

"Giving" reviewed

Committee to discuss referendum

by Lisa Hall

A university committee has been formed to look into the implications of student giving programs.

Two faculties recently held referenda, where students were asked to vote to decide whether or not to start the programs, which would have them give a certain amount of money to their faculty on top of their tuition fees. Students would help decide in which areas the money would be spent.

Of the two faculties, business students voted against the program, while medical students voted in favor of it.

Before the Medicine program can be set up, however, it must go through an approval process. The committee formed will look into the different possible advantages and disadvantages of student giving.

The committee will be made up of David Norwood, Associate VP University Relations, Dean of Student Services Peter Miller, Student's Union president David Tupper, and Graduate Students' Association president Stephen Downes. Development's Pat Warmington, who

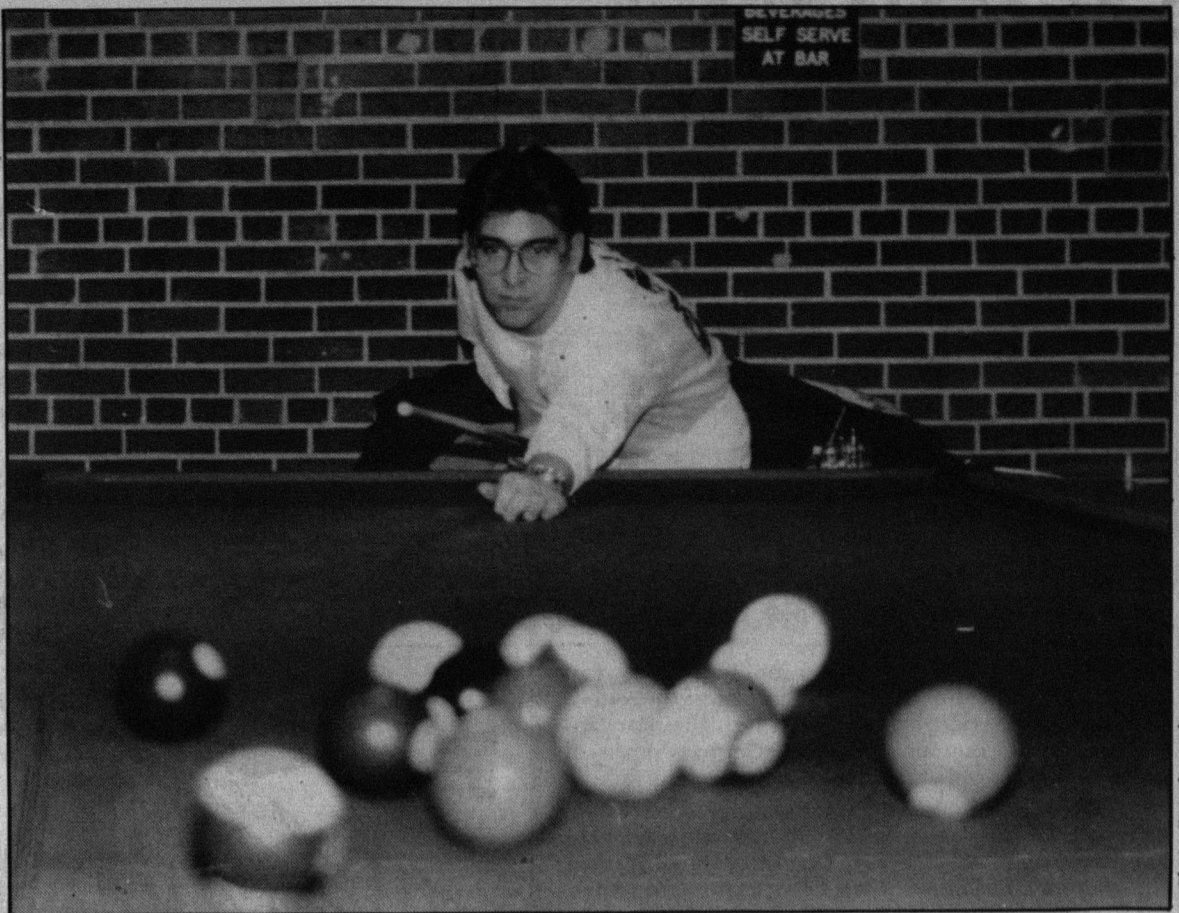
brought the idea of student giving to the U of A, will serve as a resource person.

"We will be looking at the mechanics involved with the collection and distribution of the fee," said Norwood, who will chair the committee.

Norwood also said the committee would look into the implications of the student giving fee on the tuition fee policy. "The fee may affect the amount the University can raise tuition," said Norwood. The provincial government has placed a ceiling on the amount that the university can increase tuition, and it is possible that the student gift may be included in the calculation.

The committee will also simply look into the general purpose of the student giving program. "We'll be doing a thorough job," said Norwood. He added that he would be entering the discussion from a totally neutral point of view.

The group will be meeting for the first time at the beginning of December, and Norwood estimated that it would take a few months to come to some conclusions.



Chris Gritkowski

Why shoot the teacher...

when you can shoot pool? Kevin Robinson vents his frustration on billiard balls in the game room at the Power Plant.

by Dawn Lerohl and Pat Kiernan

The cost overrun on the proposed Timms Collection Centre wasn't the only reason for the Board of Governors decision to cancel the project. Revised estimates of operating costs for the building were also well over budget.

Dr. John Schlosser, Chairman of the Board of Governors, said, "the operating cost for maintaining the building was three-quarters of a million dollars more per year than estimated." He added that the centre would have required 15 additional staff members for which

budget allowance had not made.

Recently, Adriana Davies, executive director of Alberta Museums Association, expressed concern that the University didn't look into other options that would have made the collections centre more affordable. But Dr. Allan Warrack, university V.P. administration, said that there was no possibility of scaling down the building.

Warrack believes the University has to reassess the entire concept of the collections centre. "It makes sense to do a full evaluation," said Warrack. "Instead of starting again,

we should shift priorities."

One of the possibilities being considered by the Board of Governors is a new drama teaching building to replace their current insufficient facility in Corbett Hall.

"This represents a shift in direction from a 'partially academic priority' collections centre to a 'wholly academic priority' building," said Warrack.

The future of the 87th Avenue site—on which the collections centre was to have been built—will be discussed at the next Board of Governors meeting.

Timms operating costs unrealistic

Involvement awards

continued from p 1

In an effort to avoid the kind of controversy that surrounded the recent Business Referendum on "Student Giving", the SU executive feel they "need to talk about the campaign only in a neutral sense." To that end, students interested in promoting either side of the referendum question will be offered campaign funding.

Past winners of the award program gave an overwhelming endorsement to the concept at Wednesday's news conference. Constance Uzwyshyn, a previous recipient, said that an award can "give

you a ticket to another door, like grad studies or a job."

Mustapha concedes that the awards program in its present form hasn't had as great an impact as it could have. Positive changes have already been made in an effort to raise its profile.

Advertisements which once referred to "Students' Union Awards" now fall under the banner "Student Involvement Awards." And the awards will be given out at a special reception, where previously they were casually handed out at an SU meeting.

Special bursaries available

The University of Alberta's Advisory Services Centre would like needy students to know that financial help is available, but they have to act to get it.

The centre offers a number of special bursaries, which are similar to academic awards in that students must apply for them and they are competitive. But unlike academic scholarships, the main consideration for receiving one of these bursaries is financial need, not

academic standing.

"We look at different conditions," said Elizabeth Chambers, the Advisory Service's office manager. "If a student is a single parent, returning to university, or has special needs—they qualify for one of the bursaries."

While students must maintain a satisfactory academic standing, Chambers ensures that financial need is the most important factor. The application form asks specific questions pertaining to income.

The bursaries given through Advisory Services are separate from most university awards, which are given through the office of the registrar. There is also a different deadline for application. Students must apply by January 31, and the bursaries are given out in February.

Both the distribution time for the awards and the way the recipients are chosen are under review, said Chambers. Currently, there is a committee which chooses the recipients.

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