

# President's committee report on harassment

During its first year of operation, the University of Alberta's President Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment (PACSH) focused its attention on three major areas of concern: organizing its own operating procedures,

implementing an education and awareness program on the University of Alberta campus, and investigating sexual harassment complaints.

Formed in Nov. 1982 with a mandate to "encourage and coordinate an education and awareness program" and to "investigate complaints of sexual harassment at the U of A", PACSH's eight committee members (two each nominated by the academic and non-academic staff associations and two each nominated by the graduate and undergraduate student associations) spent many hours thrashing out basic issues of procedure, meeting 18 times.

Recognizing that sexual harassment is a complex social issue, the members were cognizant of the importance of institution procedures which would treat all parties fairly and prudently as well as ensure confidentiality

in all cases.

PACSH interpreted its mandate for education of members of the University community about the issue of sexual harassment as being twofold: it established an educational sub-committee to coordinate the committee's educational program, and it set in motion a series of meetings with AASUA, NASA, GSA, and the SU to encourage their constituents' understanding of sexual harassment. PACSH "announced its presence" to the University community by encouraging its chairperson, Dr. Terry Davis, to be interviewed by campus publications such as *Folio*, *Gateway*, and *Rep's Council Voice*. General press releases were issued through the Office of Community Relations to all Edmonton media, resulting in several interviews about PACSH's existence and function.

In addition, PACSH members approved for distribution on cam-

pus both posters and pamphlets advising the University community of the committee's existence and of its aims.

Both pamphlet and poster impart information about the committee and publicize a telephone number (432-TALK).

Pamphlets were distributed during registration week; large posters were hung in major high-traffic areas during the week of September 19; and pamphlets and small posters were sent to graduate students and staff the week of September 26.

During the month of October, pamphlets were sent to the SU and the academic and non-academic staff association, and advertisements were placed in *Folio* and *Gateway*.

Furthermore, PACSH is having effects farther afield. During the past seven months, a steady stream of requests for information have come to the PACSH office

from universities and other groups across Canada.

Students researching legal or sociobiological aspects of sexual harassment have referred to PACSH procedures or consulted the committee's public files which contain news clippings, government procedures of sexual harassment, and a variety of "background" information on the issue.

PACSH received and processed one sexual harassment complaint during its first seven months of operation. The decision of the three-person investigative panel, appointed by the PACSH chairperson, was to close the case.

PACSH's efforts during the 1983-84 academic year will focus on the resolution of any complaints (whether by informal resolution or by investigative panels), the fine-tuning of the hearing procedures, and the continuing educational campaign.

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Salary: \$800/mo. (under review)

For further information, please contact:  
Brent Jang, Editor-in-Chief, Gateway, at 432-5168, or in Rm. 282 SUB.

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