



ears **The Gateway** more

VOL. LIX, No. 1 THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1968, TWO PAGES

# FREE MEET TODAY

## B of G talked into talking to students

The Board of Governors will meet with all interested students at 4:30 this afternoon in the SUB theatre.

A letter from Dr. Walter H. Johns, president of The University of Alberta, to the students' union and to the Students for Democratic University, states the board will "outline the philosophy behind university financing, the considerations which go into drawing up a budget, and the reasons why a tuition fee increase was deemed necessary this year."

Ray Speaker, minister without portfolio; and Dr. W. H. Swift and Brian McDonald of the Universities Commission have been invited to attend the meeting. Ray Reiersen, minister of education, will not attend.

The meeting was called by Dr. Johns after the SDU held a protest rally outside Lister Hall Friday during a B of G meeting.

### REQUEST REFUSED

Three of the protesters were invited to attend the B of G meeting by Dr. Johns, but were refused their request for the board to hold an open meeting in order to reconsider the question of tuition fees.

The SDU decided to hold the protest rally in view of Education Minister Reiersen's statement that U of A students should be protesting to the B of G rather than to the provincial legislature.

Friday's SDU protest at Lister Hall encountered some difficulty when it was prevented from entering the building.

Lister Complex Co-ordinator Lawrie Hignell said joint council refused permission because the SDU were infringing on the rights of the residence students.

"If the rally had got out of hand, and, say, some furniture was broken, the joint council would have been responsible," he said.



RAY REIERSON . . . 'talk to B of G'

## If there's no agreement, students pay the difference

Students will pay higher tuition fees next term because certain groups disagree on how much it costs to run this university.

The Board of Governors, the Universities Commission and the provincial government each have a different idea how much per student the government grant for operating costs should be.

The university says	\$2,658
The Universities Commission says	\$2,540
The provincial government says	\$2,440
Final difference	\$ 218

Students are being asked to make up most of this difference. The trouble started in early 1967, when the university estimated

its '68-'69 budget. Higher staff salaries, maintenance costs and enrolment meant a big increase in costs.

### REQUEST CUT

This estimate went to the Universities Commission, a mediating body between Alberta universities and the government. The commission cut the request by \$1.7 million because of drained provincial reserve funds. In January, 1968, it recommended to the province U of A be given an operating grant of \$2,540 per student.

At this time, the Board of Governors warned students it intended to raise fees if more government money was not forthcoming.

The provincial budget was brought down March 1. The grant was \$2,440 per student, \$100 below even the commission request.

A fee hike was officially announced.

### PROTEST MARCH

Following a letter-writing campaign and brief to the Board by the students' union, Students for a Democratic University suggested a mass demonstration. The Students' Union sponsored a march. On a cold and windy March 12 about 3,000 students walked to the legislature to protest the fee hike.

In response to the demonstration and opposition questions, the government executive council reconsidered the operating grant, but did not increase it. It placed responsibility for the hike on the Board of Governors.

Between 50 and 100 students demonstrated against the hike at a Board meeting April 5.

At that time, the Board agreed to meet with students, and representatives from the Universities Commission and provincial government today at 4:30 in SUB theatre.

It will be an open meeting to discuss university financing.

## Fee raise to remain, but SDU may keep talking: Johns

Dr. Walter H. Johns, president of the University of Alberta, does not foresee any revision of the recent tuition fee increase.

"I don't see how that could be possible since we have been operating in the new fiscal year since April 1," Dr. Johns said Monday.

Nor did he rule out any further increase within the next three or four years.

"We must see this in the wider context of the whole economy, where inflation is constantly causing higher prices."

In addition, "fees have not kept pace at any time with the costs of operating the university," said Dr. Johns.

But he did not object to the Students for a Democratic University acting on the matter.

"The Universities Act states the 'students' council is the official medium of communication between the students of a university and the board', but it does not 'take away or impair the right of any student or group of students to petition any of the governing bodies of the university in respect of any matter'," said Dr. Johns.

Referring to the SDU, which exercised this right Friday, Dr. Johns

said: "I felt the students who presented the brief and spoke presented their views quite satisfactorily."

Asked whether today's meeting between the students and the B of G would have been called had the SDU not spoken with the B of G Friday, he said: "It is very difficult to say."

According to Dr. Johns, the meeting was arranged when the students' union executive spoke with the B of G after the SDU had left. Three SDU members had spoken to a committee of the whole of the B of G.

"Had students' council at any time asked for such a meeting, they would have received it," said Dr. Johns.

He had high praise for the students' council.

"Personally, I have high regard for the students' council. I think they have embarked on a fine program of getting the facts—better than in the past."

Dr. Johns also felt the students' union was the most effective means of actually producing change.

"In matters like this, I believe in working through channels," he said.

