

First student voice

Student rep appointed to MPHEC

by Valerie Mansour
Canadian University Press

Students now have representation on the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). Terry Morrison, a first year law student at UNB Fredericton, was appointed in July after being recommended to the Nova Scotia government by the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS).

Morrison, a former student union vice-president at Acadia

University, said it is important the commission hears the students' views. He attended the August meeting and found the members to have a genuine concern for student issues. "They seemed to respect my opinions", Morrison said.

The MPHEC was established in early 1974 by the Council of Maritime Premiers to coordinate and plan the development of post-secondary education in the Maritimes. It was to act as a neutral body to deal

with the question of funding levels to Maritime institutions.

The commission's major issue this year will again be the financing allotments for the institutions. "The amount of funds must be increased to ensure a high quality education", Morrison said. Last year, the MPHEC recommended to the CMP a funding increase of 14%. The governments, like the year before, rejected their suggestion and slashed the figure almost in half.

"Student aid will also be an important issue this year", Morrison said. I think people who are dealing with the situation really don't understand all the problems Maritime students have with student aid.

There will be a complete investigation into the situation. That's something I'm really interested in."

The commission meets every two months at a different place in the Maritimes. "So far we've dealt mainly with housecleaning issues. At the October meeting I expect we'll discuss funding levels more thoroughly."

"It's important for me to keep in touch with students", Morrison said. "I plan to work with AFS and with individual student unions—whatever way I can reach students best. I need their input so I will have a better idea of the student perspective."

The MPHEC's meetings are

confidential. "If information is prematurely released it could jeopardize the commission's relationship with the Premiers", Morrison said.

"I hope my presence on the commission will be valuable", Morrison concluded. "I know it will be a real learning experience."

The MPHEC presently consists of fifteen members. The Premiers choose five from the public and five from government and other non academic institutions while five members are chosen by the universities. Morrison's appointment is for three years.

Nfld. students paying more

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Tuition has increased 5% at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The President of the university, M.O. Morgan, said that even with the increase the university is expected to be short of \$1 million.

Enrollment is expected to decrease and Morgan said that he believed the increased amount a student would have to borrow was a major factor in discouraging prospective or returning students.

The amount of loan a student has to borrow before being eligible for the provincial grant has been increased by \$125 to \$575. A student normally borrowing between \$575 and \$1450 would have to pay an

extra thousand dollars after graduating from a four-year programme.

The minimum loan had been scheduled to be increased to \$700 but was forced back to \$575 by the active opposition of students. "Although the Board of Regents held its own talks with government," Morgan said, "most credit must be given to the students negotiations."

Already, in anticipation of the decrease in the number of students, the contracts of people hired on a temporary basis have not been renewed and those who would have been hired for this year, will not be, said Morgan.

Cutbacks continued . . . faculty

TORONTO (CUP)—Ontario universities may have to cut up to 2000 faculty by 1982 if the increase in operating grants from the province is limited to 4.5 per cent, according to the Council of Ontario Universities.

In a brief to the Ontario Council on University Affairs, the COU warns that the provincial governments current financing policies would result in "a significant decline in the quality of . . . university programs and services".

The Ontario Council on Uni-

versity Affairs advises the provincial ministry of colleges and universities on post-secondary education financing.

"The only other way the financial slack could be taken up would be to **double present tuition fees**," said a COU spokesperson.

The provincial government has indicated that increases in grants to universities will be kept between 4.5 and 5.8 per cent for the next few years, according to the brief.

Job program a sham- NUS

OTTAWA (CUP)—A federal government decision to expand summer job programs for students has been denounced as a "complete sham" by the National Union of Students (NUS).

The expansion would mean an extra 13-14,000 jobs in three federal job creation programs. However, NUS representatives pointed out this number was miniscule compared to the 231,000 students unemployed in July.

NUS executive member Bev Crossman called the decision an insult, saying the government had done nothing to alleviate drastic youth and summer unemployment in the past.

"Today it has the nerve to attempt to score political points with changes that are cosmetic at best and do not address the desperate and deteriorating situation we face."

The changes, announced by Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen September 1, expanded Young Canada Works by 11,300 jobs.

They were part of a general expansion of federal job creation, which Cullen expected would reduce the general unemployment rate by 1 per cent.

He said a "main feature" of the expansion was "the development of a strategy to increase youth employment, particularly in the private sector".

He particularly emphasized the Job Experience Training (JET) Program, which he said was "highly successful". That program, which subsidizes up to half of young workers' hourly wage for up to 26 weeks to give them job experience, will be expanded by 45 million this year.

According to NUS president John Tuzyk, however, JET is "the best example of government refusal to meet the desire of young people to find long-term employment".

He said the entire package

was met with "disappointment, frustration, and anger" by student leaders who know "short-term make-work programs will not keep Canada's half million unemployed young people off unemployment lists".

NUS executive secretary Pat Gibson predicted "many students will find themselves in a real catch-22 situation. They won't have the jobs that can send them to school, and, out of school, they won't have the jobs to keep them in the labour force."

"Whether Cullen wishes to face the fact or not, students in this generation have almost no opportunity for a secure working future," she said.



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