

**OPEN**

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*For Lunch*

soup  
salad  
sandwiches

11 a.m. - Midnight

**IN**

7th Floor SUB Phone Ahead  
**432-3574**

## Cuts to counselling

continued from p 1

1982 and the student body has grown considerably since then. The gap is still growing."

"How long before some kind of catastrophe happens?" he said. While Vander Well maintains that SCS is still providing adequate service to its clients, he concedes that there are waiting lists and he worries about the possible consequences of the overloading of the system.

The heavy work load is apparently also contributing to staff absenteeism. When a staff member becomes ill Vander Well says he's left scrambling to fill the gap.

"What do I do to compensate and what has gotten people's resistance so low?" he said. "There's the stress on students and then there's a stress on staff that needs to be a concern."

Dean of Student Services Peter Miller, who oversees funding for SCS, suggests that most administrators at the U of A would like more money, but agrees that complaints from SCS are not entirely without justification.

"Cuts last year took \$100,000 directly from the operating budget of SCS," he says. "The university returned \$100,000 in hard funds to Student Services but it was allocated for other uses."

The budget cuts translated into the loss of one full-time counsellor and two members of the support staff. Problems with staffing are compounded by the research obligations and other expectations placed on the continuing staff. In order to fulfill these obligations continuing staff counsel only 4 days a week and have 1 month off for research.

Miller says another factor contributing to the workload of the

counsellors is that many clients come to SCS for counselling that is available elsewhere on campus.

Despite a screening process at the reception desk, 1,213 of 6,781 interviews conducted by SCS last year fell into the category of students seeking general university information. Miller says that part of the problem is "isolating people who need professional psychological therapy from those who simply need information and advice."

SCS receives the largest share of the Student Services budget, on average 30%. The funding problems may really stem from the priority the University administration places on student services as a whole.

A financial report prepared by

Statistics Canada for the Canadian Association of University Business Offices ranked the U of A 15th of 16 universities in amount spent on student services. The report's findings are not a completely accurate reflection of the situation at the U of A, as the ranking was based on a study of funding for a variety of programs, some of which do not exist or are not funded by Student Services on this campus.

Nevertheless, the U of A spends only \$1.5 million of a \$220 million operating budget on student services, or roughly 0.75 per cent. Some universities are spending as much as three per cent.

Miller said, "I'd like to see at least two per cent of the university budget spent on student services."

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## Tough election rules choke joke slates

by Martin Levenson

For the first time in years, no "joke" slates will be running in the upcoming Students' Union Election.

This year's campaign will be dominated by two "serious" slates and only two individuals brave enough to run as independents, announced officially last Tuesday.

"Slates" are groups of candidates who have decided to campaign for the various positions together.

In the past, some slates would adopt a humorous theme and run a campaign with no real intent to win. The "joke" slates usually poked fun at topical issues, or satirized famous personalities.

Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Mike Hunter said he's disappointed at the lack of joke slates. "They're a never ending source of creative campaigning... they add

life to the campaigns and get students interested in the elections."

Hunter disagreed with the suggestion that tougher nominating requirements discouraged potential joke slates. "I think that Reading Week and the great emphasis on enforcing the rules may have had more to do with it."

Nominees were each required to put up a \$50 deposit and get 50 people to sign nominating papers. Both figures are double last year's requirements.

The security of independent candidates also concerned Hunter.

This year, only one candidate for President and one for Board of Governors are running alone. Two other candidates for President (Athletics) and Vice-President (Men's Athletics) are also independent, but are uncontested.

## IMPORTANT

JAN. FEB. MAR. '89

FEES DIVISION WILL BE DISBURSING GOVERNMENT GRANTS, OTHER SCHOLARSHIP CHEQUES AND SIGNING LOAN FORMS IN ROOM 349 CAB  
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

JAN. 03 - 06  
JAN. 30 & 31  
FEB. 01 & 02  
FEB. 27 & 28  
MAR. 01 & 02

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OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

## Provincial Election

# ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

Strathcona Constituency

Tuesday March 14  
12:00 Noon

Dinwoodie Lounge

Ask about the issues

