

## Grad faculty no help

# SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

*The President and Vice-President of the University of Alberta have declared that the University is in financial difficulties, and have presented what has been termed a "disaster budget" to the rest of the University. In this disaster budget, areas of the University receive cuts ranging from 1.2 per cent to 100 per cent. This issue of the Gateway includes the entire University budget for the financial year ending March 31, 1972; a list of the proposed cuts to that budget to take effect for the financial year ending March 31, 1973; analyses of the figures; and stories on the responses of various persons in the University to the University's financial predicament.*

## GFC retains V-P Finance position

At its February 28th meeting GFC considered a motion, presented by the Academic Staff Association, that the vacancy to be created by the resignation of Dr. D. G. Tyndall, Vice-President for Finance and Administration, not be filled.

In proposing the motion the president of the AASUA, Dr. L. G. Stephens-Newsham made the following supporting points:

1) The University Administration had made it almost impossible for departments to fill academic vacancies but was now proposing that an administrative vacancy must be filled immediately.

2) The hiring of a new Vice-President for Finance and Administration is not simply a replacement but will involve an addition to the University Staff since Dr. Tyndall is being hired by the Faculty of Business Administration.

3) That it would probably be possible for the existing staff to absorb the work-load caused by Dr. Tyndall's resignation since Dr. Tyndall and Dr. Leitch (Associate Vice-President for Finance and Administration) had frequently performed each others duties while the other one was away for a time.

Although the motion drew some support from faculty and student members of GFC it was also strongly opposed by several senior members. Dean Ford of Engineering noted: "It is totally naive that you could run a \$100 Million business and not have a chief financial officer to help you make the decisions". Dean Smith of Arts also pointed out that University was a \$100 million business and added that his experience in the army convinced him that such an administrative position must be filled immediately.

Dr. Stephens-Newsham then attempted to convince GFC that the University was not a business. The AASUA motion was finally defeated.

At the same meeting GFC decided to set up a committee to review the University Administration. No decision was taken on the structure, terms of reference or reporting date of the committee and as Dr. Henry Kreisel (Academic Vice-President) pointed out about the committee: "This will take a very long time".

See the stories on investment portfolio and Faculty of Business Administration.

If statements made Friday by the Dean of Graduate Studies are any indications, present graduate students will receive little protection from their Faculty Office, against financial cuts.

Dean J. R. McGregor was asked if his office thought priority should be given to presently-enrolled graduate students in awarding of financial assistance, as it seemed the amount of assistance available might well be cut. He replied, "Well, you see, we make no policy in that respect. As far as Graduate Teaching Assistantships are concerned, these are entirely in the hands of the Departments. As far as the other financial assistance is concerned, we have meetings which allocate these funds, but there is much flexibility within the departments as to how they shall be distributed. It's up to departments to make their request for them."

Dean McGregor went on to say, "It would be quite inappropriate and would reduce the flexibility which departments presently have in meeting their own objectives if we were to try to legislate this matter. We just wouldn't consider doing it."

Associate Deans R. K. Brown and P. J. Meekison, present at the interview, did not disagree with the Dean's statements.

The deans had just come from

an emergency meeting of the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, called to discuss the cuts in the budget proposed for their Faculty. Dean McGregor stated, "At the meeting this afternoon, the Council expressed grave concern with the magnitude of the cut that we have been asked to take, and they authorized the establishment of a sub-committee of Council to consider alternatives. But what form these alternatives would take I just wouldn't be prepared to anticipate, I think it would be wrong for me to anticipate what the decisions of the Committee would be."

He stated that the sub-committee had not been given a deadline for submitting its report, although "we hope it will give a preliminary report sometime next week", and that he was not aware of any deadline President Wyman had set for final budget decisions.

When asked specifically what steps for implementing the proposed \$482,000 cut were being contemplated by the Faculty, Dean McGregor replied "The meeting left this entirely up to the sub-committee. There were a variety of expressions of concern for the magnitude of the cut, and the question was resolved as far as this

afternoon's Council meeting was concerned by the formation of this committee to look into alternatives."

When asked if there was any thought whatsoever of cutting Intercession Bursaries, Dean McGregor could only say, "Well, again, this will have to come as a result of the deliberations of the committee."

When asked about the general policy of encouraging or restricting admission to the Faculty because of the tight financial situation, the Dean said, "We have no restrictive policies nor do we anticipate having any on restricting the number of students that we will admit to this university or allow to register. The question of assistance is separate from that. We have large numbers of students here at the present time who have no assistance of any kind."

"Now inasmuch as financial assistance is a determinant in whether or not a student enrolls, that is a separate question. I wouldn't pretend that a lack of financial support will not deter certain students from coming. On the other hand, there is nothing to stop them from coming if they can come without financial assistance."

## Two different administrators - Two different sets of answers

The following are the responses of the President, Dr. M. Wyman, and the Vice-President for Finance and Administration, Dr. D. G. Tyndall, in separate interviews last Wednesday.

**Question: Why is the University in this difficult financial state? Is there any explanation other than the facts that student enrollment is down and the provincial government has not given all the money asked for?**

The Vice-President: "No, that's basically the problem. Our revenues for the two reasons you mention will be below the level which we require if we were to continue the level of operations which we have in the present year."

The President: "I think it's longer. I'll explain if you like. There are two aspects of the problem; first of all the revenues that are coming to the University, and secondly, the expenditures. I think it's extremely important to realize that there has been no cutback in the revenues. Actually the revenues to this university have increased. The government has given \$91.1 million dollars to the University Commission in grants, and the University of Alberta will receive \$57.2 million of that, which gives an increase of about \$1.6 million dollars. The reason we're hurting so much is that we have a budget expenditure of \$68,200,000 which is supposed to be for 19,500 students. Whether or not they showed up or not, these were approved expenditures for this current year."

**Question: Was this state predicted or expected?**

The Vice-President: "With respect to enrollment, it depends how far one goes back when one says 'expected'. Certainly our expectation for the past 6 months have been that probably we're faced with essentially a static enrolment picture for a

year or two. And this clearly means in terms of fee revenue and in terms of the government grant on the formula basis, that revenues will be less than we expected they would be a couple of years ago. We certainly were projecting more increases in the number of students coming to this university." "We have a shift in the trend. Where that goes in the future of course, is something that no one can predict with any great reliability at this point."

The President: "Neither the Universities Commission nor the University predicted the drop in enrollment."

**Question: Who is responsible for the proposed budget cuts now being circulated?**

The Vice-President: "There were certain documents distributed to Deans and Department Chairmen, and which have my initials on the bottom of them. So I don't deny some responsibility for them. They were prepared after consultation with the President and the other Vice-Presidents and prepared at the President's instructions."

The President: "I was responsible... The responsibility lies with me because I have been studying the budget figures for over two years, anticipating that we might have trouble this time, and I certainly became aware of it last Fall when the student numbers took such a great drop."

**Question: Why has not the University adopted a 9% cut across the board, rather than giving some areas greater cuts than others?**

The Vice-President: "Two reasons, I would say. One is that there have been

significant differences in enrollment patterns in different faculties, and this has resulted in different workload changes in terms of fewer teaching requirements for both faculty and teaching assistants and so on. And so it would seem most unwise where a faculty has had a substantial increase in their workload to cut them by the same amount as a faculty which has had a significant decrease.

That is certainly one factor. And the other one is in their ability to absorb cuts there are differences between departments. It might have been quite impossible in one area to absorb a cut because of fixed contractual commitments, whereas in another area it might have been possible without difficulty from that point of view, from the point of view of fixed contractual commitments which the University has."

The President: "Because it would decimate the Faculties and Schools. The cuts were decided in all faculties except the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, by workload, and then we divided up the target cuts on that basis."

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research should not be compared with an operating faculty with teaching duties. The vast amount of moneys in the Faculty of Graduate Studies is in scholarships of one kind or another, fee remissions, etc., and so it isn't legitimate to compare its percentage with something else which is of a different nature entirely."

**Question: What is your position on the \$25,000 ceiling on salaries in the University, proposed by one Department Chairman?**

The Vice-President: "I don't think that was the proposal. Either I can comment on what you said or I can comment on what the proposal was. I think that the proposal to put a ceiling on salaries in the

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"Big story, eh? Is the Gateway going back into publication?"

P.J. Meekison