



When you pass the buck...

the Gateway

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...don't ask for change.
Solomon Short

Candidates take aim to smear again

News Analysis by Greg Harris

Smear tactics and political back-biting marred yesterday's Students' Union executive by-election forum in SUB theatre.

About 150 students turned out to hear candidates dwell largely on past and present unfair electioneering practices rather than hard issues.

Presidential candidate Gord Stamp led off with an attack on presidential candidate Mike Walker claiming that "he has no control over the people working for him."

"If Mike Walker's people do not have respect for the rules and regulations while campaigning, what's he going to do while in office," said Stamp in reference to the last election and recent DIE board proceedings.

He then flung his copy of election regulations across the stage in a symbolic gesture.

Walker responded by reiterating the DIE Board decision which stated there had been no intention on the part of the Walker slate to break the rules by stuffing Lister Hall mailboxes with campaign materials.

"Let's not dwell on mailboxes here, but the real issues," said Walker.

He repeated his policies on cutbacks and underfunding saying that he would demand a freeze on tuition fees until an independent accessibility study is done to determine what impact the student aid program and rising costs have on post-secondary education attendance.

"As in the past I won't argue that fees be abolished, but frozen," said Walker.

"Students don't have the same kind of clout as the Chamber of Commerce and sometimes they have to use different tactics," he said in reference to presidential candidate Robert Greenhill's stand of co-operation in lobbying instead of confrontation.

Greenhill pointed out at the beginning of his speech that he would address the issues "rather than taking petty jabs at the opposition."

He said he too was committed to fighting cutbacks but would take a "broader approach" in lobbying the government. He said by working with business groups outside the university, who are concerned about quality graduates, "...we can have an even stronger anti-cutbacks campaign

than even last year."

He stressed that three out of four of the already elected executive members were from the Cottle slate and that his similar "ideas of policy and approach" would enable him to work well with them.

He concluded with a "petty jab at the opposition saying illegal electioneering practices have undermined the credibility of the Students' Union and he's dedicated to save it from the laughing stock it's in danger of becoming."

The v. p. internal candidates confined themselves to the issues and were agreed that the Students' Union should provide better services to students.

Jeff Reading, v.p. internal candidate for the Walker slate proposed leasing curling rink space to the book store, and to the university for computer terminal space.

He said he would fight to change restrictive ALCB policies on campus, preserve club run cabarets at Dinwoodie, look into amalgamating the exam registry and copy centre, and ensure that the 38 planned club offices be ready by September '82.

"Let's get away from the petty politics and examine the issues," he concluded.

Raymond Conway, v.p. internal candidate on the Greenhill slate said he felt he had a great deal of "constructive criticism he could level against the SU."

He argued for increasing the autonomy of clubs, and "merging" the exam registry with the housing registry to provide better service.

He promised that if elected he would listen to others, "and encourage others to participate in the SU."

Martin Schug, v.p. internal

candidate on the Stamp Slate said several improvements could be made in the Students' Union.

"Being able to set up licensed entertainment hassle free is a major concern," said Schug referring to ALCB policy.

He promised to try and expand the use of quad for fraternities, upgrade the exam

registry, and ensure that no censorship takes place on campus except according to provincial censorship laws.

During question period the presidential candidates were asked why they weren't campaigning on the issues. Greenhill replied that he had been. He said that the Gateway preferred to cover the

DIE Board rather than following the campaigns into classrooms.

Walker replied it's difficult to focus on hard issues when another slate makes mailboxes and posters an issue.

Stamp said he had covered the issues in his pamphlets and during the Gateway's round table discussion.

Compared to P.E.I. ...

U of A funding in good shape

by Wes Oginski

University of Alberta did well in its government grant for next year's budget when compared to other Canadian universities. On a provincial level, however, post-secondary education ranked low on the priority list.

"I suppose you have to take it in a particular context," says Lorne Leitch, University v.p. Finance and Administration.

The provincial government released its budget for the next fiscal year last week, and Leitch says the overall increase for post-secondary institutions is about 18.9 per cent. The total provincial budget increase was around 25 per cent.

"We had a 14.6 per cent increase in the (U of A's) base grant," Leitch reports. The government grant works out to over \$170 million, including extra monies for faculty upgradings and recognition of the increased student population. Overall the government increase approximates 16 per cent.

"In the provincial context, the government has a low priority with post-secondary education," he says, noting the discrepancy between the province's overall

expenditure increase and the increase for post-secondary institutions.

"We did well in the national context," he adds, and notes that many other province's universities are not getting substantial increases. The University of British Columbia has implemented a 32 per cent tuition increase next year, and Simon Fraser University must make a million dollars in cuts.

Leitch stresses the U of A does not have a final operating budget because James Horsman,

Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, has not decided upon a long-term tuition policy. Until then, the administration has no idea how much tuition will be next year. Tuition fees now make up 8 per cent of the final budget.

"We're not going to hold back on the budget process," he says. A preliminary operating budget will be presented next week. "At this time, we are not assuming anything (about whether tuition will go up, down, or stay the same)."

Deficit wiped out this year

With next year's University budget increase, some may wonder what happened to the projected deficit for this year.

Lorne Leitch, U of A's v.p. Finance, explains that last year's budget required either an increase in tuition or an increase in the government grant. The government grant increased, but tuition froze, and left the university under-funded.

University administrators decided to operate under a deficit budget, hoping the province would pick up the loss.

"It now appears that the deficit will be essentially wiped out (without government aid)," Leitch says.

The major contributing factors include the increased student enrolment and continued high interest rates.

"Enrolment went up more than we originally estimated," Leitch explains. The enrolment was 6 per cent higher than the University expected.

Commerce ahead

News about the go-ahead for a new Faculty of Business building is one of the bright spots of the provincial grant to the U of A.

"I'm delighted," says Business dean Roger Smith.

Lorne Leitch, University v.p. Finance, says the province has provided \$5 million this year to start construction of the new facility.

"I think that over the course of the construction period they've essentially (given us) \$17 million," he adds.

The new building will have 12,588 square metres, but a site has not yet been selected.

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