

Proposed aid changes bad news for students

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students working part-time next academic year may face reduced financial aid as a result of recent proposed changes in federal student loans.

The decision that financial aid be reduced for students whose earnings from part-time jobs exceeds a monthly ceiling was one of several changes to the administrative criteria for the Canada Student Loans Plan (CSLP) at a meeting of federal and provincial representatives here Oct. 5-6.

However, the changes proposed by the Canada Student Loans Plenary Group must receive the unanimous consent of the nine provinces participating in CSLP, and will not be officially

announced until the release of the CSLP criteria booklet next spring, according to a federal official.

Madeline Kallio, of the Department of Finance, said the plenary group does not release information about its deliberations, nor are the meetings, which are held in secret, announced.

The results of the plenary group's meeting came to light in an interview by the University of Manitoba student newspaper with the provincial student aid director, Rick Kleiman, one of the nine student aid directors represented on the CSLP administrative body.

The changes include:

- the imposition of a ceiling on part-time earnings of \$75 monthly for single students and \$150 for couples, along with an increase in

living allowances based on a projected 12-month cash flow period. Anything earned in excess of these amounts would be applied against the student's loan award.

- a 10 percent reduction in expected parental contributions, but only for those cases where students living away from home due to a prohibitive physical distance to their institution.

- a decreased minimum course load requirement to qualify for loan assistance, to 30 percent from the current 40 percent of a normal yearly term.

The plenary group also considered "encouraging" banks to reduce monthly repayments for students with low incomes following graduation.

CSLP regulations provide the minimum criteria for the administration of the student aid programs of the provinces belonging to CSLP, but "each province has the right to be tougher," according to Kallio.

The National Union of Students (NUS), representing 185,000 students across Canada, has tried in recent years to seat student representatives on the plenary group but has been rebuffed.

NUS executive-secretary, Dan O'Connor, said the imposition of the ceiling on student earnings will only increase the inequities in the student aid system, by giving some students more than they need while others who require extra earnings will suffer.

He attacked the rationale of the CSLP planners that allowance increase based on projected earnings will decrease the need

for part-time employment.

Instead of projected averages, student aid should be based on "the actual situation of students," he said.

O'Connor also questioned how the plenary could set a 10 percent deduction to the parental contribution requirement for student living away from home without knowing how much individual parents can contribute, calling the figure the result of "guess-work."

As for the recommendation that loans repayment be more flexible, O'Connor said it still left the decision up to the banks and does not mention that students may ask to renegotiate the terms of their loan.

The proposals show the problem with the whole loan system — that it is an arbitrary system, with which the plenary is trying to accommodate students' real needs, said O'Connor.

majority rules

Dear Editor:

I read with interest your recent article and editorial regarding the "problems" UNB female resident students have with male visiting privileges. Contrary to general belief the girls at UNB are not as badly off as they believe.

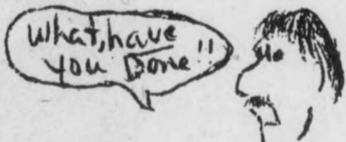
I am a second year student at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax where visiting privileges are very restrictive. In the three main girls' residences, males are not allowed in the girls' rooms or the living sections but are permitted to visit only in the lounges. This rule is strictly enforced and any breach of this

regulation can cause expulsion of from residence.

In addition, males visiting in the lounge of my last year's residence had to be out by 12 midnight, despite the fact that most social activities end at 1 a.m. By comparison, the girls at UNB have it made.

I would also like to add that by recent vote, open hours at Dalhousie University's women's residence (Sherriff Hall) were rejected as only 75 percent were in favour; 85 percent approval being necessary for acceptance.

Patricia MacCallum
Mount St. Vincent University
Halifax, N.S.



more sound off

pg 17

JACKETS, VESTS, DENIM JEANS

SHIRTS, CASUAL PANTS,

ADR
MEN'S WEAR



Fredericton Mall
Phone 455-5333

clothes with your mind in mind



Share the Long Distance feeling with someone you love. © Trans-Canada Telephone System