



JACKSON HINTON AND MATT FEHNER

SQUARING OFF The unsuccessful bid to kill Bill 40 drew the Opposition and student representatives together last May.

SUMMER IN REVIEW

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GAIN CHANCE TO FIND OFF CAMPUS WORK

Summer Issue 1, 18 May

A new project launched by the provincial government this summer allowed international students at the University of Alberta to find off-campus employment for the first time. The Off-Campus Work Permit Program allowed students to find work in other areas of the city for up to 40 hours a week during summer and winter breaks, and up to 20 hours a week during regular academic sessions.

To take part in the program, which launched at the U of A on 1 June, international students need to apply for a permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and maintain a certain GPA to stay eligible for off-campus work.

BILL 40 REGULATES TUITION POLICY

Summer issue 1, 18 May

Despite attempts by student advocates to stop Bill 40 from passing in the Legislature, the controversial policy, which impacts tuition policy in Alberta, was passed on 18 May. The bill amended the *Postsecondary Learning Act* to remove tuition policy from legislation and make it possible for the Tory Cabinet to make future decisions on tuition without having to debate the matter in the legislature. The bill also removed the policy that set a cap on the percentage of operating costs that an institution could charge students.

Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard explained that moving tuition policy from legislation to regulation would allow for policies to be changed quickly, bypassing the sometimes-lengthy process of debate and allowing benefits to reach students in better time.

But Raj Pannu, Advanced Education critic for the NDP, and Liberal Advanced Education Critic Dave Taylor, both vowed to kill Bill 40, arguing that having

the Cabinet responsible for the tuition policy would provide no accountability and would offer no voice to students.

Students' Union President Samantha Powers and Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer were also against the bill. They, along with student government officials from the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge, have called for Herard to bring tuition policy back under the power of the Legislature.

POSTSECONDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH; SU

Summer issue 2, 8 June

On 5 June, the Alberta Government announced their final report on the state of postsecondary education in the province. The report, which makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving Alberta's advanced education system, was criticized by some for not addressing all of the important issues.

The report was compiled after a committee consulted around 3000 Albertan students, administrators and instructors. Among the recommendations made by the committee were increasing literacy in the province and encouraging more high school graduates to attend postsecondary institutions. Herard praised the recommendations in the report, and stated that another four months of consultation would be needed before a plan could be implemented in September 2007.

But Pannu expressed disappointment at Herard's insistence for more consultation, arguing that many of the recommendations in the report were very explicit, and should be acted on right away. Cournoyer was also disappointed with the wait, and said that the final report was underwhelming for students who were hoping more would be done to make advanced education in the province more affordable.

SU APPEALS CAMPUS BUSINESS TAX

Summer issue 1, 8 June

In early June, the SU and the University of Alberta Administration submitted a joint appeal regarding a City of Edmonton tax assessment that was imposed on campus businesses.

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham explained that, up until 2005, SU-run businesses

on campus were considered to be non-profit, as any money made was put towards funding student services. However, in both 2005 and 2006, the City taxed the businesses as for-profit endeavors. While no exact figure was given, City Councillor Michael Phair did say that the taxes would come out to a substantial amount. Phair went on to say that to qualify as a non-profit organization, certain criteria had to be met, but if the taxes were levied unfairly, the appeals process would rectify the problem.

Cunningham explained that any taxes imposed on campus businesses would have a direct effect on the kinds of student services that can be provided by the SU. The appeals for both the 2005 and 2006 assessments are currently pending.

ASA FUNDS GO MISSING FROM OFFICE

Summer issue 4, 10 August

In mid-June, \$4000 was discovered to be missing from the Arts Students' Association (ASA), prompting worries about accountability and security issues within the organization. The money, which was raised during the Arts students' graduation banquet on 9 June, was found to be missing by then-ASA president Ariana Barer, who reported the incident to the vice-president at the time, Blythe Morrow. After a bit of investigation, Morrow contacted Arts councillor Michelle Kelly, who had handled the money after the banquet and was tasked with taking the assets to the safe in the ASA office.

Kelly insisted that the money was in the office, but admitted that she had not actually put the money in the safe, instead placing it on a nearby table. A subsequent cleaning of the office turned up no trace of the missing money. At this moment, despite an investigation by the Edmonton Police Service, no charges have been laid in the case, and no one has been mentioned as being a suspect.

Morrow laments that the biggest problem isn't the missing money, but rather the blow that the ASA's image will take in the eyes of students. She explained that it would be an uphill battle for the organization to restore a sense of responsibility and transparency after the disappearance of the funds.

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By-Election Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the Students' Union By-Election to be held on September 28 & 29.

The following positions available are listed below by faculty:

Agriculture Forestry and Home Economics

- 2 Students' Union Council Seats
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Arts

- 3 Students' Union Council Seats
- 4 General Faculties Council Seats

Business

- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Education

- 3 Students' Union Council Seats
- 4 General Faculties Council Seats

Engineering

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat

Faculte St. Jean

- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Medicine and Dentistry

- 1 General Faculties Council Seats

Native Studies

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Nursing

- 2 Students' Union Council Seats
- 2 General Faculties Council Seats

Open Studies

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat

Pharmacy

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Rehab Medicine

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Nomination Packages are available from 2-900 SUB, 3-02K SUB, or online at www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

Nominations are due on September 18 @ 17:00



STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2006