

I've got nothing to say...

The Gateway

Thursday, April 2, 1987

...and I'll only say it once.
— Floyd Smith
former Leafs coach

SU to take University to court over fees

by Roberta Franchuk

The Students' Union is considering legal action to stop the University from adding a compulsory 30 dollar per term fee on top of the 10 per cent tuition fee increase already facing students.

"Dave (Oginski, SU President) has consulted a lawyer and we've started to look into litigation," said VP External Michael Hunter. "I hope that we can block this thing legally."

The 30 dollar "Library and Computing Services" fee would be charged in addition to the \$43.90 increase in tuition, for a total increased cost of \$73.90 per term. This is a 16.8 per cent increase.

"It's back door tuition," said Oginski, pointing out the provincial government placed a ten per cent ceiling on tuition fee increases.

Hunter added, "I don't see how you can charge a global fee, regardless of whether or not the student uses the services, and then say it isn't tuition. They're saying: 'We can't go through the front door so we'll slither in the back.'"

Tom McLaren, executive assistant to Minister of Advanced Education Dave Russell, admits "there is concern that some fees would be tantamount to a tuition increase."

Fees are "considered on an item by item basis" as to whether they are acceptable or not said McLaren.

"The government has always permitted additional fees," said University President Myer Horowitz. "What we have done doesn't even come close to what other Alberta

universities have been doing."

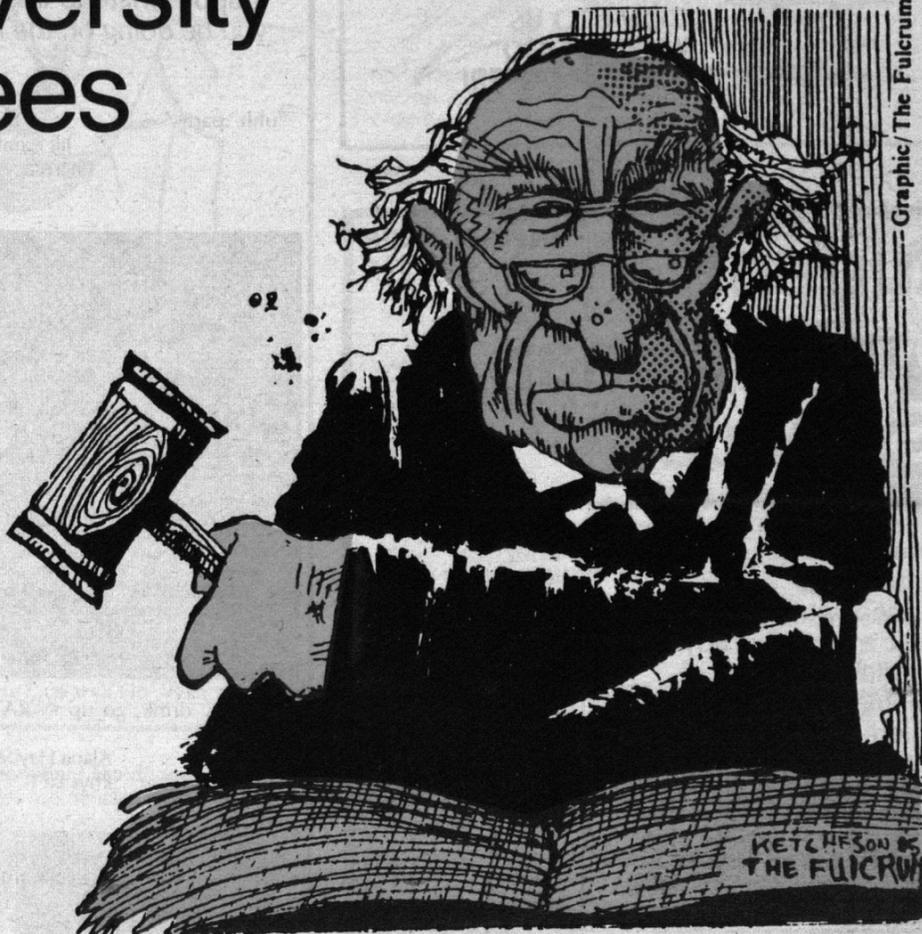
The University of Lethbridge presently charges an eight dollar per course per term "material and services" fee, which will be increased to \$11 in September. For a full course load (six courses), this works out to \$66 per term — more than twice that proposed for the U of A.

"What's to stop it from increasing?" asks Hunter. "Will we be seeing hallway tolls or pay-for-use toilets? At what point does this end?"

Horowitz, however, sees the fee as a strictly temporary measure. "One of the first things that must go when the situation turns brighter is this. Nothing would please me more than my being party to a decision... to remove those fees." Horowitz's term as President ends in the summer of 1989. "I pray that in my time we won't have to consider any other special fees," he added.

Horowitz said, "This additional fee, which we're calling a Library and Computing Services fee, will bring us \$1.5 million. If we didn't have the 1.5 million we would have to cut out of our budget not 4.5 million but 6 million. Anyone who suggests that we can absorb the effects (of the provincial funding cut) is either naive or dishonest."

The SU has been challenged to find other sources of revenue, but according to Hunter "that's not the mandate of the Students' Union. We should give them a hand to figure out ways to cut back, but it's



Graphic/The Fulcrum

not the job of the SU."

Hunter says that the SU is prepared to "put pressure on the administration and hope that administration starts putting pressure on the government."

"If they (the University) can't work with a 10 per cent (tuition)

increase they should lobby the government to get an increase in operating funds," he said.

The budget recommendations including the fee, were made by the Planning and Priorities Committee of the General Faculties Council. The budget goes before

the Board of Governors for final approval on April 10th.

"It's not official," says Horowitz, but, "very rarely does the Board ignore the advice of the (Planning and Priorities) Committee."

Student leaders want the SFB chief fired

by John Watson

Student leaders in Alberta are calling for the resignation of Fred Hemingway, head of the Student Finance Board (SFB) for bargaining in bad faith.

"We feel that Fred Hemingway has deceived the students in Alberta and certainly the student leaders in Alberta," said Michael Hunter, Students' Union VP external at the U of A.

Hunter said Hemingway misled student leaders about the SFB remission program.

Hemingway is concerned about the allegations. "I think it is a totally unfair statement to make," he said.

A weekend conference of CAUS (Council of Alberta University Students — a newly-formed province-wide student group) resolved to ask Dave Russell, the Minister of Advanced Education, to remove Hemingway or justify his continued appointment.

According to Tom McLaren, assistant to Russell, Hemingway's "removal is not an issue in our office."

McLaren refused further comment at this time.

CAUS is concerned that the SFB intends to cut \$12 million from its budget by cracking down on cheaters. According to Hunter that

would mean 15 per cent of all loans were fraudulent.

"What he is saying is he can find \$12 million worth of cheaters in the system," said Hunter, "(he has) prejudged the whole bunch."

Hemingway though, says that it was Hunter who suggested a crack-down on cheaters in the system as a method of saving money.

"It was the student leaders in the province last year who suggested to get into the audit area very heavily," said Hemingway, "to say that came from me is, to say the least, stretching the point."

"You're damn right we did," said Hunter, "and every penny we saved was supposed to go back into the system."

Instead, Hunter says, the SFB is using it as a budget cutting measure.

CAUS is also calling for an end to the current method of choosing student representatives to the SFB.

The two student representatives are currently appointed by the minister. CAUS wants student associations in the province to make those choices.

Hunter is enthusiastic about the

idea. "Exactly the kind of thing we need to watchdog the SFB and the government that is running it," says Hunter.

According to Hunter his attitude towards dealing with the government has changed since he began in office.

"You bet the tone has changed," said Hunter, "there is only one way to get your point across to this government."

And, he says, it is not by being reasonable.

Budget rally Friday

by Roberta Franchuk

A student rally will be held on Friday to protest the proposed new university budget.

The rally is scheduled in the Quad at 11:00 a.m. Friday. Students' Union members will be explaining to students the implications of the budget proposed by the Planning and Priorities Committee of the General Faculties Council.

"We are actually encouraging students to cut classes (to attend the rally)," said SU VP External Michael Hunter. "We know it's a bad time to ask, but (with these new fees) some of these people won't be able to afford to come

back next year."

Hunter hopes to see strong student support for efforts to petition the government. "Until everybody in this university starts screaming bloody blue murder there's no way this provincial government is going to react."

Some doubts have been voiced about the utility of a protest, however. SU External Commissioner Martin Levenson said, "The time for a demonstration and rally is before the (provincial) budget comes down, not after." He also commented on the "bad timing" with exams coming up."

University may move drop deadlines

by Greg Halinda

In order to discourage students from course- and grade-shopping, the university is considering moving course-drop deadlines to October 15 and February 15 respectively, before midterm exam weeks.

The Registrar's Advisory Committee is currently putting together the proposal to change the deadlines, and the General Faculties Council will debate it when students return to classes in September.

Registrar Brian Silzer said some deans and the university's VP Administration have expressed frustration at the current course-drop deadlines of November 20 and

March 25 (for most programs).

"There are suggestions that there are abuses of the system now," said Silzer.

He said that when a student enrolls in a course and bases her decision to continue on the out-

continued on p. 3

Inside this issue...

First Ministers' conference... p. 6

Scottish writer speaks... p. 8

Sports trivia quiz... p. 13