

U of C Grads fund Prof pay hikes

by Andrew Penner
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In an attempt to find \$1.5 million to pay merit increments, some university departments may sacrifice their Graduate Assistanceships Teaching (GATS) in the 1988-89 fiscal year.

"It's going to be catastrophic," said Liz Saunders, president of the Graduate Students' Association, adding that some departments may lose up to 70 per cent of their GATS. "I don't think the problem will be so bad in departments which can bring in outside money (like engineering)," she said.

According to Saunders, some of the University's smaller departments may not have graduate programmes in a couple of years, and the Political Science and History departments "are particularly in trouble."

Saunders said the effects on students at the U of C will range from having fewer labs or tutorials and larger tutorial sessions (although many have reached the limit), to having more multiple choice exams and less personal contact with the professors.

"No matter what scenario we operate under, there is very little room to maneuver — the grad programme is at stake," said political science professor Dr. Neil Nevitte. In a sense, a form of institutional cannibalism is going on. Departments are being asked to dismember themselves."

Dr. David Bercuson of the History department said, "This is unprecedented. This has never happened before. To me it reflects a failure in the budgetary process and a failure of the administration to plan properly. They have placed the departments in an impossible situation and they expect the departments to do the impossible."

The University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCA) president, Dr. George Fritz, said that expecting the departments to find the money to pay merit increments was "an inappropriate thing to do. Budgets are fully committed... and to come now at the end of October and say

you have to find more money is unrealistic. It appears that they are punishing the faculty for winning the arbitration."

An arbitration committee decided in early October that merit increments should be paid as usual. The University administration was not granted their request for a delay in payment of the increments.

Dr. Brian Tinker, VP Finance and Services for the administration, said "it was clear" in Spring when the budget for 87-88 was established that the costs of merit increments "would have to be found in existing budgets... (it was) not an administrative decision."

Both Fritz and Bercuson attacked the budgetary process, which is supposed to be a collegiate process. "It is as best a pseudo-democratic exercise," Fritz criticized. "On paper it looks like a democratic process, but in fact it's not. The General Faculties Council (GFC) has to accept the analysis and recommendations of the budget committee."

According to Bercuson, "a budget is plunked down in front of GFC and the GFC is expected to decide."

Dr. Chellas, Dean of Humanities, said, "We're going to pay it (the merit increments). I'm not going to cut a single secretary, I'm not going to renege on any contract or agree-

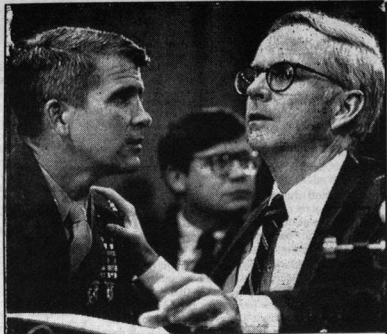
ment made for GATS or sessional instructors in the 1987-88 fiscal year. No section planned for in this fiscal year will be cancelled." Chellas said that the money for the increments, "is coming from unspent and uncommitted funds," adding "the effect on '88-89 cannot be known."

Graduate students are not the only staff the university could lose. According to Saunders, as grad programmes are depleted, professors may move to other institutions with better grad programmes to enable them to carry out their research more effectively. Nevitte concurred. "The opportunities available to faculty vary across the country, and the wider the gap gets, the less the incentive to stay."

Nevitte said that money is just one consideration; it is the insubstantial rewards — atmosphere, a sense of security or teaching requirements — which provide the incentive to stay or leave.

Nevitte said he is leaving the U of C, but money was not the reason. "Ontario University has made me an attractive offer, (but) I am leaving for a variety of personal reasons."

Fritz said, "I know of four (sessional instructors) personally, who have left because of the funding insecurities."



Oliver L. North

He didn't write for *The Gateway*

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Suzuki on survival

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) — "In 30 years there will be no wilderness left on the planet except for tiny, isolated islands if we continue at our present assault rate of the environment," predicts Dr. David Suzuki.

In half that time, British Columbia will have no virgin coastal rainforest, he said. By the year 2140, 50 per cent of all animal and plant species on earth will be extinct, Suzuki said.

He added that 50 years later, the extinction rate would hit 80 per cent.

Suzuki made the points at a

recent visit to the University of Prince Edward Island, where he addressed a crowd of 600.

The geneticist, author and broadcaster said governments are living an economic myth:

"The sacred truth of economics is that we must maintain steady growth."

Slowing down the expropriation of land is the only choice left for governments, Suzuki said.

"If we don't slow down now, voluntarily, war, famine and disease will slow us."

Suzuki quoted the Native Indian proverb which says the planet is

not inherited from our parents, but rather borrowed from our children.

"We want to leave the world a better place for our children. Now, for the first time in history, our children come into a world more impoverished than the world of their parents," Suzuki said.

And the scientist said all change in the rules and attitudes surrounding the environment can only come about through political means. Environmental issues must become part of political platforms.

Yet few politicians have a background in science and technology. Most are in law and business, and Suzuki wants them to educate themselves.

"They know virtually nothing about science and technology. They are scientifically illiterate — yet they make the decisions..."

Concluded Suzuki, "How do you ask a question? What is real? What is discovery? Science has to show that current ideas are wrong, and that only the truth will stand the test of time."

Canadian forces recruit

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mends the forces to "people oriented people. It's a real family thing. You make such good friends everywhere you go."

McCue agrees, saying "We're looking for a more dynamic person. We want a well rounded person with community involvement, someone who works in a team."

Both McCue and Chambers say military life has great hardships. "It's really difficult sometimes, I'm separated from my husband," said Chambers.

"Some [positions within the military] you look at your watch to find out when you're going home. Some you look at the calendar," said McCue.

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