



Student Health: Busy as usual

Student health in fine shape

Prescription: 55 dedicated people, well organized, a desire to help, mixed generously with money and publicity. Result: Student Health Services, 1973.

Under the direction of Dr. F.B. Cookson, the University Health Service has overcome crippling problems to operate as befits a vital student service on campus.

Dr. M.J. Ball, director of UHS in September 1972, took a year's leave-of-absence last November, resulting in Cookson's appointment as acting director.

Cookson's first action was to re-organize UHS for maximum efficiency, backed by a directive from U of A president Dr. Max Wyman to concentrate on providing an excellent service and to regard financial costs as being of secondary importance.

About 46,000 people used UHS last year. This number is expected to rise dramatically, judging by summer use - which increased tenfold - the number of patients in the first two weeks of the current session.

Cookson attributes the greater use of the facility to one factor, publicity. In the past, there has been some misunderstanding about who is eligible to use UHS, what services are offered, and most

important of all, where is it?

The facility can be used by all students at the U of A, regardless of whether or not they have paid a \$10 health fee. The fee covers pharmacy service, which enables students who have paid the fee to obtain prescribed drugs for \$1. This special rate also applies to contraceptives. If students have not paid the fee, drugs are sold to them at cost price, which still provides a substantial saving. The \$10 also covers the cost of the infirmary and provides free dental service.

Dr. Cookson emphasizes that the health service will see anyone who needs medical attention. The non-academic staff approached the board of governors last year about using UHS, and a decision on this application is pending.

The U of A administrators were, in Dr. Cookson's words, 'most helpful' in the reorganization of the facility, providing the service with more than adequate funding to continue operation.

The present services include dental care and pharmaceutical service, as well as general medicals, tests, liaison with the University Hospital for emergency cases and surgical cases, gynaecology, birth control information, and an abortion referral service.

Cookson sees no expansion of services in the immediate future. Instead, he plans to concentrate on improving existing facilities. One service which may become available on demand is eyeglass prescriptions.

Negotiations are still being carried out for government funding at the federal level, which would most probably be used to provide a larger building.

In the meantime, UHS continues as one of the rare places where people come first and administration comes second.

McLeod named McGaw scholar

Gordon McLeod qualifying year student in the Master of Health Services Administration program, has been named the 1973 McGaw Scholar for the University of Alberta.

McGaw Scholarships are made available in the form of a grant to the Association of University Programs in Hospital Administration from the Foster G. McGaw Charitable Fund.

McGaw is founder and honorary board chairman of the American Hospital Supply Corporation. The scholarship of up to \$1,000 is available to each accredited graduate program in hospital or health services administration in North America.

McLeod, 33 was born in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. He received his BA earlier this year from the U of A and holds a Diploma in both psychiatric nursing and occupational therapy. He has worked as a supervisor of rehabilitation and treatment programs at Saskatchewan Hospital in Weyburn; lecturer in rehabilitation medicine, U of A; and research officer, division of mental health Alberta Department of Health and Social Development.

U of S students urged to hold back fees

The executive of the Student's Union Saskatoon Campus, in conjunction with the Students' Union Regina Campus have asked students for the winter term 1973-74 to pay only half their tuition fees in a move to combat a \$50 fee legislated by the provincial government earlier this year.

The move is to give the students representative council time to negotiate with the university at the board of governors level and later at the provincial government level.

Acting on the students' behalf, the U.S.S.U. hopes to deter the increase and prevent a further increase rumored to take effect in the spring.

The SRC is not angered at the university, says Charles Taylor, external vice-president. Rather they are angered at the provincial government who authorized the increase earlier this year.

Students having student loans (or bursaries) are being asked to place the remaining portion of their loan, after the first half of their tuition is paid, into a Trust Fund, meeting the stipulations of the Canada

Student Loan Plan. The remainder of the money can be taken directly out of the bank and put to whatever use it was originally granted for.

Students are usually asked by the administration to sign a form requesting their money be sent directly from the bank to them. Mel McCarriston, U.S.S.U. president, urges students not to sign the form. He says their money will be safe in the SRC Trust Fund.

If the provincial government and the administration gives in to the student demands, the trust fund money will be transferred, a simple book change. If the money is not to be paid, it will be paid back to the students.

Although the measure has been initiated by the Executive, final decision rests with council.

Saskatoon is not alone. All students in Regina are affected as well. Councils will probably reach a concensus before or during November at which time students will be informed of the decision via the students' press.

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