

Administrators oppose any tuition fee increase

by Kevin Gillese

University administrators are hopeful that, even if the provincial government's operating grant fund falls below an expected 11 per cent increase for next year, it may not be necessary to increase tuition fees.

University president Dr. Harry Gunning says he is "very strongly opposed" to the idea of increasing tuition fees again next year.

"We will try to avoid increasing tuition fees next year as desperately as we can," Dr. Gunning said Monday.

"I've talked to the minister of advanced education and the amount our operating fund increase will be is still very much in the air.

"But I'm confident the

minister understands the university's position and is sympathetic with it."

Sources close to the government have indicated the operating grant may only be increased 8 or 9 per cent next year.

And the university's vp finance and administration, Lorne Leitch, says the university has been advised the grant will likely not be increased more than 10 per cent next year, although university administrators are still hopeful the government will reconsider that figure.

"Even if we receive a full 10 per cent increase from the government and stay within federal government regulations on salary increases, we'll likely only have enough money to maintain our present levels," Leitch said.

"With increases in utility

costs, we'll have nothing left to hire staff or provide workload improvements - perhaps not even enough to maintain our rate of library acquisitions and laboratory supplies."

If enough funding is not provided to maintain the university's operating costs, there are only two alternatives - to cut back the surplus or increase tuition fees (which make up about 13 per cent of the university's \$107 million operating budget).

VP Leitch says it's unlikely the university will maintain its low surplus status - this year there is \$1.6 million surplus, about \$2 million lower than the university has budgeted in past years.

"There's not much there to deficit budget," said Leitch, "but I guess there's enough to further deplete our already-endangered surplus."



Gunning opposes tuition hike for next year.

University president Harry Gunning says he is "very strongly opposed" to the idea of raising tuition fees next year. But, he says, if forced by government funding, it may be necessary.

The Peeping Tom's success ladder...

The Gateway

...stare by stare

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Pooled Resources

How do you cross a swimming pool on a spruce and paper watercraft - without dumping over, falling through or trying too hard? Recently an Industrial Design class attempted several innovative answers at the East pool. For the best alternative, see page 7.

Library hours will increase

by Randy Read

A Students' Union proposal at the University provide funds to extend library hours was approved in principle Monday by the General Faculties Council.

The proposal was referred to the University Planning Committee (UPC) for an assessment of the financial implications.

According to the SU proposal, the major changes

would involve opening the main libraries earlier on Sunday, keeping them open later on weekends, and making a corresponding change in the hours of circulation services. The hours of the Education library would be brought into line with the longer operating hours of Cameron and Rutherford libraries.

The SU also proposed that, two weeks prior to final examinations, hours for all libraries be extended to 2 a.m.

Other changes recommended included opening the Reserve Reading Room, the Micromaterials section and the Periodicals Reading Room on Sunday.

In an interview, Ken McFarlane, SU vp (academic), said that he expected UPC to approve some extension of hours, but not all those contained in the SU proposal.

No teachers' strike

Student teachers worried about losing their teaching practicums will rest easier following a Saturday vote by the Edmonton Public School Board teaching staff accepting the school board's latest contract offer.

Following a strike vote a week and a half ago, where teachers voted by an 80 per cent margin to walk off their jobs if a new settlement did not come through, there was a real possibility student teachers from U of A would have their ten-

week teaching practicums interrupted, if not lost altogether.

But the latest settlement for public school teachers satisfied demands, with an across-the-board salary increase of 9.2 per cent and provision for retroactive pay.

The teachers voted 57 per cent in favor of accepting the offer, which included two controversial clauses regarding teachers' professional development activity.

Board kills ombudsman

The position of Dean of Students survived but that of ombudsman was dealt a fatal blow at Friday's Board of Governors meeting, dealing with restructuring of the Student Affairs office.

The plan to reorganize Student Affairs with a Dean of Students and an ombudsman was previously approved and passed by General Faculties Council Executive and General Faculties Council.

However, at the B of G meeting, off-campus board members led by lawyer Peter Savaryn, questioned the authority and terms of reference surrounding the role of ombudsman.

Students' Union president Len Zoeteman cited the overwhelming support for an ombudsman among university students and staff. He claimed that the sympathetic ear does not always rest with the professors or chairmen of departments and that SU and Student Help lack the necessary authority to deal with students' academic problems.

"We don't have anybody on the campus as a trouble-shooter - to deal with problems before they get out of hand," he argued.

According to Zoeteman,

"most students are too intimidated by the formal procedures that are open to them, at present.

Savaryn responded by saying no ombudsman "can act properly and do justice to his job without an act from the legislature."

Savaryn pointed to the number of official channels presently open to students including representation to professors, grievance committees, and the Students' Union.

"My question is now if we have to add another channel to those already here, what is the matter with those?" he asked.

"To me an ombudsman represents confrontation," said Savaryn. "I suggest to you that to create this office would be raising false hopes for the students."

Dr. D. Ross mentioned that the U of A had gone farther than most universities in providing student representation.

"I think the ombudsman would only provide a parallel and diverse route which would only confuse and confound the students," he said.

Jean Forest and Chancellor

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Registration falls by 750

Preliminary figures from the registrar's office indicate that U of A enrolment has fallen from last year's record high to a total this year of 19,817 full-time students and 3,214 part-time students.

Last year the university had a record enrolment of 20,280 full-time students - 463 students more than this year.

Part-time students last year numbered 3,508 - 294 more than this year.

An additional two or three hundred students are expected to drop out of university in the next month lowering the enrolment figure to its official number, which will be released in December.