

Committee recommends 25 per cent hike to Board

by Greg Harris

The Board of Governors Finance Committee has approved a \$200 million operating budget for the university which includes a proposed 25 per cent tuition hike.

The proposed fee hike now awaits approval by the Board of Governors on Friday, and then will stand or fall depending on Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman's forthcoming decision on long-term tuition policy.

Newly elected Board of Governors student representative Brian Bechtel says that he and SU president Robert Greenhill will ask the Board to drop any fee increase proposals until Horsman announces his long-term tuition policy.

Bechtel says that by scrapping the proposed increase, the University will be plunged deeper into the red and will thus politically embarrass the provincial government.

Bechtel says that the government is probably hoping to see the Board of Governors tagged as the "villain." He says that by shelving a tuition increase, the "ball will shift back into the government's court."

"We're objecting to paying more for a decreased service... the University can't even break even by cutting staff positions," says Bechtel.

Ten positions will have to be axed regardless of a fee increase. University President Myer Horowitz estimates that

up to forty staff positions would be cut without any fee increase.

"The moral obligation of quality education comes before the moral obligation of a balanced budget," he says.

University Vice-president Finance estimates the university's deficit will run at \$3 million if there is no tuition increase at all.

The additional revenue of a 25 per cent hike would reduce the deficit to around \$250,000 says Leitch.

Leitch says he doubts that Horsman's long term tuition policy will allow a 25 per cent increase for the next year.

He says that the administration built a fee estimate into the budget that asked for a grant to prevent a fee escalation. The government did not provide such a grant, however.

Leitch says that even with a 25 per cent increase, U of A tuition would still be among the lowest in the country.

"There wasn't much debate on the whys (of the tuition increase proposal)... the rationale had to do with what we had to fund," says Leitch.

Bechtel urges all students to come out to the Board of Governors meeting on Friday at 9:00 p.m. to voice their concerns about the proposed fee hike.

"I'm reasonably optimistic of some qualified success," says Bechtel.

A collective I.Q. ...

the Gateway

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...is not cumulative.
Kent Ashby (Students' Council speaker)



photo Ray Giguere

Once more we have the pleasure on introducing the new improved Students' Union executive. Seated is President Robert Greenhill. Behind him from left to right are Mark Hoye (v.p. Academic), Raymond Conway (v.p.

Internal), Teresa Gonzales (v.p. External), Brian Bechtel (Board of Governors student representative), and Roger Merkosky (v.p. Finance and Administration).

Fiasco begins new Council

by Wes Oginski

The reins of power were handed over last night as Phil Soper gave his last speech as Students Union president and Robert Greenhill gave his first.

Soper apologised for events in the regular council meeting which the new members witnessed, including the censure of Lisa Walker.

"I'm sorry that the new councillors had to witness tonight's fiasco," he said.

He then stressed that the most important issue the new Council will face is still the tenuous financial state of the Students' Union.

"We (Soper slate) were elected on a strong financial

position," Soper said. "I'm surprised that the (past executive) election did not centre more on whether there will be a Students' Union in the near future," because of the SU finances.

"I don't think it's fair to shoulder the burden onto the students year after year," he added.

Soper concluded by hoping that the next year's councillor's would get along better than this year's did.

Greenhill then said he regretted that the changeover from the old executive to the new had not "occurred in a spirit of cooperation."

He said that the new Council will address finances. Emphasis

was also placed on the Councillors. "They will receive their agenda material on time, unlike this year's."

If the new executive slacks off, the new Councillors are "invited to kick our butts," Greenhill said.

"Students Council will be the final voice next year," Greenhill added.

As the meeting drew to an end, the out-going speaker of Students' Council, Kent Ashby, said farewell, and introduced the speaker for 1982-83, Michael Ford.

Ford introduced himself to Council by saying, "I have a soft voice but I carry a big stick. Kent has told me to hit with it very hard."

Executive rift blossoms in the Spring

by Wes Oginski

Students' Council censured out-going v.p. External Lisa Walter at Tuesday's meeting.

This event was actually the culmination of problems in SU executive over the past year says Walter.

"For two members of the executive to vote on a motion of censure they must have felt they didn't like what I was doing," she explains. "The three things they hit me with has been a shared responsibility."

"I'm not particularly hurt by the event because I think I did good work this year," Walter adds.

"I think they (Students' Council members) voted the way they did because they've voted in blocks all year."

A motion to censure, according to Students' Council speaker Kent Ashby, indicates the assembly's strong disapproval of a member's actions. It carries no penalty.

Bill Cottle, representative from the Faculty of Engineering, brought the motion forward on three points. Neglect in:

- promotion for the referendum on the Eugene L. Brody Board
- setting up a task force on tuition policy
- submitting a tuition policy as requested by James Jorsman, minister of Advanced Education and Manpower.

Cottle expanded all three points, stressing Walter's activities had not produced adequate action or response. Using the referendum as an example, he said many students were "surprised to see the referendum on the (Friday, March 26 by-election) ballot."

Walter responded by saying she has been hindered considerably by time restrictions. She indicated that all three points had been on Council agendas for long periods but were either dropped

or not reached because Council lost quorum. When the items finally reached the floor and passed, she faced severe deadlines.

Liz Lunney, out-going v.p. academic said she disliked the evening's proceedings.

"I'm extremely disappointed by the assembly," she says. The motion itself cannot be taken as a reflection upon Walter's performance in office. She has worked consistently in the best interests of the office and has accomplished a lot.

"She took on a lot (of responsibilities) and got penalized for it," Lunney adds.

Lunney says on the example of the task force, the committee was struck a week before a policy was due for the minister. In that time, two meetings were called, neither of which attained quorum. Because of this a tuition policy was rushed primarily based on established SU policies, being a freeze on tuition until an accessibility study is done.

Lunney also holds out-going SU President Phil Soper partially responsible for Walter's problems on these points.

She indicated to Council that part of the president's responsibility is to "ensure that programmes are implemented in accordance with the direction of Students' Council and accepted policy of the Students' Union" (SU Bylaw 2200).

Soper and Walter developed problems together according to Lunney. The problem escalated in January and from then on Soper refused to call an executive meeting with Walter present. Essentially, Walter was kept in the dark.

The debate then broke down into personal attacks and the speaker called order. Question was called and the motion passed 13 for and 5 against.

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