

\$1.3 billion for research

by Eric Gerings
TORONTO (CUP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney offered few details when he announced a five year \$1.3 billion boost for university science and technology programs January 14.

Opening the National Conference on Technology and Innovation, Mulroney promised new funding for the creation of national Centres of Excellence and for 2500 annual scholarships for science and engineering students.

"The broad purpose of the (Centres of Excellence) program is to establish networks of researchers and scientists across the country to conduct world class research in areas crucial to Canada's long-term competitiveness," Mulroney told the conference of over 200 education, government, business and labour representatives.

He said federal ministers will negotiate the program's details with the provinces and with the private sector.

But university and research council officials were cautiously optimistic about the first major research funding increase since the Tory

government took office in 1984.

"It's a start. I'm cheered by it, but a lot more will have to come," said Larkin Kerwin, chair of the National Research Council.

He said the increase in technology spending from 1.3 per cent of Canada's GNP to 1.35 per cent was a long way from the 2.5 per cent promised by the Tories in the 1984 election.

Canadian Association of University Teachers President John Evans agreed.

"Any improvement is to be welcomed, but it doesn't yet live up to the government's own goal," he said.

Science Council of Canada Chair Geraldine Kenney-Wallace said \$1.3 billion is a deceptively large figure.

"When you look at what has to be done in the country, \$260 million (a year) does not go very far," she said.

While the government has not released any details, the program is likely to be similar to that announced last summer by the Ontario government. The province set up research partnerships between aca-

demics and private industry at selected universities.

"The Centres of Excellence are an excellent program," Kenney-Wallace said, "but the plan has to be very well crafted on a national level to ensure that research experience and leadership are the principle criteria for the selection (of centres)."

Mulroney also gave few details about the Canada Scholarships in science and engineering, but pointed to the lack of growth in the proportion of students in these fields since 1970.

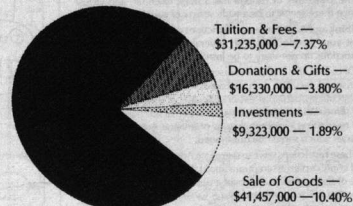
"This program will begin to change that and provide gifted students across the country with a unique opportunity to excel in areas vital to our national well-being," he said.

While student leaders and university administrators welcomed the scholarships, some were concerned about the quality of the education the recipients would get.

"If you're going to do the admirable thing of improving funding for some students," Evans said, "you have to consider the quality of what some of them will be offered. Every little thing is an improvement, but we have to put more money into basic funding; into the labs and lecture halls in this country."

U of A revenue sources

Government Grants — \$323,383,000 — 76.31%



How to spend \$423.8 million

by Gateway Staff

The U of A audited statements for fiscal year 1986-87 are out.

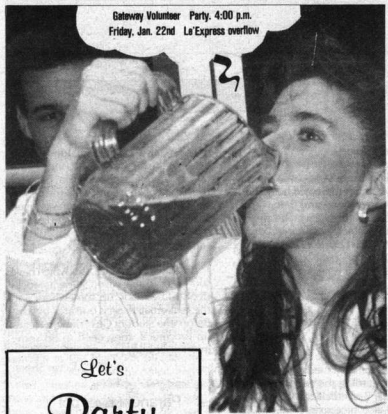
Revenues for the U of A increased by just under 7 percent to \$423.8 million, due almost entirely to increases in government grants. Government grants, from all sources for all purposes, increased 8.2 percent to \$343.4 million.

Tuition and fee increases brought

in an additional \$1.43 million bringing total student fees to \$31.2 million.

Investment income dropped by almost 17% from \$9.3 million to \$8.0 million.

A sharp increase in private donations, spurred on by Advanced Education and Endowment fund, which matches private donations with provincial funds, increased the U of A endowment funds to \$63,561,000.



Gateway Volunteer Party, 4:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22nd. L's Express overtop

Job funds frozen at \$200 million

by Michelle Lalonde

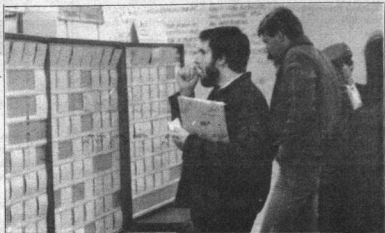
OTTAWA (CUP) — Jean Charest says students can thank a lower unemployment rate and a booming economy for the government's zero per cent increase in funding to the summer job program, Challenge 88.

The federal minister of youth announced January 12 that funding for the job creation program will remain frozen at the summer '86 and '87 levels of \$180 million.

Charest also announced that \$4 million more of that money will go toward the high school drop-out component of the program.

"A big factor for drop-outs is that they don't see university or college as options and financial barriers play a major role in that."

"Those who have benefitted the most from the program are college, CEGEP and university students, so that's why we are concerned about the secondary level students, espe-



Job seekers scan the board

file photo

cially potential drop-outs," said Charest. He said that college and university graduates represent only six per cent of total employed in Canada.

Last summer's jobless rate for returning students of 12.5 per cent

was the lowest since 1981, down slightly from the summer '86 rate of 13.3 per cent. However, rates were up substantially in Saskatchewan (from 12.7 per cent in '86 to 15.6 in '87), and in Quebec (from 14.8 to 15.8).

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An additional penalty of \$15.00 per month will be assessed for each month in which a student's fees remain unpaid. Students are reminded that the University cannot accept responsibility for the actions of the post office if payments are not received by the deadline date. Also, if payment is dishonored and not replaced by the appropriate deadline date, the penalty will apply.

The Regulations further state that should payment not be made by January 31st, registration will be subject to cancellation.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller, 3rd Floor, Administration Building or by mail addressed to the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2M7.

Office of the Comptroller

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