

PQ Law may cause campus civil war

MONTREAL (CUP) A law giving legal recognition to Quebec student associations is more dangerous than no law at all, and may cause "civil war" on some Quebec campuses, says Quebec's largest student organization.

Members of the Association Nationale des etudiantes et etudiants du Quebec and other student groups are protesting the law, and plan a general student strike Nov. 15.

Law 32, passed last June, requires student associations seeking accreditation from the Quebec government to win a

referendum in which 25 per cent of students vote yes.

Associations which have existed as a corporation for two years and which apply by Sept. 21 are exempt. An appointee of the education ministry must supervise the referendum and a five person board representing the other associations in Quebec must validate the results.

Only accredited associations would receive guaranteed funding though a student levy at registration, collected by the administration. Office space and other services would also be guaranteed.

The law also allows individual faculties, departments or colleges to set up their own associations.

ANEQ information secretary

Peter Wheeland said the regulations could create incredible bureaucracies at universities if individual departments were accredited.

Also, for a large existing association like at Concordia University, "it would be just about impossible to get the 25 per cent turnout required for legitimacy," said Wheeland.

Associations not accredited may still exist, but may receive

student fees only at the discretion of the administration and are not protected by other provisions of the law.

Weak associations will lose control to administration under the law, said Wheeland.

"It doesn't resolve the problems of the associations which have serious money or recognition problems, in fact it makes it worse."

A tradition of co-operation between anglophone institution administrations and associations in Quebec does not generally exist in the francophone system.

The administration at Universite de Quebec a Montreal will not collect student levies for its association, for example.

While the situation is grim for associations unable to get accreditation, problems exist for those who do.

"Once you're accredited, you're free of administration

interference, but you're open to government interference," said Wheeland. "Wide discretionary powers are left to the accreditation agent (to deny or withdraw accreditation)."

Planning A Career

Students who are in a quandary about career plans will be pleased to note that this year's CAREER'S DAY will be held on Thursday, Sept. 29 in the Green Room, Dal SUB. The objective of the annual event, hosted by AIESEC Dalhousie, is to bring students together with participating firms to discuss available career opportunities within those companies as well as the qualifications required. Since CAREERS DAY is an information rather than recruitment session, the students are able to meet and talk freely with potential future employers, without the stress associated with interviewing.

A total of ten companies will participate this year, ranging from the banking and accountancy industries to the employment agencies of the provincial and federal governments. The diversity of participating firms means that CAREERS DAY offers to virtually all students on campus an excellent opportunity to investigate career options. It is interesting to note as well that several of the participating firms are returning to Dalhousie later in the term for recruitment.

For the graduating student, this is an ideal chance to meet the interviewers beforehand and on more comfortable terms. Students just starting or in the process of completing a degree can get firsthand information about the sort of academic qualifications and extracurricular activities important to prospective

employers. CAREERS DAY is a unique opportunity to start planning your career. Don't miss it—Thursday, September 29 in the Green Room.

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