

Funding fairness studied

by Ken Bosman

A University of Calgary belief that they are underfunded relative to the University of Alberta is being investigated by a special appointee of Advanced Education Minister David Russell.

Calgary claims that they receive over \$18 million less than they should, compared to the U of A.

The inquiry into the issue is headed by J. Stefan Dupre, a University of Toronto political science professor. It has received submissions from both universities and will report to the minister at an undetermined time.

CALGARY'S CASE

The University of Calgary submission is based upon Full Time Equivalent students and presents the argument that because the U of C has 68 per cent of the U of A's enrollment it should thus get a government operating grant equal to 68 per cent of the U of A's.

The U of A operating grant for 1987/88 was \$215.9 million, 68 per cent of which would be \$146.8 million. In fact, the U of C grant was \$128.5 million, a perceived shortfall from equity of \$18.3 million dollars. The result, according to the U of C, is that the U of A is unfairly funded over \$1,100 per student more than the U of C.

Expenditures per full time stu-

dent equivalent in a variety of areas were then calculated and compared to equivalent U of A expenditures.

To quote from the U of C submission, "In each broad category, (of expenditure) it is thus apparent that the University of Calgary has significantly fewer resources than does the University of Alberta."

ALBERTA SUBMISSION

The U of A argues that a simple dollars per student approach is not valid because the U of A operates a number of programs that the U of C does not offer, specifically Agriculture and Dentistry. Both are extremely costly on a per student basis, and thus distort beyond meaning the U of C comparisons.

The U of A submission is thus based upon the concept of an "enrollment unit".

The "enrollment unit" concept arises from an Alberta government formula which allocated university funding under a weighted scheme from 1967 to 1973. This Government of Alberta formula assigned a greater value to different types of students. For example, a first year arts student is given a weight of one, because first year arts is relatively cheap to teach. At the other extreme, a doctoral student in Nuclear Physics is assigned a weight of six to reflect the inherently

greater cost of education.

The U of A used this formula to calculate the total enrollment units for the two institutions, and determined the funding per enrollment unit. U of A calculations indicated that the funding per weighted enrollment unit was virtually identical for the two institutions.

"The government has indeed been evenhanded in its allocation of funds to the two major institutions," concludes the U of A report.

The U of A proposal then extends its arguments to make its case for increased funding relative to the U of C. The U of A argues:

1) Because the U of A has more transfer students from colleges and technical schools, it has higher intrinsic costs - third and fourth year students cost more than first and second year students.

2) The U of A has proportionally more graduate students than does the U of C. Graduate students are 12.09 per cent the numbers of undergrads at the U of A, versus 9.56 per cent at the U of C.

3) The University of Alberta draws its students from all over the province, whereas the U of C is predominantly a local institution. Fully 82.2 per cent of U of C students are from Calgary, whereas only 49.8 per cent of U of A students are Edmonton natives. This is in part because, to quote the U of A submission, "The University of Alberta is the institution of choice for transfer students."

Students hope University will help refugees

by Rod Campbell

Student refugees who are forced into exile may find sanctuary at the University of Alberta with the help of a new campus club.

Jennifer Hyndman, organizer for the Student Refugee Support Committee (SRSC) said Monday, her group wants to provide the means for refugees to continue their education at the U of A.

Support would include providing accommodation, tuition and living expenses, she said.

According to Hyndman, thirty one campuses across Canada have sponsored refugees.

"I'm flabbergasted that the U of A has not addressed this issue when every other western university has done so."

The student refugee program was first started by the World University Services of Canada (WUSC).

Former U of A grad and WUSC director Judy Padua said that her group has federal authorization to

screen applicants so that potential students can receive landed immigrant status.

However, she added, the government insists refugees must have funding to cover their expenses for a year.

Curtis Beaverford, president of SRSC hopes to receive funding from the student body.

"We intend to ask SU Council if they would hold a referendum to increase fees by 50¢ in order to cover our costs," said Beaverford.

Padua feels optimistic that SU Council will support SRC's efforts.

"We're only asking for 50¢ which is just a glass of milk. If Calgary and Lethbridge can do it why not?"

VP Finance Steve Twible said "It's pretty hard for me to comment when I haven't seen their proposal."

However, Twible added that if students want it, "That's the way it will be."

VP External Paul LaGrange could not be reached for comment.

"Too much Central America" shuts down student paper

BRANDON (CUP) — Operating without a budget or elected staff, the student newspaper at Brandon University published its first issue last week.

The 75-year-old *Quill* survived a showdown with Brandon's student council this summer when an executive member proposed the paper be replaced by a weekly student council newsletter.

"They (the council), as publishers, want more control over the paper's content, and especially over its editorial policy," said Ruth Pryzner, news editor of the *Quill* last year.

Mark Eichhorst, vice-president internal of the student council, admitted the council's concern over the content of the paper.

"It isn't that we want to assume control of the paper, it was just that the paper wasn't printing anything about Brandon University, and too

much about, say, Central American politics," he said.

"We don't want to read the *Quill* the night before it is published to see what not to print. We don't have the time or the interest. All we want is a good student newspaper," said Eichhorst.

Pryzner argued that a shortage of staff members made it difficult to include more local content.

The council has reduced the number of *Quill* staff representatives on the paper's publishing board so that it is now weighted in favour of the council representatives on the board.

Despite the problems, the *Quill* staff is optimistic.

"The situation has cooled down and the student union seems to have backed off," said Pryzner. "We won't shut the *Quill* down. It will take a lot of work, but we won't shut it down."

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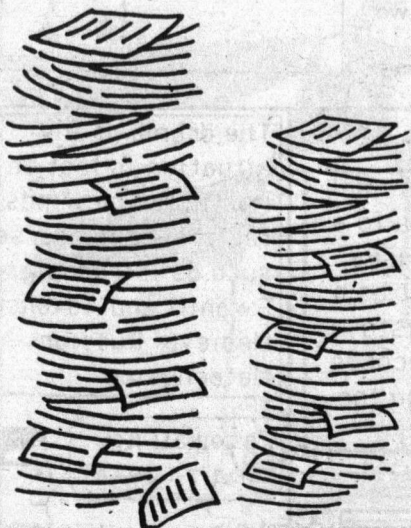
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A penalty of \$15.00 per month will be assessed for each month after the last day for regular payment of fees in which a student's fees remain outstanding. Students are reminded that the University cannot accept responsibility for the actions of the post office if payments are not received by a deadline date. Also, if payment is dishonored and not replaced by the appropriate deadline date, the penalty will apply.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section 15.2.3 of the 1987/88 TIMETABLE ADDENDUM AND FEE INFORMATION booklet. Heritage scholars may call the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller for clarification of policy, if uncertain.

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are also to be paid in accordance with the foregoing.

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