

To lose one parent
may be regarded
as a misfortune;

The Gateway

To lose both
looks like carelessness.
—Oscar Wilde

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Last bus home?

photo by Sandy Campbell

University threatened by government

The quality of university education is seriously threatened by increasing government involvement in university affairs, Harry Gunning, president-elect, told a Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday.

"The future development of the University is being increasingly determined by those who have no ego involvement in the achievement of sound academic objectives," said Dr. Gunning.

"More and more we are feeling the dead weight of bureaucratic control on our activities," he added.

The chamber was holding a day-long workshop in Lister Hall on whether universities were meeting manpower needs of business.

Dr. Gunning, who succeeds Max Wyman in August, said the university needs support of businessmen and the public as a whole to achieve these objectives.

"If the university is to survive as a vital force in our lives, then it must have strong public support for its highest academic objectives," he said.

Public support would help counteract the "devitalizing" effects of increased government control, he said.

Another threat to the university is tight money situation it faces, he said.

For the University to be of maximum benefit to the community, there must be an

"atmosphere of academic freedom" which would spur development of creative staff members, he said.

Unfortunately, this atmosphere doesn't exist, said Gunning. With budget cutbacks, it is more difficult to reward academic excellence and departments are losing staff through attrition.

To improve university-community relations, the university has to have academic freedom to achieve a level of international expertise.

Using the chemistry department as an example, Gunning said this is necessary in order that the full resources of the field may be applied to solve local problems.

In 1957 when Gunning became chairman, the department of chemistry had no research facilities and few staff members, he said.

However, through public support and hard work the department has expanded, having acquired expertise in such fields as pollution control and petroleum research.

It has also made contacts in various fields of chemistry and has held international meetings, at which the public participates, he said.

The university has a large commitment to professions as shown by the fact that two-thirds of students attending

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University plans for strike

The University is making contingency plans for the pending strike of the Edmonton Transit System employees.

University Dean's Council and professors discussed possible effects of the strike Wednesday on students and classes.

Tentative plans include: encourage the use of car pools by students living in the same area; increase parking space on campus using the playing fields and Mayfair Park from which a shuttle service would be run to campus; encourage motorists to give students rides to or near the campus.

Local 569 Amalgamated Transit Union workers rejected the city's offer by 593 to 37 on Wednesday. An announcement is expected sometime today as to when the strike will occur.

About 6,000 of the 18,000 students on campus bus to classes, Walter Neal, vice-president, planning and development, said Wednesday night.

"If the strike is prolonged for very long, classes may have to be cancelled," said Neal, "to the point where one class a week would be held and reading assignments would be given to compensate for the missed classes."

If the strike continues into exam week, centers will be set up around the city to enable students to write them.

"We've never been faced with this situation before and we'll have to deal with it as best as we can," he added.

In a telephone interview, Bill Mack, president of the 700-member Amalgamated Transit Union, suggested that the university use its clout to talk to the city about averting the strike.

"This is one of the things they certainly can do to play a meaningful role," Mack said.

The strike would involve bus drivers and maintenance personnel.

Two-branch govt. supported by report

General Faculties Council Monday approved a report which recommended that the university retain a bi-cameral system of government.

A unicameral government was rejected, at least for the next few years, because students and faculty members still want a role in making academic decisions, the report said.

The report was presented by a special GFC committee established last November to study the efficiency, effectiveness and composition of GFC.

"As long as faculty and students wish to be involved in the decision-making process, the present system and size appear to satisfy this need," it said.

However, the committee suggested this may not be true in the future and suggested that the system be re-evaluated within the next 10 years.

There is a growing trend, the report stated, for academic decisions to be made in light of financial implications. Conversely, economic decisions

often involve academic principles.

A unicameral system such as the one used at the University of Toronto tries to combine these two functions in one body.

The committee believed that this was undesirable as "academic issues are likely to be slighted in favour of more pressing administrative and fiscal problems."

While the two functions overlap they should not be completely separated, the report stated.

It also maintained that GFC is not a parliamentary body, since its members are not elected on a mandate and do not represent constituencies. Therefore, GFC should not model itself after any parliamentary system.

As a result, such parliamentary procedures as speaker of the house, first and second readings of bills and hansard, were rejected.

Four new representatives, one from the department of extension and three from the



University feels the 'dead weight' of bureaucracy, says Gunning

photo by Nadia Rudyk

library staff, were added to council.

Another recommendation passed give the executive the responsibility to briefly isolate issues before they are debated in council.

This role, similar to that played by the board of governors executive, is a great benefit, noted George Baldwin, dean of Arts.

"It's extremely useful to provide members with a crib sheet," Baldwin said.

"This focuses attention of the board on what it should know and has to do," agreed President Max Wyman, who added that it wouldn't be too difficult to implement.

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