic, non-academic staff and area residents as well as students. ds

He cited assurances given to him by Stanley Greenhill, chairman of the UHS advisory committee, that governmental funding would be available for such centres.

His suggestion was ruled out of order by the chairman, again because it had not been placed on the agenda.

After the public galleries were emptied, board members considered in closed session of the meeting a report on over- and under-expenditures in the 1971-72 budget, budget change requests and a review of procedures for approving sabbatical leave. tj



Authoritarian 'Keep off the Grass' signs have yielded to this more subtle reminder to spare the green stuff outside General Services building.