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health service secure 'til '74



F.B. Cookson

by Laura J. Leake

The Student Health service now has a reasonably secure future but it is in for a few changes; this is the impression one gets from talking to F.B. Cookson, the service's new acting director.

Cookson recently participated in a two-year review of Student Health as a member of the "G.F.C. Joint Committee to Review Role and Future of the Student Health Service" and talked of the

unsuccessful efforts made to cut back expenses. One such attempt involving the release of infirmary cooks, was made by Michael Ball, director of Student Health who is currently on a year-long leave of absence in England. Apparently patients were to receive food from either Lister Hall or the U hospital but neither was able to deliver. Another alternative was for patients to go out for food, a situation which Cookson termed

unworkable. The problem was remedied by a nursing aid who liked to cook. Further efforts to cut costs were made in the infirmary section by replacing all R.N.'s with Certified Nursing Aides. During their term of employment the R.N.'s received severance pay until the situation caused so many problems that the nurses were rehired.

The committee's report released to the G.F.C. executive last Monday, emphasized the need for a Student Health service on campus and Cookson feels that the position of Student Health is secure until 1974 at least. The centre is currently on a "break-even" basis; the \$10 supplementary fee paid by students at the beginning of last term not only supports services not paid for by Alberta Health Care, but response to it serves as a major indication of student support.

More than 50% of the U of A students paid the fee which goes towards dentistry, pharmacy, and infirmary, and is considered by Cookson as "a very gratifying response."

According to Cookson, the outpatient care side of Student Health provides "the only revenue there is," although he emphasized the need for the infirmary. "It is very important in caring for people too ill for home, particularly those in residence, yet not sick enough to be

admitted to the hospital."

Cookson did cite one instance of a residence student who became ill at Christmas and was admitted to the infirmary. Although he was the only patient a full staff was required. Cookson considers the infirmary to be serving its purpose now, because it's filled to a 75% of its capacity

Cookson also stated his concern with psychiatric problems. "This year there has been a tremendous pressure increase with the split year. This system means two sets of final exams and an increase in appeals for excuses from exams has occurred." One major change Cookson has already made is the addition of a psychiatrist to Student Health.

The major change Cookson plans is organizational. He described the organization of claiming revenue in particular as "not as good as it could be." Cookson has hopes for a closer relationship with the residences and the phys. ed. department and for "expansion in the things that the service already does for the student rather than bigger and better service" in the future.

Has Student Health a future? If student support is any indication; yes. "Any number of committees or beautiful reports couldn't have made the difference that student response has."

Vanek seeks U presidency

The professor in the Department of Slavic Languages, who is presently appealing his denial of tenure, has announced his candidacy for the presidency of the University, which will be vacated by Max Wyman at the end of this term.

Anthony Vanek, whose tenure case is now before the courts, feels that his denial of tenure does not hinder the fact that his candidacy is "both serious and necessary."

Although he taught for only one term of the two years he has been at the U of A, Vanek feels that his experiences of the last three years on campus have qualified him to respond to interests of staff and students on an individual basis that is frequently "swept under the academic rug." This, he says, is not consistent with the proper aims and goals of education in an open society.

Vanek admits his lack of formal administrative experience, but feels that

his knowledge of the intricate bureaucracy of academic administration, learned by his difficulties of the past three years, compensate for his lack of experience.

Vanek has outlined a few of the policies in his platform for the presidency; they are the issues he believes to be in particular need of discussion and change:

1. "passing-the-buck" policy must be discarded; that is, issues of relevance which cannot be solved at a "low" level of the administrative totem pole should be moved up the hierarchy and left with those who can handle them with sufficient resolution and minimum red tape.

2. much redundant administrative manpower could be transferred to the computer, leaving time for more of the real business of the university, namely, teaching and research.

3. more Canadian oriented research and teaching must be undertaken in order to meet those needs of the community at large.

4. community service must be made more available to the community, particularly through the department of extension and evening credit courses.

5. tenure is no longer a real issue, but academic freedom is; the Faculty Handbook must be strengthened and enlarged to include provisions for the rights and obligations of students.

6. students must be given a more relevant role in defining the goals of education on this campus.

7. "theories, methods, and perspectives" must be the goals of teaching, rather than facts. An openness to new knowledge and questioning must be encouraged.

8. Students as well as staff should be involved in interdisciplinary programs and research efforts, within a flexible administrative policy.

9. the University Senate's role as liaison between the community and the university must be strengthened, preferably by making it as advisory body to the president.

deadline Friday for arts nominees

Since Mark Priegert's unwilling departure from Student's Council, the Arts Faculty has been one representative short. As a result, nominations are now open for the council seat. The by-election nomination deadline is 4 p.m., Monday, January fifteenth, and all nominations are to be turned in to the Student's Union receptionist, 2nd floor SUB.

Priegert lost his seat when it was discovered that he had changed his faculty prior to this term, from Arts to Education. Potential candidates should therefore make certain that they are full-time students in the Arts faculty.

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Seats Going Cheap

Revolution is inevitably more exhilarating than its results. And the participatory bureaucracy which we now "enjoy" as a result of the controversy of 1968 and 1969 is no exception.

In any case, nominations are now welcome from full and part-time undergraduate and graduate students for positions on several G.F.C. Committees. Although the vacancies won't exist until the beginning of May, Pat Howlett, secretary of the nominating committee, counsels that "the early bird gets the best committees." So far this year, she has had only one enquiry from a student.

If you wish to volunteer or to nominate someone else, you should go see Pat Howlett at 2-1 University Hall.

- computing facilities and policy (two vacancies)
purpose: to establish policy prices and time allocation for the effective use of computing facilities.
- undergraduate scholarship (two vacancies)
- course registration procedures (three vacancies)
purpose: to recommend any changes that seem desirable. This committee last year decided against implementing computerized pre-registration.
- housing and food services (six vacancies)
purpose: to formulate policy for planning and operation
- library (two vacancies)
purpose: to allocate book and periodical budget, study the physical facilities provided by the libraries, to advise the Chief Librarian on his management.
- parking appeals (two members, two alternates)
- general promotions and salaries (one vacancy)
purpose: to establish broad policy
- summer session and evening credit (one vacancy)
- investigation of teaching (four vacancies)
purpose: to gather and digest information on university teaching and to maintain a library; to study teaching loads, methods, curricula, counselling, learning environments and the impersonality of university teaching; to encourage experimentation.
- tenure appeals committee (one alternate)
- academic development (two vacancies)
purpose: to study any matter of academic concern for which GFC is responsible (eg. tenure) and on request, to prepare recommendations on the establishment of new departments, schools and programs.
- admission requirements (two vacancies)
purpose: to study the need for changes, and their effects.
- calendars (two vacancies)
purpose: to advise on the format, organization and publication of the calendar.
- campus development (two vacancies)
purpose: to determine the size of particular buildings suggested in the long-range plan and to recommend on the siting and grouping of proposed buildings. This is the committee which held hearings on the siting of the Commerce building.
- campus security services policy (three vacancies)
self-explanatory: includes fire, parking, etc.
- university planning (one member)
purpose: to maintain a long range plan and to ensure adherence to the plan; to establish a priority for construction and to make recommendations to the Board of Governors on sitings, groupings, land use and budget.
- timetabling policy (two vacancies)
- university collections (one member, one alternate)
A comprehensive policy must be developed.