



the dalhousie gazette

Staff Meeting Thursday at 7:00 Gazette Offices 3rd Floor, SUB Very Important

Universities borrow from banks

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"We don't want to go to the bank," said Best. "We don't like deficit financing. It doesn't make much sense if it is going to be an endless process."

Best said Laurentian is in the process of reducing staff in Arts and Science courses, but does not want to allow the quality of service to suffer.

Underfunding was the topic of a meeting between 15 university presidents and the Ontario provincial government on September 7. Guelph University's Donald Forster said that government representatives at the meeting, including Premier Bill Davis; Treasurer Frank Miller; Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development; and Stephenson, made no commitment to increase funding to universities.

But Forster said the university presidents got a sympathetic hearing and he expects an announcement of some form of aid to universities will be made in early November.

Not all those at the meeting were convinced the Ontario government will come up with the needed funds though.

"There is the possibility of the education system gradually eroding into inconsequential mediocrity", said John Panabaker, Chairman of the McMaster University Board of Governors.

His comments were echoed by University of Toronto President James Ham. "The education system is on the verge of eroding now as it becomes

increasingly more difficult to sustain the library collection and keep university salaries relative to salaries in other sectors of society," he said.

Ham said the education system depends on three factors: a public reaffirmation of the value of education, clarification of the role of the

universities and a willingness of the government to provide reasonably adequate levels of funding.

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