

# Student health sick

F. B. Cookson, a student health physician and a member of the GFC executive protested in a meeting of the executive that the Board of Governors acted before the Joint Committee to Review the Role and Future Development of the University Health Service had even completed its deliberations.

"As I see it," Cookson said in a letter to the executive, "the Board of Governors is shifting the decision as to whether the University Health Service should continue from the reasoned discussion of the Joint Committee and a similar debate by GFC to a simple  
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past few years—if there is a function that can be done by a nursing aide we make use of them," Ball commented. The health facility's kitchen has also been closed and four cooks fired.

Contacted two weeks after the cuts had begun, Stanley Greenhill, professor and chairman of community medicine and a member of the university health service committee, said that he had understood that the service was expected to "make economies in line with those being made elsewhere in the University," but had not been notified as to the extent of staff cuts.

subsequently declined to accept the new positions under new job descriptions which one former member of the nursing staff termed "impossible tasks... most unrealistic."

She described the new positions as entailing the staff member's previous duties "plus the jobs of two or three other people."

An informed source said that two of the staff doctors have also submitted their resignations and a number of others are considering the move because of the shortage of nursing support.

Michael Ball, director of the health service, described the cuts as "a staff reorganization," involving the "amalgamation of some duties."

"What we have done is what a lot of hospitals have done over the

Assaulted from within and without, the prognosis for an ailing university health service looks bleak.

Threats of budget cuts for the next year have kept its continued existence in question since an ad hoc committee to investigate the health service was established under the auspices of the GFC in the fall of last year.

Now internal dissension and the dismissal or resignation of most of the service's nursing staff threaten to leave the service weakened by experienced staff during the crucial period at the first of the year when student patterns of use of the clinic will be set.

Of a full-time and part-time nursing staff of 15 to 20 last year, only seven were offered positions for the coming year; five of them

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## Registration plan shelved

A recent Gateway survey of seven Canadian Universities comparable in size to the University of Alberta has revealed that only the U of A and UBC have no form of advance registration.

The Universities of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), Manitoba, Waterloo and Western Ontario, McGill and Sir George Williams Universities all employ some form of summer registrations.

Plans to convert Alberta's annual fall marathon to a summer mail registration were shelved in June when funds for the development of such a system were not available for implementation in the 1973-74 session.

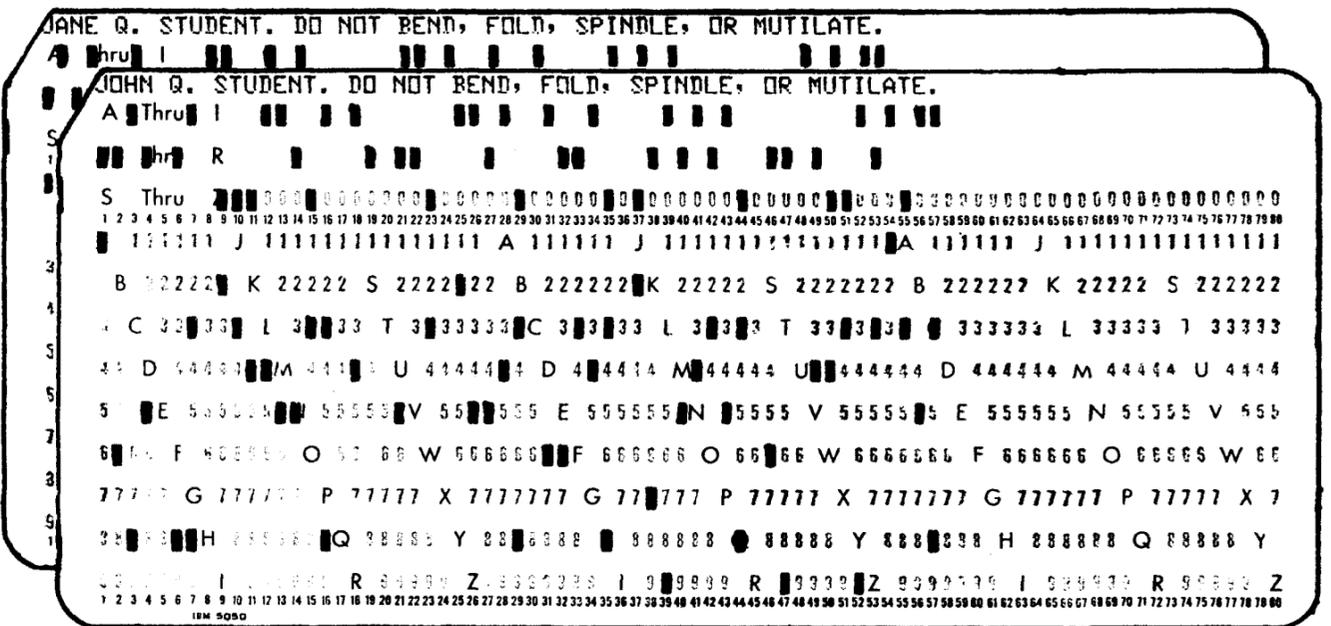
After some two years of study and consultation with students, administrators and representatives of the registrar's office, the course registration procedures committee and the timetable policy committee of General Faculties Council recommended that "because there seemed to be no unanimity of opinion that advance registration will meet the objectives originally established, that the proposal be shelved for the time being." No student representative attended the meeting, at which the recommendation was approved.

representative Patrick Delaney asked that final deliberation on the committees' proposal be deferred until

At the last meeting of the GFC executive, however, SU students returned to campus and could study the matter.

Under the scheme, students would have been mailed time tables, registration information, and forms with their final marks in May and June. Faculties and departments would have been responsible for making staff members available to students wanting academic counselling over the summer.

Once registration forms had been returned in early August, the computer would take over tasks now requiring student leg-work in Part III



of registration: section assignment and preparation of class lists.

Those students who had not registered in advance would have been required to undergo a scaled-down version of fall registration, choosing courses and sections not already filled by pre-registered students.

Briefs in opposition of the plan came from the faculty of business administration and commerce, faculty of graduate studies and research, and the department of germanic languages. Reasons cited were inconveniences caused in the administration of such a system, questions as to the usefulness of pre-registration information in planning departmental requirements and most often, the projected cost to effect the changeover of \$70,000.00

Among supporters of the proposal were the faculty of pharmacy, faculty of agriculture, faculty of engineering, and the school of household economics. The faculty of education, while more enthusiastic about March advance registration, did not oppose the June-July proposal.

Minutes of the joint committee meeting which axed the proposal record that "the committees expressed interest in student opinion of the plan, but were unable to propose a satisfactory method of securing a valid opinion."

The Gateway survey of registrars found a number of campuses at which pre-registration had received strong student support.

University of Western Ontario

associate registrar Peter Suttie reported that student support "swung the balance in favour" of the adoption of an advance registration scheme at that school last year. By late August student participation in the summer registration, one of the objections raised by opponents, was nearing 100%.

He reported that faculty response had also been good and that better counselling had resulted from the change over.

In the several years Manitoba has used advance registration, the number of students taking advantage of the system has increased from 8,700 to over 10,100 this year, over 2/3 of the expected enrollment according to registrar B.C. Browning.

Only UBC registrar J. Parnall mentioned student resistance to advance registration. "We have decided to stop short of complete mechanization. We're NOT going to go that far," he emphasized, adding "neither faculty nor students want this." A desire to maintain "freedom of choice" was the explanation given for opposition.

For its preliminary report, the GFC joint committee on advance registration interviewed twenty-five students, among them students' council members, GFC representatives and several first-year students.

Student comments on the present system were critical of "excessive walking and long delays waiting for approval of any necessary changes," the report shows.

"In particular," it continues,

"the procedure is extremely frustrating if students must make changes to their programs while registering. Program changes may be necessitated because course sections have been closed or staff in Part II of registration do not have sufficient knowledge of the student's background or the course requisites."

Comments from the registrar's office, faculties and departments indicated greater satisfaction with the present system.

In explaining the decision to shelve the proposal, associate registrar L.P. Morgan, chairman of the committee, said, "We were awfully anxious not just to go ahead and do something—but to plan something the user—the people—would want."

"The committee felt the route to take was to look at the problems we have now and improve upon the system we have."

The proposal was evaluated "in terms of money spent," A.L. Darling, assistant registrar concluded. "It doesn't take into account intangible things like the frustration people undergo which leaves them with a bad taste as to what university is like—you can't tell how this is going to affect the university."

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