

# Alberta students support FAS

Students at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta both voted to enter the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) at Wednesday referendums held at both campuses.

At the U of A, roughly ten per cent of the total voting population turned out to vote: 69.8 per cent in favor of membership in the one-year-old Federation. Total number of votes was 1,932 with 1,343 votes in favor, 582 against and 7 spoiled ballots.

The U of C had about ten per cent turn-out at the polls with 63 per cent in favour out of a total of 920 votes.

On the U of A campus, returning officer Michael Amerongen said he was pleased with voter turn-out, which although low, compares favourably with turn-outs in the past three years.

Brian Mason, executive secretary of FAS, said he was pleased with student turn-out; "These decisions at the two largest universities in the province show very clearly a resurgence of concern among students about the issues that affect them."

"I think FAS has now received a mandate from the university students in Alberta to continue its policies of encouraging governments to treat education with a much higher priority than it has in the past."

Mason said the student support of FAS should be seen as "a message to the government that they've got to place more emphasis on education because students are becoming more sincerely concerned with the dismal state of the educational policy in this province."

U of A Students' Union president Len Zoeteman responded favourably to the vote in support of FAS.

"I am satisfied that the U of A has decided to take a more external perspective with regards to political lobbying," he said.

"There's no doubt that if we're to be heard by the provincial government on issues affecting students, that these concerns should be voiced by as many bodies as possible."

"Now that we are official members, we plan to make a more positive and active contribution regarding FAS," Zoeteman added. "Because almost one half of the total student membership in FAS comes from the U of A, the executive will ensure that our students' interests will not be overlooked."

In the Wed. by-election, Doug Robinson won the Students' Council Arts seat, Jay Spark won the Science seat and Gary Hansen, Doug Agar and Ben Verdam won the three Education seats contested.

Robinson took 199 of the 341 votes cast for Arts, with Linda Blanchet placing second with 87 votes and Jim Carter last with 55.

In Education, Gary Hansen took 209 votes, Doug Agar had 187 and Ben Verdam polled 170. Vidya Thakur lost out with 129 votes.

In Science, Jay Spark won the 141 votes Dwight Bliss took 105 and Katy LeRougetal took 43, out of a total 289 votes cast.

Ad muram...

## The Gateway

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This man wants to improve your literacy. Dr. Jim Forrest (center) listens with fellow committee members at a recent GFC meeting. The "Forrest Report," which recommends stringent improvements in undergrad literacy, was adopted Sept. 27.

### Grad students vote full support Oct. 14

by Tom Baker

A group of graduate students on campus met Tues. to express "full support" for the Oct. 14 protest against the federal government's wage and price controls program.

The group, about 35 grad students from the departments of political science, sociology, anthropology and educational foundations, approved a resolution which said they would take "all appreciative measures to express this support."

These measures, said group spokesperson Randy Olling, will include a campus forum on Oct. 13, leaflet distribution and an attempt to have as many classes as possible cancelled on Oct. 14.

Olling estimated that 50 per cent of classes will be cancelled in the faculties involved.

A committee of graduate students and faculty from the dept. of educational foundations also passed a motion supporting the Oct. 14 protest.

Another group of students and staff met Tues. to begin organization of a campus contingent to take part in the demonstrations planned for Oct. 14.

This group is planning

massive distribution of a leaflet calling on students to march on that day, from an open air rally in Quad at 10 a.m. followed by a march across the High Level bridge to the main parade in front of the Legislature.

The campus New Democratic Party club and others are planning a forum on student participation in the Oct. 14 activities to be held at noon, Fri. Oct. 8 in SUB 142.

Guest speakers at the forum will include Reg Baskin, president of the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL), provincial NDP leader Grant Notley and alderman David Leadbeater.

An organizational meeting will be held in SUB 142 following the Fri. rally.

A special issue of *The Gateway* dealing with the federal government's wage and price controls and the Oct. 14 day of protest will be published Tues. Oct. 12.

Regular issues of *Gateway* will continue beginning Thurs. Oct. 14.

### Literacy report approved

by David Oke

A report on university writing skills which recommended changes in the public school system was overwhelmingly supported by Students' Council Mon. night.

The report, written by Dr. Forrest of the English dept., was presented to a meeting of General Faculty Council (GFC) last Monday. It recommended minimum English requirements and pay differentials for teachers to encourage better quality English instruction in public schools.

Kevan Warner, ed. rep., and David Rand, GFC student rep., adamantly opposed all of the recommendations dealing with the public school system.

Rand rejected the idea that any one brand of teacher is superior. Differentials of pay should be decided within a profession and not outside of the profession.

Warner contended, "It doesn't make any sense."

"This report is right on," said Gen McFarlane (SU vp academic)

who moved acceptance of the report.

"For the first time the university is taking a stab at the problem," McFarlane said, "and everyone, even if they're having the finger pointed at them should appreciate that at last we have a basis for discussion of the problem."

But, McFarlane added, technical and jurisdictional problems in the report prevented Students' Council from endorsing it totally.

"For example, the report recommends more money be given for English teachers than for math teachers," he said, "and that sets a dangerous precedent."

"But people have to realize these are only recommendations, they're not policy. Even with recommendations, however, we've got a basis for meaningful discussion of the problem and that's a very good sign."

McFarlane's motion stated that the Academic Affairs Board "entertain and seriously consider" counter-proposals to the report put to the Board from the Dept. of Education and that these proposals be forwarded to GFC.

Bruce Olasker, Rehab. Med. rep., said, "Our faculty endorses this report. It's about time standards were improved as a whole. We have people who couldn't write an essay if their life depended on it and they know it; there are top-notch students who don't

continued on p. 2

### Equality promoted

Discrimination by sex at the U of A received some attention when Tuesday's General Faculty Council (GFC) Executive meeting recommended that the Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities be under the direction of the president's office.

After the Task Force report on Academic Women last spring, GFC agreed to establish this committee to monitor the status and number of male and female staff and students "to remedy inequities" and to overcome "traditional attitudes."

Speaking of the Committee's terms of reference, Dr. Lauber commented, "I think it was in the minds of the GFC that the hiring practices and composition of academic staff extend past considering women, alone."

Dr. Gunning, U of A president, said that it wasn't GFC's prerogative to determine the terms of reference but something for the Board of Governors, since it seemed to involve a change in the university act.

Lauber said the committee's purpose was to bring forth con-

crete proposals and so should rightly remain within GFC.

"I personally think it would be a more reasonable thing and give them a freer hand if we made it a presidents' committee," suggested Gunning. "I think we could then be assured of a much broader area of concern."

Dr. Crawford's motion that the Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities be a president's committee so that it could report to both the B of G and GFC was finally approved by GFC Exec.