

Tanks in class

by Mark Roppel

"The activities of the students of the University of El Salvador are just starting again," said Dr. Felix Antonio Ulloa last Wednesday.

Dr. Ulloa is a law professor at the University of El Salvador. "On June 26, 1980 the army occupied the university with tanks," said Ulloa. "Many students were captured the day the university was occupied — 26 were killed. In October, the president of the university was killed by the military."

Dr. Ulloa showed slides of soldiers lining up professors and students.

Most of the facilities at the university were destroyed. "The classrooms and labs are improvised. (There are) no printing facilities — just a Xerox for the entire university."

Before the June occupation, 31,000 students attended the University of El Salvador. At present there are 9,000 students; 13,000 are awaiting reconstruction of the university.

Ulloa encouraged the audience to send money to the University of El Salvador as part of a program of "symbolic enrollment." This would not only provide financial support, but international support for the university would also make the Salvadorian government more hesitant to intervene again.

Dr. Ulloa is also meeting with a vice-president and several deans at the University of Alberta to try and obtain official support.

Ulloa said he is "willing to cooperate with the present authorities (in El Salvador)," but, "only the university protected by autonomy (can be) a place for the free expression of the people."

When asked about the political situation in El Salvador, Dr. Ulloa responded, "I'm not a politician, I'm an educator.... One of the functions of the university is general political participation for betterment of the country, but not identification with any particular faction."



Dr. Felix Antonio Ulloa: speaks of how the university activities in El Salvador are just starting again.

Photo: Zane Harker

Johnston meets with FAS on its deathbed

by Allison Annesley

Members of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) met earlier this month with Alberta's new Minister for Advanced Education, Dick Johnston, to discuss post-secondary funding and accessibility.

FAS Member at Large Josh Hawkes expressed reservations about the Ministry's Patterns of Participation Study which was commissioned in response to student demands. Hawkes felt the time period presently under study by the government to determine what groups most attend university was atypical.

FAS described the period under study (the last decade) as a boom period which would not be of much use during a recessionary period, such as now. Studying statistics of students who attended university would not help determine why other groups did not attend, say members of FAS.

The response to this participation study from the U of A Students' Union has been to commission its own study here on

campus. This study, which is scheduled to begin this spring, will examine statistics concerning those groups who, for socio-economic reasons, have not attended university.

The study will be undertaken by interested graduate students within the education faculty and will attempt to determine what has held back the groups with low representation.

Although the Minister admitted that problems may exist concerning the effectiveness of the study, the study is already under way and no further submissions will affect the study's progress.

FAS President Don Millar questioned the Minister on whether Federal Established Programs Financing would increase five or six percent in keeping with federal restraint policy. The present EPF arrangement expires in March and Johnston predicted that the actual increase in funds would amount to less than six and five percent.

Johnston also maintained that federal cuts would not be passed on to Alberta institutions, though he would not guarantee there would be no cuts at all. Though funding will increase in dollars, if that increase does not match the inflation rate, funding will in fact experience a real cut. The Minister, though, says individual institutions may be responsible for their own cuts in certain areas, as the allocation of provincial funds is left to each institution according to its own priorities.

It was determined in the meeting that the supplemental 6.5 million dollars recently announced to offset the costs of increased enrollment would not be considered part of the province's base funding rate.

Problems with the transferability of credit for college and university courses were also discussed at the meeting. Some of the provincial guidelines explaining which courses can be transferred for credit, especially between provinces, are inaccurate. Johnston explained that

Alberta has the best system in Canada for these transfers but that to improve on the present system, FAS should meet with Johnston again with the Chairman of the Council on admissions and transfers present.

Problems with the Student Temporary Employment Program were also discussed. FAS expressed concerns about the lack of publicity surrounding last year's waiver on the summer savings requirement for students applying for government assistance. The large difference between wages provided by the STEP program and the minimum summer savings expected by the Students' Finance

Board was considered an "interesting anomaly" by the Minister. Johnston also agreed that extra phone lines may be necessary at the SFB, where phone lines are already overloaded with student inquiries.

Johnston will visit various campuses this spring but will not do any public speaking until the fall.

Ironically, FAS, who have had the most effective contact with Johnston since he took office in November faces probable dissolution within the next few months. FAS' structural problems and membership dissatisfaction will be discussed in tonight's Students' Council meeting.

Hebrew U is kosher

by John Roggeveen

If you yearn to visit the Middle East, yet don't want to take a year off from university, don't despair. There may be a way.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem offers students the chance to study in Israel for a year in a fully-accredited program without losing a university year.

"It's taking a year off without taking a year off," says Randy Spiegel, Academic Affairs Director of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University.

"It's officially sanctioned by this university (the U of A) as being a legitimate academic opportunity."

"Students can take it as an integral part of their university program," says Spiegel.

"It's open to any academically-qualified student. Generally speaking, a student needs, in order to apply, a B average in the year of application."

Non-Jewish students are encouraged to apply.

At Hebrew University, students can take courses in archaeology, political science, history, chemistry and biology,

among others, while learning Hebrew.

The University allows those interested in the history or politics of the Middle East to examine them at close range.

"An integral part of the program is field trips....," says Spiegel.

"There are study tours as well as trips to controversial places," he says.

"Students actually have a chance to go to Palestinian towns....and understand the situation first hand."

It won't break your budget either.

"It costs approximately the same as it does if you're not living at home," says Spiegel.

"A student who watches their budget can live very well in Israel," he adds.

"Having studied under this thing myself," says Spiegel, "You can't beat the Jerusalem experience."

Anyone interested in attending Hebrew University should contact Ruth Groberman, Director of Student Affairs, at 432-4145 or Dr. David Dewitt of the Political Science department on campus at 432-3555.

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