



—Al Scarth photo
DISMISSED COLWYN WILLIAMSON
... the tenure committee said no

Grant increases necessary - Price

By SHEILA BALLARD

The provincial cabinet's recommendation to increase per capita grants to universities is an indication of the success of student lobbying in Alberta.

Officials of the students' union are confident that the effectiveness of students as a pressure group has been recognized in the government decision.

"It is essential for the grant increases to come through and we are naturally very pleased by the cabinet recommendation," says students' union president, Richard Price.

On Jan. 7 students' council presented a brief to the Board of Governors outlining council's stand on residence and fee rates.

"We had a lengthy and worthwhile exchange of ideas at this time," said Price.

Students' council has been actively campaigning to prevent a fee increase for two years.

The last fee hike came in the 1963-64 session when tuition fees were increased \$50.

It is now up to the Board of Governors to make a final decision concerning fees.

However, the provincial government does have indirect control over fees—a grant increase is in effect a deterrent to fee increases, Price pointed out.

The crucial decision will probably be made at the Board of Governors meeting Feb. 11.

"I feel the premier's comment that he hoped the provincial grant would cut out the necessity for a fee increase is significant.

"I do not believe a statement to this effect has ever been made before," said Price.

The federal government has increased its per capita grant from \$2 to \$5.

Since this will mean substantial assistance to universities in Alberta, we are optimistic that combined grants will prevent a fee increase, says Price.

However, we must not stop now but begin to look at things for next fall, he said.

"I see the possibility of a student group attending various conventions, such as the ATA and the FUA, which will be meeting next fall in an effort to acquaint these groups with our cause."

Williamson, Murray denied U of A tenure

Advisory committee rejects appeal by philosophy profs

By RALPH MELNYCHUK
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Two U of A assistant professors have lost the second round of their battle to retain their positions in the philosophy department.

The Gateway has learned that an advisory committee of the Vice-President has recommended assistant professors David Murray and Colwyn Williamson be denied tenure.

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Committee decides on tenure

A tenure committee's recommendation that two faculty members be refused permanent positions has sparked interest in the hiring procedure at U of A.

The tenure committee is an advisory committee of the vice-president of the university, responsible for investigating the qualifications of faculty members and evaluating their contribution to the university.

Faculty members become eligible for permanent positions at the university after a five-year trial period. Prior to this they are hired on an annual basis, upon the approval of the tenure committee which evaluates their performance and presents their recommendations to the administration.

The committee advises the administration to grant or deny tenure to the faculty member requesting the permanent position—the final decision, of course, rests with the Board of Governors.

In the case of a denial of tenure the Board has no positive role since it may merely accept the advice of the committee and allow the contract to lapse—without making the actual decision to dismiss the faculty member.

The faculty member may seek reconsideration of his case by appealing to a grievance committee of the local staff association—but the committee can only request reconsideration on behalf of the faculty member.

The members of the tenure committee are drawn from both faculty and administration.

- The members are:
- the university vice-president,
 - the dean of the faculty involved,
 - the head of the department involved,
 - one member of the department involved,
 - two members of the academic staff from other departments.

The members are selected by the dean and the department head and approved by the university vice-president.

University Vice-President Dr. Max Wyman has apparently accepted the recommendation. However, he would make no comment about the affair.

"It would be improper for me to make any statement," he said. "This is a personal matter between the professors involved and the university administration."

Both assistant professors Murray and Williamson have refused to make any public statement.

On Jan. 3 the two professors were first informed that their tenure would not be renewed. They then lodged an appeal through the welfare committee of the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta at Edmonton.

COMMITTEE RECONVENED

After a hearing, the staff association recommended that the tenure committee be reconvened with the addition of a third member of the philosophy department, a tenured member.

The Vice-President reconvened the committee, but in its original form. The second decision was the same, although it took considerably longer to reach.

It is normal procedure to have a tenured member of the department involved on a tenure committee.

The only other tenured member of the philosophy department, other than department head Dr. A. M. Mardiros, who is automatically a member of the committee, is Professor Herman Tennesen.

Professor Tennesen was not a member of the committee.

TERMS NOT ACCEPTABLE

A spokesman from the philosophy department, who wished to remain anonymous, and who is neither Williamson nor Murray, suggested that the decision was made on grounds which are not normally acceptable in considering tenure.

He said there are certain procedural rules of weighting judgment in tenure cases—60 per cent goes for teaching, 30 per cent for scholarship, and 10 per cent for community activities and general value to the department.

"There is no doubt that both are competent teachers," he said. "Neither is there any doubt in the minds of those who are competent that both are able scholars."

"However, no one on the committee made any attempt to become significantly acquainted with the works of these professors, with the possible exception of the Vice-President, who read a major part of one of them," he said.

Former and present graduate and

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Dismissal sparks dispute

REGINA (CUP)—A special student assembly here heard charges of outside interference in the university's dismissal of a teaching assistant with radical views.

James Harding, 24, told more than 400 concerned students at a Jan. 19 meeting that the administration's decision to refuse him tenure was a threat to academic freedom.

It was the second meeting held in an attempt to clarify the issues and allow the students to hear the principles in the dispute.

Harding cited numerous telephone calls from parents, and particularly a call from a Brigadier Keehr, in which Keehr suggested to the administration that Harding was not good for the "image" of the university.

Harding claims the administration's action had been purely subjective and personal with no consideration of his academic qualifications or teaching ability.

The head of the psychology department's committee on tenure told the students' assembly that the department considered Harding's qualifications adequate and his teaching ability equal to any other member of the department.

Dr. D. Blewett also outlined many instances in which Harding had taken the initiative and sacrificed his own time to organize departmental seminars.

Harding is an instructional assistant in the psychology department and is the federal chairman of the Students' Union for Peace Action.

Brigadier Keehr, the alleged instigator of the dismissal, declined attending the meeting saying he had been advised it would be bad for the image of the university.

The administration fears me as a threat to the system, Harding said in a recent interview.

"People in Regina, as on other campuses, are extremely sensitive about the happenings at Berkeley last year," he said.

The students have formed an investigation committee to study the dispute and prepare a documentary report and recommendations on the affair.