

Tenure up for another review

by Rob Galbraith

Student input in the tenure process may be increased if a proposal by Board of Governors representative Dave Oginski is adopted by the University.

The awarding of tenure, or limited job security, to professors is currently decided by a departmental committee, with no provision for student input.

The new proposal "follows closely a 1978 proposal," Oginski noted, in describing his plan to allow interested students to submit letters to

pled that the issue was too important to be dropped.

"Students, whose lives and careers may depend on the skill and ability of professors, have too little say in the awarding of tenure. They have to have some input in the (tenure) process."

Tenure is granted to ensure that professors have a measure of academic freedom, allowing them to teach and conduct research without fear of losing their position. In a paper prepared by Students' Council, tenured appointments are des-

dismissed.

Each department's FTC, an eight or nine-member group of faculty administrators and professors, is responsible for deciding who may receive tenure. The Committee bases their decision on a professor's achievement in the following areas: teaching, research and scholarly work, knowledge of the discipline, contributions to the department (eg. committee work), and public service. If a professor is seen to be working satisfactorily in these five areas, he is granted tenure. If tenure is not offered, a professor may appeal to the General Appeals Committee. The FTC is not required to disclose its reasons for refusing tenure.

Tenured appointments are generally perceived as necessary to ensure professors have the academic freedom they need to pursue scholarly activities. Several groups on campus, however, have called into question the process by which professors are granted tenure. Most took exception to the lack of student input in the process.

In 1972 the Students' Union hired Pan-Alta Management Ltd. to research the issue of tenure, as Council at that time felt that student input in the tenure process should be increased. The company submitted their findings, but there is no record of the S.U. acting on them.

One year later student representatives to General Faculties Council (GFC) put forward a motion that each FTC "include either a graduate student or a fourth year undergraduate, elected in a manner specified by General Faculties Council." The motion was defeated.

Students' Council for the 1977-78 school year also put forth a proposal to increase student input in the tenure process. The proposal, which called for the posting of names eligible for tenure and a means by which students could make written submissions to the FTC's, was submitted to Dean's Council. They found the proposal

unworkable, and declined to pursue it further.

In the intervening period, little consideration was given to the subject of tenure. As mentioned, however, Dave Oginski is currently preparing a submission dealing with student input in the tenure process.

Oginski feels that the written submissions to the FTC's is the most effective way students can participate in the awarding of tenure. His proposal is as follows:

An interested student would submit a letter to the Dean of Students, who would verify that the student was enrolled in a lecture given by that professor. He would also confirm that the student was in regular attendance on campus.

With that completed, the Dean of Students would submit the letter, with the writer's name stricken, to the appropriate FTC. The FTC chairman would consider the letter, and, if it contained information that the chairman felt required greater explanation, he would contact the Dean of Students, requesting that the student appear before the FTC. The Dean of Students would contact the student, informing him of the chairman's wish that the student give up his anonymity and speak before the FTC. The student would have the option of declining to appear.

Oginski will be presenting his proposal to the Academic Development Committee later this year.



the Faculty Tenure Committee (FTC). The 1978 Students' Council submitted a similar proposal to University administration, but it was never implemented.

Under Oginski's scheme, names of professors eligible for tenure would be posted in campus libraries, accompanied by a notice explaining the procedures involved in making a submission. Students would also have the option of appearing before an FTC.

When asked why he was attempting to implement a proposal that the University administration had already turned down, Oginski re-

scribed as necessary because "they provide assurance that those who hold them will have unrestrained opportunity to develop their scholarly capacity." The paper goes on to say, "Without the security provided by tenured appointments... it would be difficult to resist pressure to make decisions on courses and programs for short-term, expedient reasons."

Normally, academics hired by the University to instruct are given probationary appointments, which can be extended to a total of five-and-a-half years. At this point professors are either offered tenure or

Shinerama successful

by Jennifer Froelich

On September 25 and 26, about 40 students from the University of Alberta set out with balloons and shoe-shine kits in hand to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

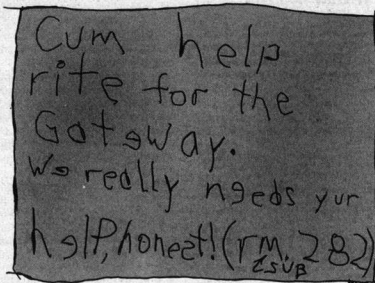
The occasion was the fourth annual Shinerama campaign at the University. The students made sure that people had shiny shoes and their children had

balloons.

Thanks to the efforts of the participants, the University raised \$2450 of the \$15,000 collected in Edmonton.

The Students' Union at the University also deserves special thanks for their generous support of the event.

Next year, organizers hope that even more Faculties will become involved.



ARTS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SU REP BY-ELECTION

Nominations open for one position on Students' Council on October 20, 1987.

CLOSED OCTOBER 30, 1987

Nomination forms may be picked up at 2-3 Humanities

ELECTION-NOV10/87

For more information contact
CRO — 432-5085

A HALLOWEEN PARTY!!

featuring

THE SPOONS

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

UPANGYBOTTOMS



COSTUMES MANDATORY

Saturday, October 31
Edmonton Convention Centre
Light Dinner - No Minors

Tickets at Bass & Downhill Riders 451-6122

Produced by the Edmonton Convention Centre

Downhill Riders