

CFS floundering as it faces two referenda

OTTAWA(CUP)—With a deficit of \$65,000 hanging over its head, the Canadian Federation of Students faces two crucial membership referenda this month.

The 66 member federation hopes Brandon University students in Manitoba will vote to join CFS on Oct. 3 and the University of Calgary graduate students reaffirm their

support on Oct. 10.

Although CFS chair Beth Olley says the national organization is not counting on the referenda to bolster its floundering finances, she admits any membership fees will certainly help.

"We're not banking on the referenda in our financial plan. (But) obviously they could improve

our financial situation and our political viability, which I think may be more important," she said.

The Federation's deficit was estimated to be nearly \$96,000 in May. CFS shaved off about \$26,000 in the summer by dropping its position of accessibility researcher for a six-month period, scrimping on expenses, and paying off debts to the University of Prince Edward Island. The organization recently paid off another \$5,000 in conference debts to UPEI.

Olley says she is optimistic that CFS will score a victory at Brandon University. Although a membership referendum failed there a year and a half ago, she says the university's student union is now supportive of CFS.

Ruth Pryzner, Brandon student union vice-president external, also expects a CFS win. She says students are more interested than ever in the organization and willing to throw their support behind it.

"People are becoming more politicized on campus. I think they'll show up to vote yes and I hope they do because CFS is a national voice for students."

But the federation will have a harder time at the University of Calgary. Robert Gordon, grad society spokesperson, says graduate students are concerned about the financial burden which membership in CFS is placing on the union. The U of C graduate students have been members for more than two years and, according to Gordon pay about \$10,000 a year in membership fees and travel costs to general meetings.

"We felt it was necessary to reconsider our position considering the widespread concerns about the organization. But we are not so concerned with the incompetence of the organization as we are with the burden it is placing on us."

Although no organized "no" campaign has surfaced, the gradu-

ate student union printed leaflets outlining the pros and cons of staying in the federation. It also set up rooms allowing students to organize either a "yes" or "no" campaign, but no one showed up.

Two other membership referenda were scheduled for October, but one has been postponed and the other cancelled.

Mount Royal College in Calgary will hold a referendum in November, says Dave Linsley, student union vice-president external. He says he the CFS will likely lose because colleges in Alberta, including Mount Royal, are more interested in participating in the Alberta Colleges and Technical Institute Student Executive Council, an organization similar to CFS's provincial wings.

The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design has decided not to hold a pull-out referendum because the student union has reaffirmed its support for the federation.

Residents calmer...

by Gilbert Bouchard

U of A students are becoming more academically inclined and showing so by their housing preferences.

U of A Housing and Food Services set aside five floors of their residences for special academic floors with stricter regulations to encourage a better academic environment and are now turning away students.

"The five academic floors are completely full, and we have a long waiting list for people who want to get in," said U of A Housing Officer Penny Hiebert.

Hiebert added that the residence's 13 social floors are full, the 5 quiet floors have only two vacancies and the five academic floors are filled to capacity with 175 students. "All our vacancies are in the regular floors," said Hiebert.

"We also see a trend towards people wanting a quiet place to study," Hiebert said.

Hiebert sees a trend toward seriousness at the U of A. "Students want to be able to get into their studies a whole lot more, after all that's why they're here."

"Students are getting more mature and are more likely to be more serious about their studies," said Hiebert. She also suspects that the current economic climate and limited job prospects may also be contributing to the return to more academically serious environments.

Hiebert sees university residences getting more and more academically inclined as more and more students can't study as much as they would like on the social floors and turn toward the academic floors.

"I've talked to a lot other housing officers across the country, and they see the same trend," said Hiebert.

Also, while the University is setting aside more rooms for special academic floors Hiebert said that the social floors are not becoming any stricter.

"I haven't seen any change in policy this year," said Hiebert.

Hiebert mentioned that the liquor policy has changed, but that change reflects changes to the Universities liquor policies and has been felt in all areas, not only the residences. "Now students have to get their permits for floor parties and such through the Housing office instead of having to go to the ALCB for the same permit."

Hiebert also doesn't think that there is anything unreasonable about the U of A's housing policies, "They're pretty much standard."

...but not here

VANCOUVER(CUP)—Students living in the University of B.C. residences are circulating a petition opposing proposals by UBC housing directors to restrict the consumption of alcohol and the number of parties on campus.

The petition says the residence students have the right to determine when they can hold dances and throw parties. The proposals call for a ban on parties of any kind from Sunday to Thursday night, no drinking games at organized functions and 11 residence-wide parties scheduled by the authorities to be staffed by professional bartenders.

Max Pethybridge, one residence association president, said the proposals put an end to Wednesday night beer nights and mean bars have to close at 11 pm on Saturday and Fridays. The ban will only increase alcohol related problems, he added.

"All they are doing is lowering the amount of organized functions and increasing unorganized functions," Pethybridge said.

Pethybridge said early bar closure means students will throw parties in their rooms and off-campus, leading them to drink and drive.

He warned that "there's going to be hell" if housing directors do not respond to the petition.

But housing director Mary Flores says the petition will have to be "very convincing" before she will consider withdrawing the proposals and added the provincial Liquor Control Board has thrown its support behind the liquor crackdown.



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