

CME asks for changes in student loan regulations

REGINA (CUP) — The Council of Minister's of Education (CME) announced following its closed meetings here they are requesting "immediate amendments" to the Canada Student Loans Act.

But the Council, which consists of the Education Ministers from all ten provinces, refused at a press conference following the meetings to say anything about the substance of the amendments being requested.

And the chairperson of the CME, BC Education Minister Eileen Dailly, in response to questions about open decision-making, took a hard line against student or public participation in the Council's student aid policy making.

At the Regina meetings, the CME received what was intended to be the final report of the secret Federal-Provincial Task Force on

Student Aid. According to a CME document however, the work of the Task Force will continue in the upcoming year, and will result in a more detailed report "in order for the Council to have a clearer understanding of the financial and social implications" of new student aid policies.

Student aid consideration will also form part of the discussion this November when CME and federal ministers meet, again in closed session.

It is also believed the recommendations deal with tying in student aid to other income maintenance programs such as welfare and manpower retraining schemes.

As well, sources say the report deals with the possible creation of National Loans Commission to oversee student aid programs in

Canada.

These sources also revealed that the report and recommendations of the Task Force were forwarded to Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner on August 12, prior to the CME meeting, and the provinces feel the decision for implementation now rests with the federal government.

The letter, which was sent under the signature of last year's CME chairperson Thomas Wells of Ontario, apparently stated that the provinces wanted the Students Loans Act reopened "if necessary" to deal with the recommendations.

The CME press release, however clearly calls for "amendments" to the Act, but whether this will happen or the changes will be pushed through as new administrative procedures is still unclear.

Alberta Education Minister Bert Hohol told the press conference it

was possible to deal with the proposed charges administratively rather than by changing the legislation.

The difference in the two approaches is that if amendments to the Act are required the whole subject of student aid could be thrown open for public debate, something most federal and provincial officials appear intent on avoiding.

Jim Gray and Elspeth Guild of the University of Regina Student Union passed out releases at the press conference from the National Union of Students calling for student and public participation in student aid decision-making.

The most vocal supporter of closed decision-making, the new CME chairperson Eileen Dailly, said student participation was not discussed by the Council, despite repeated requests from NUS last year that students be included on the Task Force.

She argued that students should not complain about being excluded because other groups, such as teachers and trustees, were also excluded from the Task Force, which consists entirely of senior student aid officials.

They are excluded so as to expediate our national goals far better, she explained.

As far as CME is concerned "it's far better for each provincial deputy minister to get feedback from their students which can then be passed on collectively to the Council of Ministers", she said.

Dailly was not able to speak for the whole CME on the possibility

that the Task Force hold public hearings in preparing its report to the CME.

Responding to a student question on this, Bert Cohol of Alberta said that although he did not favour "active student participation" on the Task Force, he called public hearings where "interest groups like NUS" could state their views, "an excellent idea".

Gordon MacMurchy of Saskatchewan said he was "open to the idea", but Dailly claimed that public hearings would be "too much", adding that public hearings were not the business of the Task Force.

Society open for nominations

Nominations for Education Society President, Secretary, and Program Co-ordinator close at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 22. They should be submitted to room 373 of D'Avray Hall and may be slipped under the door if necessary.

Nominees must be education students and nominations have to be seconded by one member of the Education Society with two Education students for witnesses.

Memberships are on sale for \$2.00 in room 373.

The education society has held two meetings to date, on September 15 and 16.

Campus Rec wants half of funds

CALGARY (CUP) — Battles have raged over the division of the campus athletics dollar, but none more heated than the one going on now at the University of Calgary.

The University Athletics Board (UAB) had for the past two years been the main combatant in the fight for the student dollar. Last year, as a result of student pressure UAB was abolished.

The prime contention during the UAB debates was "Why should 10,000 students pay 270 people to become elitist athletes?" The final decision was that the money should

be used to pay for the use of facilities by all.

So, on the demise of the UAB, two athletic bodies were formed to share athletic funds; one for intramural activity and one for intercollegiate sport. Campus Rec became the student intramural committee.

At present, the recently established Campus Recreation program is trying to get its hands on part of the scholarship fund set up by the defunct organization.

At a recent Campus Rec meeting it was disclosed that a surplus of

\$18,000 was left over in a UAB scholarship fund. Campus Rec Chairperson Robert Westhoff thinks at least half of this money should be turned over to intramurals.

"Putting the money into the scholarship is actually putting it into intercollegiate (sport)," he said.

Campus Rec was established to provide intramural programs for the entire campus.

"If we don't get an agreement (for this scholarship money) we'll go to the President or the Board of Governors," Westhoff said.

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