

U of A over budget and near bust

by Stacy Bertles

The University went over budget by more than a million dollars this year, and is counting on the provincial government to bail it out.

Dr. Myer Horowitz, president of GFC, announced at last week's meeting that "it is absolutely essential that the government provide this extra funding. Without it, we could

conceivably go bankrupt."

The deficit was caused by an unexpected 8.7% increase in enrollment. Because the University had originally budgeted for a 3% increase, new sections had to be opened and new instructors hired.

The University has requested "slightly over \$900,000", but Dr. Horowitz stresses this money only

covers expenditures for this year.

"We felt this was a fair request because once you are into the year there is a limit to how much you can do. In no way is this an indication of how much we will need on a continuing basis in order to accommodate the additional 1500 full-time students."

The University used contingency funds, such as a \$150,000 "President's Fund", and a "soft money" fund in excess of one million dollars, to absorb costs.

Lorne Leitch, Vice President of Finance, stresses that these provide only "stop-gap" sources of funding. Now that these have been drained, there is nothing left for next year.

"What we are talking about is base funding," he said. "We need permanent additions to our base so we know we can continue to provide for the increased enrollment."

Although he admitted that the government had not given him any guarantees, Dr. Horowitz said he is optimistic it (the request for funding) will be endorsed.

FAS president Don Millar is not so hopeful.

Government sources told him in October that there was a fixed amount of money set aside for the province's institutions. These additional "emergency funds" would be awarded based on the institution's "demonstrated need".

The problem, according to Mr. Millar, is that all the post-secondary institutions in the province were caught in the same position.

"A place like the University of Lethbridge, with a 25% increase in enrollment, would obviously be in a better position (for funding) than the U of A," he said.

"I think there is a good chance the government will provide the necessary funds," he said. "My initial impression of the new minister is that he is tough but fair... Horowitz has asked for the lowest amount necessary and I don't think Johnston's going to cut out on the University."

"The time has come that the universities have to make it apparent

they can't cut back anymore," he added.

The University applied for funding in early October, but Dr. Horowitz doubts there will be any answer immediately.

"I've received an indication that the matter was being studied by civil servants but the election was called just as the minister was ready to deal with it," he said.

"Consequently, it's one of the first items the new minister will be handling. I'm sure it will be a week or more before we hear from him."

Dick Johnston, the minister for Advanced Education, could not be reached for comment.

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Activism pays

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MONTREAL (CUP)—A group of Concordia University students recently discovered that student activism still works.

Students in a second-year marketing course became angry when their professor failed to charge his irrelevant exam questions and inadequate office hours after meeting with the marketing department and the professor, R.A. Marcus.

In protest, they circulated a confidential petition in their class that 16 of 32 students signed and presented to the department's chair, Peter Pasold.

After further discussions with

Pasold and some bureaucratic stonewalling a solution was found.

Students will receive the better of two grades from either their final exam or a combination of class tests and assignments. At Marcus' suggestion, someone else will mark the final exam.

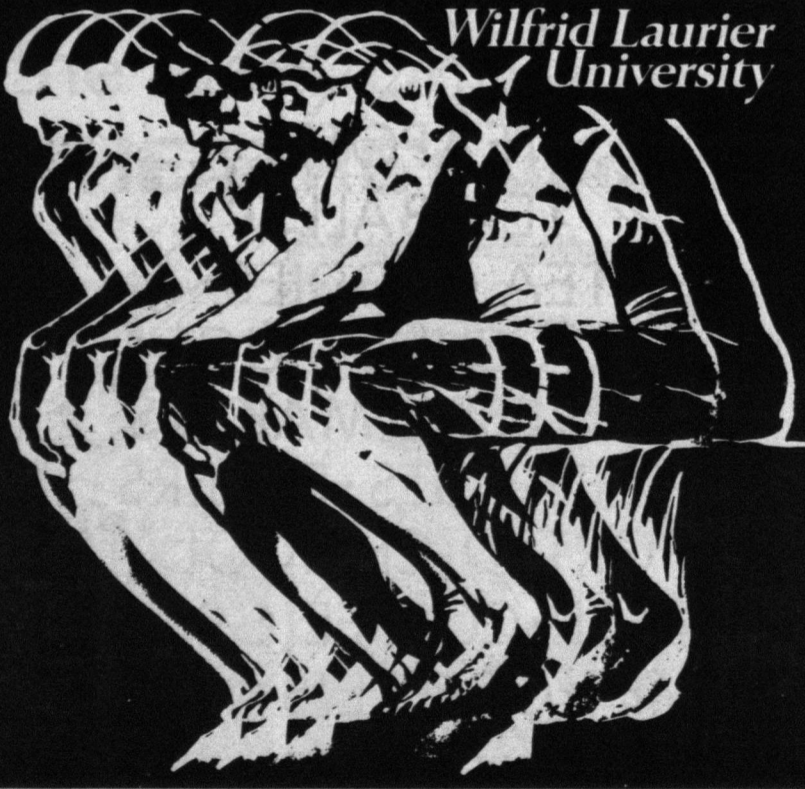
While some students said the solution is fair, another said, "It just can't make up for a whole semester. Nor was problem easily resolved."

The confidential petition was circulated after a midterm exam contained four questions unrelated to the course text or class lectures, students charged.

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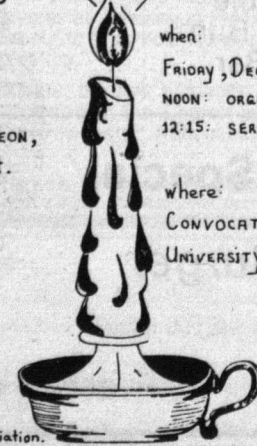
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