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A&W

U of C would withdraw tomorrow

Poor communication plagues FAS

CALGARY (CUP) — If a referendum were held tomorrow on the U of C's membership in the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), the organization would probably be dumped, admits Federation President Hamish Kerfoot.

Kerfoot claimed that it would be the backlash of "misinformation" and poor communication rather than students' dissatisfaction with FAS.

The effects of the U of C's withdrawing from FAS would be quite serious, Kerfoot said. The U of C provides about one quarter of the organization's sixty thousand dollar budget,

and its students represent one fifth of the 50,000 students FAS purports to work for.

"At least one staff person plus a lot of projects" would have to be abandoned if the U of C pulled out, Kerfoot said.

Kerfoot is particularly incensed about SLC election candidates who he claims are using FAS as an excuse to "come across as sincere about student concerns."

"If they're concerned they should be working with FAS to improve it," Kerfoot said.

If the university does pull out of the organization they will have to lobby the government on

their own, Kerfoot said. "Students will be back where they were in '75 when FAS was just starting."

Kerfoot also pointed out that if the U of C withdraws, the move will hurt students at the U of Alberta, Mount Royal College and SAIT, which are also members of FAS.

Another FAS executive member, Alan Murray, who is also the president of the Students' Union at the University of Lethbridge, agreed that if a referendum were held tomorrow, students at the U of C would probably vote to pull out.

Murray said the move would "undermine the role of FAS" as the provincial student voice.

Murray, who was at the University recently on a speaking tour to answer students' questions about the Federation, said the students here were open-minded and were interested in learning about the organization.

One of the biggest complaints about FAS is the past has been with its policies, which include no tuition fee increases and a long-range plan to abolish tuition altogether.

Murray says that policies are made by the member institutions, and maintains it would be possible for FAS to re-assess its current goals along more moderate lines.

TAs may unionize

VANCOUVER (CUP) — University of British Columbia teaching assistants have won a major battle in their fight for unionization, as the B. C. Labour Relations Board approved their application for certification.

The TAs will hold a vote sometime before the end of March to become certified as Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 2278, a TA union spokesperson said March 5.

But Glen Porter said the victory is not complete because post-doctoral fellows (who perform some teaching assistant duties) will be excluded from the bargain unit.

"The TAU feels that these employees are performing the same job function as other TAs, though the employer claims otherwise."

Porter said he was disappointed with the decision because it will leave post-doctorals with no bargaining power. "They're not represented by any union now."

Porter said the union has not yet decided when it will begin negotiating its first contract (assuming it wins the upcoming certification vote).

Students protest rent, from page 1

"I disagree with it in principle. I could be convinced that some increase may be justified, but I really disagree with the university taking a leading role in raising rent 30 per cent after rent controls come off."

"The university's role is to provide affordable student housing within the university. Making a profit on other housing to pay for deficits in Lister... is a pretty weak way of justifying an increase."

Michener Park Tenants' Association's Keith Morgan was

outspoken in his criticism of the rent hikes.

"I vehemently oppose a 15.7 per cent increase in Michener Park — it's unequitable and unfair."

"What they say they're trying to do is 'achieve equity in our housing stock'... In effect, that means that we're subsidizing other students in Lister Hall..."

"It's hardly our fault that they made Lister Hall so unattractive that they can't keep students in there."

Morgan says Michener

Park residents will meet Tuesday to discuss the proposed increases.

North Garneau representative Keary Walde was more philosophical about the increase.

"There's really not too much you can do."

Walde says he is opposed to Garneau residents subsidizing other rental units like Lister Hall.

"That's a big white elephant they have over there... It would probably be better if they ripped her right down and made a parking lot."

Garneau rep Tom Dunk adds that Housing and Food Services cost estimates for housing costs are not accurate. "We (in Campus Co-op) rent one house from the university and three from the city of Edmonton, and the university house is the most expensive."

SU president Olmstead says he's planning a meeting for all university tenant associations for some time next week.

EVA studies civic politics

A policy session on civic politics will be held Saturday by the Edmonton Voters' Association, the folks who brought you the Convention Centre plebiscite.

The session is intended to develop policies for EVA's candidates in the fall elections, and all citizens are invited to attend and contribute to the discussions.

Workshop topics will include rent and housing, culture and recreation, transportation, education, and city government reform.

The workshops will take place in the morning, and general discussion in the afternoon. The session will be at St. Joseph's High School, with an evening social at the Ukrainian Centre.

For further information, call Peter Nix at 435-0136.

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