

Exclusive airline deal angers UBC faculty

BY ALEX BUSTOS

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A business deal between Canadian Airlines and the University of British Columbia has ignited a debate about who controls professors' wallets.

The arrangement, which took effect at the beginning of the year, obliges university employees on academic business to fly with the airline. Those who can find a cheaper flight with another airline or those travelling to a destination not covered by Canadian are exempt from the rule.

The contract coincides with changes to UBC's travel policy requiring staff to choose between two university-approved travel agencies.

George Bluman, head of the Mathematics Department, says

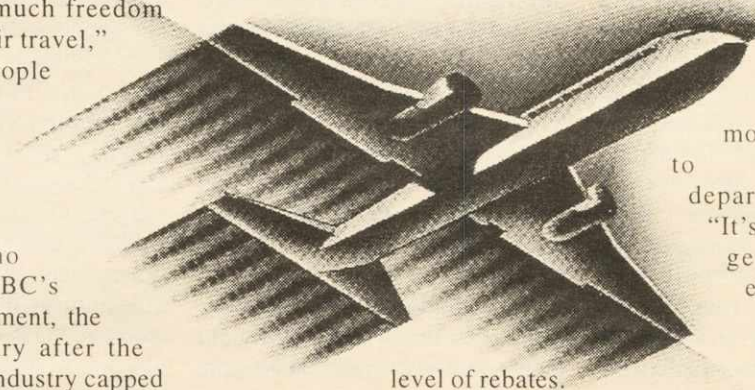
he is not convinced that the airline deal makes economic sense.

"[Professors] want to spend their grants wisely and they want to have as much freedom as possible on their travel," he said. "Many people are not convinced there will be any savings at all."

But according to a recent memo distributed by UBC's purchasing department, the deal was necessary after the Canadian airline industry capped the commissions travel agencies made on airfares. Those caps cut the amount agencies rebated to clients like UBC.

"Estimates indicate travel agency commission rebates to UBC would decline from

\$150,000 in 1997 to \$50,000 in 1998," the memo stated. By signing with Canadian Airlines the university says it could maintain a high



level of rebates. But the Canadian deal is really an example of administration dictating how faculty can use their research grants says one professor who wished to remain anonymous.

"Why does UBC have a travel

agency at all?" the professor asked. "This [may be] a way to avert research [grants]...to administration."

Connie Fabro, UBC's travel manager, disagrees.

"The [rebate] money is going back to each faculty department," she said. "It's not intended for general operating expenses."

According to the deal, Canadian will

provide the university with the lowest fares and give an additional rebate based on the volume of travel.

"Six per cent of the net travel [cost] will go back to each faculty," Fabro said, "and it's

proportional to the amount of travel."

The deal, following in the footsteps of a 1995 contract making Coca-Cola the sole beverage supplier on campus, has also reopened the debate on the relationship between academia and the private sector.

Robert Blake, president of the UBC's faculty association, says there has not been enough campus discussion on the level of corporate presence at the university.

"The general debate on the philosophical and political connotations of the corporate presence on campus should precede discussions on the practical advantages of business-education partnerships," he said. "To date, this debate has not occurred to any great extent."

U of M to establish common first-year program

BY ALI KHAN

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Hoping to counter high first-year dropout rates, the University of Manitoba is introducing a program that will dramatically change the way students experience their first year at university.

Called University 1, the new program requires new U of M students to take a common year of somewhat altered arts and sciences courses before applying to any specific faculty. The new program, which starts this September, is meant to make the transition from high school to university less of an ordeal by giving students more

time to explore their interests.

"University is like having a computer without a manual," said Joan McConnell, an assistant co-ordinator of the program. "You know you're supposed to do something with it, but without guidelines, you're not entirely sure just what."

The new program will be administered by a council, consisting of representatives from most U of M faculties and one student. It has already been determined that in their first year students will have to take a minimum number of arts and science course hours, with some time set aside for courses from other faculties, provided the

student has the required prerequisites.

Only students with a high school average of 85 per cent or higher will be able to enter the faculty of their choice directly in their first year.

There are a couple of faculties, such as the school of music, which students will be allowed to enter directly.

But while the goal of the program is to keep enrollment high, it may actually do the reverse, according to Winnipeg high school student Chris Millar.

"I will not be going to the University of Winnipeg next year and one of the key factors in that [decision] was

University 1," Millar said. "I think for most people who know what they want to do, University 1 is kind of unnecessary."

But Dave Burton, chair of the University 1 council, defends the program. He says for many students, the first year of university forces them to make some choices they may not necessarily be prepared to make.

Burton, along with University 1 staff, have been aggressively promoting the new program. More than 30,000 pamphlets have been distributed and there have been speaking engagements at 150 schools.

But for at least one high school administrator, the efforts have fallen short of what's required for such a major change.

According to Denis Granger, vice principal of Dakota Collegiate, the University 1 council has not been clear on what admission requirements are for the new program.

"The drawback is that there is no directive or support from either [the] Manitoba [Ministry of] Education and Training or the U of M in addressing concerns about University 1."

All sorts of people are reading The Gazette Classifieds. Are you?

Education that is right on the mark

Offering financial planning courses for more than two decades, *The Canadian Institute of Financial Planning* is the premier educator of financial planners and is the first step in achieving the prestigious **CFP[®] certification mark.**

Now offering two ways to learn - through correspondence, or in one of 42 college and university classrooms across Canada. Enter the fastest growing industry in Canada, learning from the industry leader in education.

151 Yonge Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2W7
Tel. (416) 865-1237 Toll Free 1-888-865-2437 Fax. (416) 366-1527
Email cifp@mutfunds.com Internet www.mutfunds.com/cifp

The Canadian Institute of Financial Planning

CFP is awarded under licence by the Financial Planners Standards Council of Canada.

Treasury Board of Canada / Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

IF YOU'RE A GRAD, HERE'S YOUR JOB OPPORTUNITY.

If you're between 15 and 30, a High School, College or University graduate and are currently unemployed, under-employed, and lack relevant work experience, **check this out.**

A new program sponsored by the Treasury Board Secretariat, in partnership with Career Edge, can provide you with a paid "Internship" for one year. With Career Edge, you could get the on-the-job experience that will ensure your success in the future. Indeed, Career Edge has an 82% success rate for their Interns gaining full-time employment upon completion of the Internship program.

Visit the Career Edge Website and register today: www.careeredge.org

GET BACK TO WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

Career Edge
A National Youth Internship Program

If you don't have a High School Diploma, call the YMCA at 1-800-495-8775 for an alternate program.

ACT NOW
positions are limited!

Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program

www.careeredge.org

Youth Employment Strategy / Stratégie emploi jeunesse