



Leeson challenges enumeration

The Strathcona New Democratic Party has filed a complaint with E. Hunter, Chief Returning Officer for their federal constituency, regarding restrictions that were imposed on election enumerators by the University of Alberta administration. Accompanying the complaint is a request that Hunter consider ordering another enumeration in that area.

The letter was sent after it was learned by Richard Taves, Chairman for the Howard Leeson Campaign, that Provost Ryan and Food and Housing Administrator Raven had refused to allow enumerators to go door-to-door in the three main student residences, Mackenzie, Kelsey, and Henday Halls.

Instead of being enumerated in the normal manner, students in these residences were asked to register their names at special booths that were set up for that purpose on the main floor of each residence. Because of the revised procedure, only 577 of approximately 1400 eligible students were finally entered on the voters list.

According to Taves, "The administration had no right to interfere in the manner they did." He is sure that their actions contravened the Canada Elections Act which states that enumerators shall go from house to house, which in the case of high rise apartments must mean door to door. (Sec.18a, Rule 12A and b.)

Taves said it was felt by some of the campaign officials that this irregularity especially discriminated against their campaign, as the University has traditionally been an area in which the NDP candidates receive a great deal of support.

The letter of complaint also concerns the fact that students were asked by enumerators whether or not they were "on their own". According to Taves, this question constituted a "means test" that had no connection with residency. It should have been taken for granted that students in residence spend at least more than half their year in Strathcona constituency, and that they therefore should not be asked any questions that other electors were not.

Finally, Taves wished to emphasize that he was not criticizing Hunter or her office. She has been more than fair in all her contacts with him.

wg



new GFC reps

Arts students will probably have a chance to choose two new GFC reps. According to the SU receptionist who has been accepting nominations there are now "three or four" candidates for the openings. An election will be called soon.

All arts posts were filled in last spring's election, but vacancies were created when rep Vera Radio began a programme in grad studies and rep Susan McNally decided not to return to university.

There are also two vacancies amongst education reps which will open officially in the very near future.

Nominations for the arts reps closed at noon today.

cs

GFC passes audit proposal

"After that, all hell broke loose--and so far as I can see, is still loose," commented English department chairman Ed Rose of the fate of his department's proposal to allow city teachers to audit courses in the department without being registered as students at the University.

The proposal, to Rose's apparent dismay, inspired a letter from Peter Flynn, grad student representative on GFC, which in turn prompted a motion from the GFC executive that "individuals who are not enrolled in a university course for credit and who are not registered in a degree programme may audit courses. . . ."

"If hell were as mild as this," Flynn retorted, "I would radically change my style of living." He also noted that if the motion represented all hell breaking loose in the University, then Rose was establishing himself as the gatekeeper, deciding who was to be admitted.

Other combatants in Monday's GFC battle over auditing privileges chose less fiery rhetoric to argue the merits of the motion.

Duncan Campbell, director of extension, argued that "the university does have a public service function. The question here is the degree the university is prepared to fulfill that function."

Many opponents of the proposal, including undergrad reps Jim Carter and Wood, criticized the total concept of auditing courses.

Two amendments to the motion were proposed. The first brought forward by undergrad rep Bob Curtis, that audited courses be eligible for consideration as pre-requisites to upper level courses, was defeated. A second, that permission of the department chairman, as well as faculty dean and course instructor be required was accepted as a "friendly amendment" by the mover of the motion, Flynn, over the strenuous objections of SU vice president academic Patrick Delaney.

"This is getting a little ridiculous," Delaney observed. "We might as well make the poor guy take a poll of the students in the class before he can get permission."

Gary Draper, another undergrad rep, observed that not even registered students were required to get the departmental chairman's signature before they were allowed to audit a course.

The motion carried by a margin of 46 to 38. Fee requirements for unregistered auditors and the matter of records kept of audited classes were both referred back to the GFC executive.

In other business, the council returned to the committee responsible a report prepared on the 9-point grading system.

The ad hoc committee had recommended that the 9-point scale be continued because "there was no evidence that other universities are any more satisfied with their grading systems than we are with ours." It went on to claim that "weaknesses were not thought to be inherent in the system, but rather in the misapplication of it."

Flynn criticized the report because he said it "proceeded on the basis that one and only one system be used throughout the university." He said that it ignored the possibility of pass-fail options in all courses.

Undergrad rep Gary Draper was also critical of this aspect, and questioned whether acceptance of the report's recommendation would preclude the use of pass-fail marks.

Delaney moved that the motion be referred back to committee with provision made for graduate and undergraduate representation on the committee; the motion carried.

Council also decided at Monday's meeting to refer back to the executive a proposal from the Faculty of Arts that all rights to set regulations regarding final examinations be delegate to the faculties. In its deliberations, Myer Horowitz, dean of education, asked the executive to take into account the problem posed by one faculty offering courses for a second.

Action on a programme of environmental studies at the university was deferred until the next meeting of the council.

tj

commissions dumped

Advanced Education Minister Jim Foster has announced that the Colleges and Universities Commissions will be dissolved on March 31, 1973. The Gateway contacted the chairmen of the commissions for their reactions.

H.G. Thomson, chairman of the Universities Commission, says that "the function of the commission has been to study the financial needs and requests of the universities in the province and distribute government funds."

He said he is not certain how well the proposed changes will work, preferring to wait and see. Under the new system, the department of Advanced Education will assume most of the duties of the commission, and the university others.

H. Kolesar, chairman of the Colleges Commission, does not think that the average student will be disrupted by the change. He claimed however, that the Worth Report, which made the recommendation, was inconsistent. "It seems inconsistent because the criteria listed of co-ordinating agencies come much closer to being fulfilled by the commission than by the government."

In a memorandum, Patrick Delaney, (SU Vice-President Academic) said earlier "we welcome the proposed abolition of this (University) commission. It has served for too long as a buffer behind which the government and university could hide." Delaney feels that the government can coordinate properly "provided everyone maintains a spirit of openness and cooperation."

kc