

Alberta universities to receive funding based on performance

BY ANDREA BREAU

EDMONTON (CUP) — Alberta's colleges and universities are set to receive more than \$15-million in awards from the provincial government based on their "performance."

All universities and colleges in Alberta will now receive an additional 1 per cent of their provincial operating grant. But those that meet or exceed the performance criteria can receive up to an extra 1.5 per cent. It will mark the first time in Canada that funding for post-secondary education will be linked to measurable performance.

"[These program decisions will create] undue government influence in post-secondary education," said Howard Sapers, Liberal critic for Advanced Education in Alberta.

He believes this initiative will lead colleges and universities to tailor the goals of the individual universities to meet those of the provincial government to receive more funding.

"I'm afraid that this may put

academic freedom in jeopardy," Sapers said.

The performance criteria will be based on a points system, which will measure components including graduate employment rates, the number of research awards for each full-time faculty member and enterprise revenue.

A university's progress will be compared with institutions of similar size and mandate across Canada.

Institutions that receive less than 70 out of a possible 100 points on the performance scale will not receive the funding over the 1 per cent.

Kathie Konarzewski, communications director for the Ministry for Advanced Education, said that this is the first time an awards program of this type is being tried in Canada.

"It's a new venture and...[a similar procedure] is in place in certain areas of the States, but nowhere else in Canada," she said.

The total performance award will make up approximately 2 per

cent of provincial grants to post-secondary education.

According to Clint Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, the province wants to build an accessible and strong post-secondary education system.

"By measuring the progress of Alberta's post-secondary system in achieving important goals, and linking performance to funding, we can reward success and build-in incentives for ongoing

improvements in adult learning," Dunford said in a statement.

But Pat Cleary, president of the University of Calgary student union, is concerned about what he calls the "heavy reliance on quantitative indicators" in the initiative.

"[The measurements] are not representative of the unique characteristics of individual post-secondary institutions. [They are] based on what the government felt was appropriate...there was

no student input."

Sapers also shares some of these concerns.

"The applicability [of the criteria] is questionable. It's also very arbitrary. It doesn't assess the variety of issues...it only measures one aspect of every requirement," he said.

All of the schools are responsible for collecting the data required by the government to assess their progress.

Leader demands security

BY SARAH GALASHAN

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Indonesian President General Suharto may skip an Economic summit at the University of British Columbia this fall for fear of student protest.

Indonesia's foreign minister Ali Alatas told foreign press at a luncheon last week that Suharto might not attend the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit if Canadian authorities can't guarantee control of Vancouver demonstrations supporting East Timor.

"This was the first public statement that we heard from anyone in the Indonesian government that this might be a consideration..." said Rene Cremonese, a spokesperson for the Canadian embassy in Jakarta.

But Chris Brown, an official with the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the university won't restrict legal demonstrations.

"The university is working with the federal government to ensure that protests or demonstrations are conducted in a reasonable manner," he said.

There is an active movement in Vancouver to protest Indonesia's violent 1976 annexation and continued occupation of East Timor. Recent protests over Indonesia's involvement in East Timor have included a mock arrest warrant for Suharto delivered to Vancouver's Indonesian consulate, graphic puppet shows at the University of British Columbia depicting fictitious meetings between the Canadian and Indonesian leaders, and posting of campus buildings.

According to Jaggi Singh — a member of both APEC Alert and the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), two key groups responsible for protests in Vancouver over the approaching APEC conference — the groups' methods are non-violent.

Singh is in the process of writing a letter to the Attorney General of Canada and, after presenting evidence to the RCMP, he hopes Suharto will be arrested if he comes.

"There is a Canadian law...that states that people who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity outside the country are allowed to be tried for those crimes in Canada," he said.

"Certainly official actions are also ready to be used," Singh said. "These include protests, street actions and non-violent disputes."

Girlfriend

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and it's a fight everyone must engage in.

"One of the reasons it takes so long for change is that people just put the responsibility off on a small number of people," she said. "Whether or not you have experienced violence in your life, or you know someone who has...doesn't mean you can't get out and support your sister who has experienced violence."

The first Take Back the Night March, held in San Francisco in 1978, was organized as an anti-pornography walk. Since then, Take Back the Night has become an international event, expanding its mandate to encompass all forms of violence against women.

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