

Senate debates faculty evaluations

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A lengthy debate on student evaluations of faculty dominated the senate meeting Tuesday.

The system of evaluations started in December, is a requirement in the collective agreement with the faculty union. They are intended to be used when a faculty member is being considered for promotion or tenure, and supposedly would indicate actually how good the faculty member is in the eyes of the students.

Certain problems cropped up with the first evaluation; there were complaints that students were misled by a ranking of 'a' being bad, and 'E' being good. As well, the questionnaires were not uniform among departments.

After much debate, it was decided to uphold an earlier decision of senate to call the December evaluations a trial run. Due to this, they will not be added to faculty members' files unless the professor so requests. It was pointed out that all faculty members still have the absolute right to have the records filed.

Another issue in contention was whether the scores of all faculty members in a department should be averaged to act as a comparison measure. Those opposed said one cannot compare apples to oranges, stating a professor is likely to receive a much lower mark in a large first year class, than in a small fourth year class because the student would necessarily be interested in the course and the faculty member would be more accessible to the student.

Those in favour said some measuring device is needed to compare faculty, claiming that in reality the differences in faculty positions are not great enough to invalidate the comparison.

Student Senator John Bosnitch, who entered the debate 45 minutes late, suggested the evaluations be locked in a safe for four or five years before averages are taken. This was the complaint of several senators, that only on a long-term basis would the averaging process have statistical validity.

Another point raised by Bosnitch, was the question of how students benefit from the questionnaires. President Downey said the general improvement in teaching quality due to the questionnaires would be advantageous to the students. Bosnitch said in some places evaluations are published to help students choose courses. Downey pointed out that these are run by students.

Also undergoing extensive debate in the senate was the report of the Senate Budget Review Committee. This will come up for further discussion in a future meeting of senate.

A new Masters degree program was approved in forest engineering; a masters of forest engineering and an MSc. in forest engineering will parallel the present degrees of master of forestry, and master of science in forestry.

One of the most important issues that was to be discussed, was the limited enrolment policy for the school of computer science in conjunction with their proposal for a co-operative education program. The three-hour time limit on the meeting was reached without these and several other important issues being reached in the agenda. Due to this, a special meeting of senate was called for next Tuesday.

The co-op program, which will involve coordination between employers and the university, of study and work-

terms for computer-science students, is planned to get underway this summer. Due to this, there is a reasonable urgency in passing the proposal in senate as soon as possible.

Enrolment in computer-science is rising at a rapid rate. The co-op program would allow for a higher total computer-science enrolment, as some students would be taking classes in the summer and working in computer-related jobs in the fall or spring. Registrar Brian Ingram reported at the senate meeting that to date, 186 students have been accepted into the computer-science program for next fall. This compares with 121 at the same time last year.

It was acknowledged that if applications continue to come in too many students could be accepted under the present criteria, before the senate approves limiting enrolment next week. Therefore, a hold on acceptances has been placed for a week.

Other data reported by Ingram Tuesday shows a general

enrolment increase for the university as a whole. On the Fredericton campus, 1297 new

students have been accepted compared to last year's 1074; in Saint John, the story is similar with 186 to 107 last year. In addition 690 students have already paid their tuition deposits, compared with 565 at this time last year.

There is also an increase in acceptances in business (302 to last year's 190) and in arts (199 to last year's 149).

One observation made in senate about these figures is that they contradict the predicted decline in enrolment made by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. The MPHEC have in fact been predicting a decline that has not materialized for the last few years. It was stated the probable reason for this was that the MPHEC used faculty data from Statistics Canada.

One important point with wide-reaching ramifications was pointed out. The MPHEC recommended and virtually dictate to the government how fun-

ding should be increased, while they inaccurately predict enrolment.

President Downey has recently been in Victoria, British Columbia for a meeting of the Association of Universities and College of Canada. He reported to senate that the meetings with all the university presidents in the country were very productive. He said for the first time high-powered political representatives were present, such as the Secretary of State, Gerald Regan.

Some issues looked at, at the meetings, Downey reported, were the possibility of the government funding students instead of universities, through vouchers and the possibility of 'thrust-funding' which sees the government fund programs they feel are most important.

The general conclusion reached at the AUCC meeting, said Downey, was that these funding methods should not be allowed to take over completely. Another point Downey raised is that universities are not asked what is best, even though the government claims they do what is best for the universities.

Student Work Abroad Program successful

SWAP is back. And 1982 promises to be the most successful year yet.

SWAP, the Student Work Abroad Program, is a money saving and experience oriented concept. Designed specifically for the needs and requirements of Canadian students, it enables the participants to travel, live and work overseas.

"SWAP has become a tradition for Canadian students," explains Linda Evans, a coordinator for the Association of Student Councils which administers the SWAP program. "It is a practical and sensible way to cut the high cost of foreign travel."

The SWAP program, which was first started in 1974, is currently operating to New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland and Great Britain. Thus far, many thousands of Canadian students have taken part.

What kinds of jobs are available? "SWAP is not for those seeking a career," responds Ms. Evans, pointing out that the type of employment varies from country to country. Jobs can range from working at a resort hotel in Ireland or Great Britain to shearing sheep on a farm in New Zealand.

The salaries aren't bad, either. In fact, they average

approximately \$150 CDN per week and, in some cases, the jobs include meals or accommodation.

"It was an experience and I wouldn't trade for anything," says Jan Arnison, a student from Edmonton who participated in a SWAP program to New Zealand. Jan spent several months in this beautiful country working in a diverse variety of occupations including one as a counsellor for the Parks and Recreation Department in Auckland.

"I'm glad I went on a SWAP program and I would do it again if I was still a student," explains Nancy Heaps, of Toronto, who last year returned from Great Britain after a stint working at the YMCA in central London.

The purpose of SWAP is not only to save money while travelling. It also provides a unique opportunity to meet and become friends with people in a non-touristy environment.

"SWAP gave me an insight into the British people," admits Kevin Pryer, a student from the University of Regina who spent a few months working in a central London hotel. Kevin also managed to save enough money to go travelling in Europe for four weeks.

Dave Lawrence, a student

from Toronto, worked as a bartender and waiter and really enjoyed the experience. "It was a truly adventurous way to spend a summer," says Dave.

Participating in the SWAP program is easy. The first step is to contact the nearest Association of Student Council office and obtain an International Student Identity Card. This card, which in addition to fulfilling eligibility requirements for SWAP, also entitles the student bearer to valuable and wide ranging discounts on goods and services around the world.

Payment of a registration fee is also required for the SWAP program. The fee, which averages \$100 is for the processing of the working visa and all the necessary paper work.

If Great Britain is in your plans, the registration fee will also cover 2 nights orientation and accommodation plus the services of AOSC's London SWAP centre. In addition, AOSC guarantees that within five days of arrival in London you will have a job interview.

For further information about the SWAP program, contact your nearest Association of Student Council office located in the Student Union Building at Dalhousie University or call 424-2054.

Applications for the position of editor-in-chief for the academic year 1982-83 are now being accepted.

Apply c/o Susan Reed, *The Brunswickan*, Room 35, Student Union Building.

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