

CROSSCANADA

Deux degré sous zéro

MONTREAL (CUP) — Only 50 per cent of Quebec graduate students ever complete their degree.

That's one of the discouraging facts a recent study of the economic and social position of graduate students in the province found.

The study conducted by the province's graduate students' association found graduate students in Quebec take longer to complete their studies than in other provinces, have low-income opportunities, and are often separated from the university community.

"Many of the problems stem from the lack of priority given to graduate studies in the province," said Yves Auclair, president of the Regroupement des Associations des Cycles Supérieures du Québec.

"The economic position of graduate students is not good, and students often leave because income opportunities are much greater in the workforce."

Eugenio Bolongaro, a McGill University Graduate Student Association vice-president and one of the authors of the report, said a recent tuition fee hike has seriously undermined the economic position of graduate students.

"The increase in tuition fees has not brought any new money to universities," said Bolongaro. "It instead has just let the government reduce funding."

Unnecessary budget control

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The British Columbia government will not pitch in money to stop the University of British Columbia's administration's proposed 18 per cent tuition fee increase, advanced education minister Tom Perry told students last month.

Perry met with a delegation of UBC students but offered very little hope, said student council graduate studies representative Michael Hughes.

"[Perry] said there wasn't much money going around and that his concern is with accessibility the number of students who can get in," Hughes said. Perry has said the government was working to increase the number of places available to prospective students in the province. "He did seem to think 18 per cent might be on the high side."

Don't worry, draw pogeey

REGINA (CUP) — Saskatchewan students are working to fight a proposed bill that would tighten up Canada Student Loan regulations.

Bill C-76 which has already had its second reading in the House of Commons would eliminate the six-month interest-free period students have before they have to pay back their loans.

Other proposed changes to the loan program include restricting them to 10 years, only funding courses leading to degrees, diplomas or certificate, and only funding students registered in 80 per cent of a full course load.

And the federal government may no longer guarantee money to lending institutions if students find themselves unable to pay back their loans.

Space cadets from York

TORONTO (CUP) — York University's Senate decided on a set of terms last month to protect itself if the university links up with the International Space University later this year.

The project should not get York funds, and its proposed one-year "space science" program should grant York degrees as part of the university's science faculty, according to a proposal accepted by York's senate.

If senators had rejected the proposal, they would have ended a controversial campaign to bring the space school to the campus, but it passed by a wide margin.

Although the space school, along with a few York officials, coordinated the bid, York's senate and board of governors are now calling the shots, David Logan, an author of the proposal, said last month.

The project's directors will announce their decision on Feb. 1. York is competing with sites in Japan and France.

news

Students out in the cold

by Miriam Korn

"I am camper, hear me roar!" Arctic-like weather didn't stop the dozens of students who set up tents in front of the Arts and Administration building last Tuesday afternoon.

"We're going to be here until the meeting is moved," said Candida Rifkind, a student involved in the protest. "The fact that it's so cold shows how serious and committed we are to this."

The demonstration protests the Board of Governors' decision to limit attendance at its meeting today to 80 spectators. The Board is scheduled to vote on a proposed 10% tuition increase at this meeting.

"It's blatant that they're trying to circumvent student rights," said Scott McCrossin, another camper. "We can't let this go unchallenged. It runs completely in the face of all democratic norms, especially considering this is a university which purports to instill high ethical standards and values in its students."

Last January, a series of student rallies forced the Board of Governors meeting time and place to be changed from the Senate boardroom to the McInnes Room. Hundreds of students witnessed The Board's vote to increase the tuition fees by 10%. The Dalhousie Student Union has offered the room for use for this year.

The Board's Chair, Alan Shaw said there are no plans to change the location. "Board meetings are normally held to accommodate the room. Last year the room only held about thirty people. Eighty is a great increase over last year." He felt the McInnes Room was not appropriate for the meeting.

Dr. Howard Clarke, President of Dalhousie University, also said moving the meeting to the larger room is not a viable option. "The board has to make a judgement with the best interest of the university in an atmosphere where they can think clearly and make the most reasonable and rational decisions."

Others do not agree. Passers-by have shown support for the campers



"Bang, bang" right on their pointy, little heads

by signing a petition asking the Board's Chair to move the meeting. Some, including the Dalhousie Staff Association, dropped off muffins, doughnuts and thermoses of hot chocolate.

"It's a slimy under-handed move," commented Rifkind, "serving the best interests of the administration, not the students. A university is a public institution, so meetings held to make major decisions should be open to all students and any other member of the public. We've made a reasonable offer, and their refusal sets an antagonistic tone."

Shaw said there was no need for greater student attendance at the meeting since students were consulted during the decision-making process. "We scrupulously followed the directives made last springtime. All along we were prepared to meet

with students on their territory, but no one took us up on this offer until Monday [January 14, 1993] in the Grawood."

Clarke said that student participation is adequate since the spectators at the meeting today will be free to speak. Also, there are student representatives on the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is made up of fifty-four members, including the President and Chancellor. There are four student representatives.

Hundreds of signatures have been collected to move the meeting. "It's not a question of availability," said McCrossin. "It's a question of accountability."

There will be a rally protesting the limited access to the meeting today at 3:00 pm. in the SUB lobby.

Women's Centre gets go ahead

by Dana Mac Kenzie

It is now official. Dalhousie will have its first Women's Centre. After almost a year of fund-raising, planning, and lobbying the committee for the creation of the centre has achieved its goal: the creation of a safe, peaceful, and positive environment for female members of the Dalhousie Community.

The final seal of approval was given on Tuesday, January 19 when President Clark granted approval for the centre to be located at 6143 South St. The DSU Council gave its final nod to the centre at a council meeting on January 10 by agreeing to sign

the centre's lease. The DSU also approved a \$2000 donation to the centre to offset operating costs.

Candida Rifkind, the DSU VP

*a safe, peaceful
and positive
environment*

External and member of the Women's Centre Committee, says that she is relieved that twelve months of fund-raising and lobbying have paid off in the creation of the centre.

Rifkind states that the Women's Centre will consist of a resource centre for both men and women, and a safe area designated for women only. Rifkind says that "...the Women's centre is for women and men, but with a safe place for women."

Originally, the committee sought funding for two part-time paid positions for students to work at the centre. However, money for this has not yet been secured and Rifkind reports that it looks as if the centre will be staffed by students who will work on a volunteer basis. But the mission is not yet quite complete: the committee is still searching for donations of furniture and money.