

President Myer Horowitz on cut-

Interview by Ken Bosman

In this, the first part of a wide ranging interview with University of Alberta President Myer Horowitz, the President presents his views on tuition fees, staff morale, and entrance requirements.

The President also issues a challenge to the Government to "do the honest thing" and spell out its position on post secondary educational accessibility.

THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

There are financial concerns about the future. These days I zero in on financial difficulties. But it is also crucial to remind ourselves, and to remind others, that there are other pieces to the puzzle.

It is a difficult time. If I speak out on two successive weeks it may seem as if I'm reversing myself. I'm not, it's just that it's so important to focus on two main parts.

On the one hand, to underline the very real difficulties we're having, — In my letter to the Minister [of Advanced Education] I referred to an "urgent" appeal. I don't use that term lightly.

The other side is to underline some of the very exciting developments of which we can all be proud. We've moved into new fields — the doctoral program in Business; The massive expansion of the program in Rehabilitation Med-

icine; a modest, far more modest than I would have like, school of native studies.

In the research area, the changes are even more dramatic. Without neglecting high quality basic research, which we are into far more today than even five years ago, we are moving in a variety of ways into the developmental end of the continuum — technology transfer, if you will.

[On September 21st] the Alberta Ministry of Technology honoured five Albertans for having achieved

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a great deal. Three of the five are at the University of Alberta. That made my day.

If we emphasize only the dark financial picture compared with ten years ago, we're not being fair to ourselves. We are not acknowledging what we have achieved.

On the other hand, if we focus only on the positive we may fool ourselves, and fool others, into

thinking everything is fine, that we'll be able to continue to achieve what we have been able to achieve. I fear we may not, unless things change.

STUDENT COSTS — RAISING TUITION FEES

Some University presidents out east have taken a position I could never endorse — that fees should grow to forty, fifty, even sixty percent of the cost of running the University. That's completely out of line.

Philosophically, in a pure situation divorced from the agony of the moment, I would have no difficulty adjusting to no fees.

I underline this, though — even in provinces that have had left of center governments, the fee component has continued. I think that says something. The NDP government in Manitoba hasn't resulted in the abolition of University fees. I liked very much the principle introduced by former Advanced Education Minister Jim Horseman, that fees should represent 8 to 12 percent of the cost of running the University. There is nothing magic about 8 to 12 percent, but it is a way of saying, "Yes, there should be fees, but they should not be too large a portion of the cost of running the University."

In my mind fees are directly related to the other revenues to the

University of Alberta Operating Grants (Thousands of dollars)

74-75	\$85,058
75-76	\$94,356
76-77	\$104,254
77-78	\$112,868
78-79	\$122,703
79-80	\$136,253
80-81	\$157,009
81-82	\$182,355
82-83	\$195,963
83-84	\$202,279
84-85	\$211,752
85-86	\$221,844
86-87	\$215,915

University. You focus on the fee component because it can be adjusted when you feel the government grant is inadequate. It must be clear that the fee adjustment we proposed this year was not proposed in a vacuum but in the context of the situation.

It's legitimate to ask why we suddenly considered a special fee, which we called "Library and Computer Services," when we didn't consider it ten years ago...it's obvious these things are related to each other.

I guess I'm admitting that the time is of such urgency that I may

find myself not only party to, but the initiator of, other changes — changes which would really have the effect of increasing the portion of the total expenditures derived from fees to 14 or 15 percent. That's inconsistent, I'd be the first to acknowledge it, but I know what I'm saying. I don't want fees to be too large, and on the other hand, in a particular year I may find myself proposing adjustments which have the effect of increasing the fee component.

However, when you're going up to 14 or 15 percent then it's time to invest even more energy in ex-

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