

To err is human...

The Gateway

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...to moo, bovine.

Prof says publishing over-emphasized

Good teaching ignored

by Jim Herbert

Arts Dean Terry White and VP Academic J.P. Meekison deny charges that university policies discourage good teaching. White and Meekison were responding to a letter circulated by Political Science professor Dr. Leon Craig last summer to his Arts Faculty colleagues.

The *Edmonton Journal* ran a story last week after obtaining a copy of the letter.

In the letter, Craig stated the University administration has geared the system of awarding pay increments and promotions so that publishing in scholarly journals and books is greatly rewarded while good teaching goes virtually unnoticed.

Craig states: "multiple increments go almost exclusively for the recognition of publication (irrespective of teaching performance) ... you could be the greatest teacher since Socrates, and not only be deemed unworthy to join the ranks of full professors, you may be exposed to 'gross deficiency' proceedings on grounds of 'insufficient research activity.'"

To Craig, the result of this system is that professors are discouraged from concentrating on teaching.

But Craig believes that teaching is at the very core of liberal education.

He says despite "the manifold mediocrity the majority of our students manifest" a good teacher "can bring good students out of the woodwork."

According to Craig, what makes the situation even worse is the type of research emphasized by the Faculty Salaries and Promotions Committee (FSPC) adds little to the growth of knowledge.

The "vast bulk" of this type of research follows the "Baconian" or "empirical" model which is largely unsuited to the humanities and social sciences. Thus all the effort spent on research does not go far in achieving "a deeper understanding of the important human questions," said Craig.

Dean of Arts Terry White refutes Craig's claims, saying the University "encourages good teaching as well as research." In deciding which professors will be given merit increments, White claims that the FSPC examines not just publishing records, but uses peer review, student assessments and interviews with graduating Honours students.

According to White, none of these is given an inordinate amount of weight.

The Dean thinks the University professor should strike a balance between teaching and research and that "Craig wants to take us to one extreme."

White says of those professors who teach to the exclusion of doing research or vice versa: "maybe they shouldn't be at a university."

White rejects the suggestion that teaching levels suffer in the Faculty of Arts because of policy. He claims that in getting increments, those professors who are good teachers but who don't have great publishing records "don't do as poorly in this faculty as in others."

White says that the Arts faculty has the least patience of any with regard to poor teaching.

VP Academic Peter Meekison shares White's views on the position of teaching: "I don't think there's any question that the Uni-

versity cares about good teaching."

Meekison, Chairman of the Political Science department from 1972-74, served on FSPC and "thought good teaching was rewarded."

He also denies Craig's claim that the majority of research is irrelevant to the larger human concerns, remarking that "there's got to be room for all aspects of research. I don't think there's any one notion of research."

Dr. Craig was approached for his reaction to the above statements but declined to comment because he believes that the publicizing of the debate "will have deleterious consequences in accomplishing the kind of reforms we want to."

U of A President Myer Horowitz was also asked to comment but refused.

Community wants campus

by Gilbert Bouchard

"The U of A belongs to the whole province, and here we are taking our University to Grande Prairie," says U of A Chancellor, Peter Savaryn.

Savaryn was addressing the U of A Senate and representatives of the community of Grande Prairie at the Senate's first meeting of the 1984-85 academic year in that community on Friday September 21.

The focus of the meeting turned out to be pleas from the Grande Prairie community for a degree granting institution in the community.

Briefs were heard from such diverse groups as: the Mayor of Grande Prairie, Oscar Blais, the Grande Prairie Constituency of the NDP, the Grande Prairie Catholic School Board, and the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC), among others.

The briefs stressed much of the same points: Grande Prairie citizens do not necessarily want to move to Edmonton to complete their education, more students probably would get a post-secondary education if there was a local degree granting institution. Also, continuing one's education after obtaining a degree while working in the north is almost impossible.

Most briefs commented that the present systems put northern students at a disadvantage.

Bernie Derosiers, a local NDP candidate, felt that "for reasons of assisting on the family farm, and a preference for smaller centers, rural students are more likely to seek out the closer more intimate alternative that a Grande Prairie campus could offer."

Derosiers went on to explain that the northern region, including parts of B.C. and the North West Territories, could support an independent university. "We can create here in Grande Prairie a micro-university of a truly third wave dimension."

Derosiers concerns were echoed by Mayor Blais, and Winston Backus, chair of the Board of Governors at GPRC.

Backus called for either "offering all requirements for a U of A degree on location at GPRC, or co-ordinating the first two years of University courses currently being provided by GPRC with degree completion courses from Athabasca University. A third possibility is to offer degrees on an independent basis."

Students at GPRC are also concerned with their educational futures.

"There used to be a sense of security when you went to a junior college, but now there is confusion of what is needed to get in," said Holly Roy, vice-president of the GPRC Students' Association.

Roy cites a lack of communication between the U of A and colleges for the confusions pertaining to transferring students between the two institutions.

Myer Horowitz, U of A president, also addressed the Senate meeting.

He said the university would be studying the minimum grade average students must obtain to be admitted to the next year of their program.



Second year psychology student Gillian Moody was chosen as Miss Black Alberta this month. See story on page 6.

The university would be studying the standards of admission for transfer students, Horowitz said.

Alain Maisonneuve, the treasurer of the GPRC Students' Association was also concerned about standards of progress and fears a quota on transfer students from the junior colleges. "Talk of quotas really puts people who are here in a bind," said Maisonneuve.

Students at the college are afraid that the two years they will have put into a post-secondary education will be lost if they can't transfer to the U of A.

At the moment GPRC offers a

university transfer program where students can take up to two years of a university degree.

While summing up his statements at the end of the Senate meeting Horowitz added, "there may be a possibility of GPRC offering degrees, but energy might be better spent on other possibilities." He said that Athabasca University might just provide that alternative.

Horowitz cautioned against doing what Ontario did in the 60's: opening up too many universities. Now that province is stuck in a much more difficult bind of trying to shrink an over-grown system.

Exams available

by Marie Clifford

Anticipating an efficient and productive year, the Exam Registry officially opened its doors yesterday.

The Registry is a Students' Union Service which provides students with old exam copies.

"We plan to improve the system immensely. Hopefully we already have," says director Brinton McLaughlin.

Due to delays in providing exams to students last year, the Registry is implementing a new computer filing system. The new system provides students with specific lists of available exams before they are actually ordered.

McLaughlin is confident the new system will make the entire service more efficient.

"The exams are always up to date and the new computer coding system cuts out a lot of steps. If you order before noon we should get the exams to you overnight," says McLaughlin.

The process of ordering an exam has also been improved. Students will now pay for their exams when they pick them up as opposed to paying while ordering.

The Exam Registry has exams from the majority of courses offered on campus.

However, copies of psychology and sociology are not available. The departments will not make them available.

The Exam Registry is located in room 2383 Students' Union Building, and operates between 10-4, Mondays - Fridays.

New Gateway editors

by Suzette C. Chan

Three Gateway positions were filled in the Gateway by-election on Thursday.

Two interim editors were officially instated in the election: Brougham Deegan as Production Editor and Paul Chu as Circulation Editor.

Sharing duties as Gateway CUP Editor/Advocate are Ray Warnatsch and Denise Whalen.

The three positions were vacated over the summer as the persons originally elected as production, circulation, and CUP editors left for personal reasons.

The Gateway advocate position was created to mediate concerns between students and the Gateway.

The service will probably get off the ground within the next few weeks.

ATTENTION GATEWAY STAFF

Important staff meeting on Thursday, October 4, at 4 pm in 282 Sub, regarding the upcoming CUP conference.