

cross-canada briefs

U of O student sues prof for plagiarism

BY LAUREL FORTIN

OTTAWA (CUP) — A University of Ottawa business graduate is suing his former professor and the university for plagiarism.

Paul Boudreau's problems started when he turned a paper into professor Jimming Lin in July, 1991.

Boudreau later learned Jimming had not only taken his paper on integrated circuits for telephone systems and presented it under his own name at a New Orleans conference in September 1992, but Jimming also included the same paper in a case book for a class — both times without giving Boudreau any credit.

Boudreau initially appealed to Jean-Louis Malouin, dean of the faculty of administration about the situation. When the university said they were satisfied with Jimming's explanation, Boudreau decided to pursue the matter through legal channels.

Jimming's court statement claims that Boudreau's name was omitted from the paper simply due to an oversight. Jimming was waiting to include Boudreau's name on the piece until he could also include Boudreau's employer's name.

However, Boudreau's lawyer Katherine Cotton said Boudreau did not know Jimming was presenting the paper at a conference, or that a second professor was named as co-author of the piece.

John Topping, president of the University of Ottawa Graduate Student Association, says the university's rules to prevent this kind of plagiarism "have been set up to protect faculty, not students."

HST could cost Atlantic schools millions

BY DAVID COCHRANE AND MICHAEL CONNORS

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — A new harmonized sales tax could end up costing Atlantic Canadian universities millions of dollars in extra taxes.

Starting next month the new HST will combine the GST and provincial sales taxes in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into a single 15-per-cent tax. Prices for many items will fall, but the new tax is much broader and will increase the cost of universities' heat and light bills, and capital expenditures.

"We have to talk to the provincial government about a significant increase in the university's costs," said Art May, president of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He says the new tax could cost Memorial \$800,000 a year.

A recent study on the effects of the HST on universities done by KPMG, a Nova Scotia-based consulting firm, concluded increases in electricity and heat will be countered by other tax exemptions.

However, the capital tax increase means it will cost schools more money to build new buildings.

Next year Memorial University plans to begin construction of a new university centre and an athletics building at a total cost of \$25-million. Dalhousie University will start a new \$12-million arts building, while St. Mary's University will build an \$18-million business school.

The new tax scheme means these projects combined will cost \$8.25-million in taxes.

"The net effect on us will be negative and it will cost us more money," said Guy Noel, a St. Mary's vice-president.

"Anytime that there is a change in tax structure that affects our operating expenditures and our budgets, capital or otherwise, it further compounds the problems we face," he said.

Tuition fee increases hurt Canada's economy, warns study

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canada's economic competitiveness may be at risk if tuition fees continue to rise, says a new study by a prominent economic consultant.

At a time when Canadians can expect to change jobs four times over their lifetime, universities and colleges must remain accessible for workers to upgrade their education, states the study by Constantine Kapsalis, in Canadian Business Economics.

"If we raise tuition costs too far, we will be undermining the competitive advantage we have now," said Kapsalis. "One of the advantages that Canada has over other countries is our fairly accessible education system that is used by both employees and employers."

After being too busy at work, employees reported that the cost of education was the second biggest reason they did not take training.

Kapsalis says companies rely on universities and colleges to provide accessible education and training for workers. He also notes that while employer-sponsored education and training helps workers with their current job, independently acquired education helps workers with their future careers.

Students employees vote on new union

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

A group of students employed by the Dalhousie Student Union are voting on whether to join one of Canada's largest trade unions.

The vote, to be held today, proposes that members of the Student Union Part-time Staff Association (SUPSA) form their own local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

The vote was initiated after a number of SUPSA members approached the SUPSA executive.

"I think the staff feel that they don't have any control over their own destinies and that the people who are elected [to the student

union executive] lose sight of the whole 'students serving students' bit. So now students have to serve themselves," said SUPSA president Andrew Younger.

"Employees have every right to vote and make a choice on whether or not they would like to have a union represent them," said Dalhousie Student Union president Brad MacKay.

Bar Services and Corner Pocket employees are not SUPSA members.

Joining CUPE would allow SUPSA to negotiate a collective agreement, including terms of employee contracts, with CUPE's support and resources.

The union, if ratified, would fall under the Trade Union Act. Currently all student union employees are governed by the Labour Standards Act.

"The Trade Union Act is much more clear about what's right and what's wrong," continued Younger. "I think that's why people want to go under it, because they want to say 'Yes, this is legal' or 'No, it isn't' — none of this 'Well, maybe it is [illegal] but you'll have to go fight it in court' and none of us have the money to do it."

"[SUPSA members] asked us for the opportunity to vote on the issue and that's what we brought them — the opportunity to vote."

Voting in the Grawood?

BY MONICA GILLIS

One of the Dalhousie Student Union's roving polling stations rolled into the Grawood in an attempt to woo more student voters this Monday, but all it ended up doing was violating the Elections Act of Nova Scotia.

The purpose of a roving polling station is to gather votes from students that may not be near polling stations during the election period. The roving poll moves throughout campus, collecting votes from areas where university officials may not want a polling station located all day.

As an incorporated body, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) must follow the Elections Act of Nova Scotia during its elections unless it makes other arrangements. It is stated in the Act that polling stations must be accessible to everyone.

On Monday, the roving polling station positioned itself in the Grawood for about one hour. Since the Grawood has a strict policy of not admitting individuals under 19 years of age, the roving polling station acted in direct conflict with the Elections Act.

Chief Returning Officer Jen Riordan said that this violation will not affect the results of the election.

"I don't think the rover was there for over a half an hour," said Riordan.

"It would be an issue if it was

for an extended period of time."

The roving polling stations were told to locate in specific places like Fenwick Place.

The decision to locate in the Grawood was that of the rover, and was not a place stated by the Elections Committee.

"[There was] never anyone saying don't go [to the Grawood],

but no one was saying go either," stated Riordan.

Since the number of ballots cast in the Grawood was low — under ten — there has been no consideration given to recalling the elections. Riordan said that it is hoped that in future elections the rovers will be aware of the proper places for collecting ballots.

Shirreff Hall janitors butt out

BY ALAN LEBLANC

Custodial staff at Shirreff Hall have to find a new place to light up.

Last week, the janitorial staff was told that its members could no longer smoke in their private kitchen area in the basement of the residence.

The order was the result of arbitration held in February.

Karen Peterson, lead hand of custodial services at Shirreff, stated that a no-smoking policy has been in place for a number of years, but was never enforced until now.

However, Peterson concedes that the Physical Plant has

"the right to make policies as long as they are the employer," and that the room is "technically not ours."

What she sees as an inequity is that the students living in the residence are permitted to smoke in their rooms, creating just as large a fire hazard. Peterson also went on to say that the residences may "go non-smoking altogether, even outside," in which case no one would be able to smoke.

Mike Murphy, head of the Physical Plant, refused to comment on the matter, saying that the issue was already put before arbitration and the matter was settled.

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The best thing the DSU did this year was also the blue lights system, but a telling 50 per cent of students who answered the survey said that they didn't know what the best thing the DSU did this year was.

The biggest complaints about the DSU this year were lack of communication, the ASSB contribution and the Union's inability to stand up to administration regarding tuition hikes. There were also six "I don't know's" in this category.

When it came to individual executives, at least half of the students surveyed never came in contact with the president, vice-presidents, or treasurer. Those who did have contact with the executive members worked in the Student Union Building and were very complimentary of the executive in terms of performance and personality.

In addition to the student survey, McCaig and Michael interviewed all the members of the DSU executive.

Outgoing DSU president Brad MacKay said that he was pleased with the executive report.

"Those who did return the surveys were as well informed as any," MacKay said.

"Perhaps there was as good of a range of opinions as you would have had with 200 or 300 surveys. My preference would have been for more than 14 surveyed, but only 14 students chose to return them."

As for his performance this year, MacKay believes that he accomplished all of his goals "that were possible."

When questioned about student apathy, MacKay stated that disinterested students are characteristic of all universities.

"Some people call it apathy. I feel students make choices to do what they want and what interests them. The DSU has kept students informed on events."

Outgoing DSU vice-president Katherine Hannah also expressed satisfaction with her ability to accomplish the goals she set out to achieve during her election campaign.

This year's treasurer, Michael Murphy, also claimed a very successful year.

"My long term goal is to provide financial stability for the Union," Murphy said.

"The investment portfolio exceeded all expectations by doubling the annual return from 5 per cent to 11 per cent; that is an incredible feat."

Outgoing DSU vice-president academic/external Chris Lydon and vice-president community affairs Carman Barteaux both stated that they had accomplished their goals.

As this is the first year of the report, there are no previous statistics available for comparison. McCaig and Michael hope that their experience with the report this year will aid next year's executive review committee.