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Administration backed down...

...were they nervous?

McGill women's lib prof reinstated

Montreal (CUPI) - The Renewal Committee of the Sociology Department decided last night to grant Marlene Dixon a new three year contract. There is speculation that this sudden change of heart was prompted by the university administration

in order to avoid campus unrest.

The Department apparently had realized that it had failed in its attempt to disguise the political motives behind Dixon's possible dismissal.

Just a week ago, the committee levelled charges of academic incompetence against Dixon, a well known women's liberationist and political activist.

But from the beginning, the political nature of the attempted firing was a much debated issue in the McGill University community.

The claims that Dixon's classes were 'harangues' and that marking was 'arbitrary and biased' were destroyed by several petitions from both graduate and undergraduate students.

The charge that Dixon's published work was lacking and insignificant fell through when 11 leading sociologists from outside the university wrote letters to the committee verifying her academic abilities.

The procedures against Dixon were dramatically exposed as farcical when two outside

observers attended a committee meeting. One observer, Jean-Guy Vaillancourt, a member of the Ethics Committee of the Canadian Sociological Association, stated that this political 'hatchet job', as he called it, would not go unpunished.

The decisive factor behind the sudden switch in sentiment, however, could have been a nervous administration.

Undoubtedly the Administration had watched the Dixon case anxiously, fearing that the violence that erupted on

other campuses where political firing were exposed, might come to McGill.

Another worry possibly plaguing the administration, given McGill's tenuous position in Quebec, is the threat that the Dixon case could spread into the French community. Vaillancourt, a Dixon supporter, is a sociology professor at the Université de Montreal. Dixon herself has been active in Quebec politics and has taken a strong Pro-Quebec stance.

GATEWAY STAFF MEETING

TODAY AT 3:30

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