

## THE GATEWAY

tuesday, 7 november, 2006  
volume XCVII number 17

Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 12 000  
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04  
Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168  
Fax 780.492.6665  
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700  
E-mail gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

## editorialstaff

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Matt Frehner  
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168

**MANAGING EDITOR** Chloé Fedio  
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654

**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Natalie Climenhaga  
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308

**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Scott Lilwall  
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664

**OPINION EDITOR** Adam Gaumont  
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Amanda Ash  
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052

**SPORTS EDITOR** Paul Owen  
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652

**PHOTO EDITOR** Krystina Sulatycki  
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Mike Kendrick  
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663

**ONLINE COORDINATOR** Mike Otto  
online@gateway.ualberta.ca

## businessstaff

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Steve Smith  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669

**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Cziolek  
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700

**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn  
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647

**CIRCULATION PAL** Scott C Bourgeois  
**CIRCULATION PAL** Morgan Smith  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669



THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

## complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors; beyond that, appeal is to the non-partisan Society OmbudsBoard. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

## copyright

All materials appearing in the Gateway bear copyright of their creator(s) and may not be used without written consent.

## disclaimers

Opinions expressed in the pages of the Gateway are expressly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gateway or the Gateway Student Journalism Society.

Additionally, the opinions expressed in advertisements appearing in the Gateway are those of the advertisers and not the Gateway nor the Gateway Student Journalism Society unless explicitly stated.

## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Umax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Highway 16 Speed Challenge and OCB/OCA.

## contributors

Catherine Scott, Derek Larson, Kristina De Guzman, Elizabeth Vail, Reid Buckmaster, Jonn Kmech, Kelsey Tanasiuk, Bryan Saunders, Phil Head, Graeme Head, Conal Pierser, Ramin Ostad, Patrick Ross, Paul Knoechel, Liv Vors, Robin Sissons, Jeff Martin, Marie-Annick Jean, Fraser Tingle, Chris O'Leary, Nick Frost, Boris Korby, Janelle Sloychuk, Lauren Stieglitz, Ashley Scarlett, Josh Staa, Erinne Fenwick, June Huynh

## Reactions to tuition policy a mixed bag

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Herard explained that there are details to be announced that will make a more comprehensive affordability package.

"When you add up all of the initiatives that we're undertaking for our next budget, we will be the most affordable, innovative and the best support system in the country," he said.

But Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External) at the University of Alberta, said that the policy is simply "an endorsement of the status quo when it comes to the up-front cost of an education."

"Most of the stuff that we advocated for was not included in this policy," said Cournoyer, who is also the Chair of Council of Alberta University Students. "It's not actually dealing with the issue of affordability for students, which is disappointing after we've been promised again and again that we'd be pleasantly surprised."

But Herard said that the policy does fulfill Klein's promise and that he wants to sit down with student leaders to go over the details.

"I'm just really anxious for the students to understand that what they saw was just part of the picture and quite frankly, I don't blame them for being somewhat disappointed because if you don't have the whole picture, then that happens," Herard said.

Still, not all student leaders criticized the new policy, as Athabasca University's Students' Union applauded the government in a 6 November press release.

"One item that was not specifically requested by AUSU, which we are delighted to see in the new policy, is the requirement that universities and the government must consult with students groups—who are, after all, those most affected by the policy—before making any changes," the press release said.

But since the passing of Bill 40 in May, which took tuition out of legislation and put it into regulation, Cournoyer suggested that the government could make changes in closed-door cabinet meetings, without student input.

Raj Pannu, New Democrat MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona, said that the government already conceded that tuition fee levels "were intolerably high" by freezing the fees for the past

two years, and that increasing upon the 2004/05 levels was "disappointing."

"To use that as a benchmark and start increasing the fees even beyond that makes no sense," Pannu said, who is the NDP critic for advanced education. "Alberta students will be paying more in tuition fees as this new formula is implemented."

However, Herard explained that though student leaders wanted the ministry to roll back tuition to 2000/01 levels, such a step would have prevented other reforms to the system.

"We're looking at how we can get the best bang for our dollar and help students in the most effective way dealing with all of the challenges that we have in our student system plan," he said, adding that the ministry is currently working with the federal government to change some regulations.

Carl Amrhein, U of A Provost, said it's important to keep in mind that the government has "provided all of the funding to the universities that they promised," and that students have paid frozen rates for the past two years.

"The elected student leaders will always argue that the government could have done more—and that's a political decision—but the government has, in Alberta, shifted a least a little bit [of] the burden back to the taxpayer and away from the student," Amrhein said. "I think this is exciting news and certainly moving in a helpful direction."

Amrhein said that tying the increase to CPI, which amounts to about 3.3 per cent, was no surprise, since the ministry had hinted at those numbers for a while. Still, he was pleasantly surprised that the government has guaranteed to continue to buffer the cost of increases that exceed 3.3 per cent for the next three years—\$136 million in additional funding.

The "Affordability Framework for Post-secondary Education," released along with the announcement also stated that it will reduce eligibility barriers to increase access to the student finance system, in an effort to recognize education costs that extend beyond tuition. However, Cournoyer said that access to greater financing makes it easier for students to accumulate higher debt.

"I feel this is a step in the wrong direction," Cournoyer said.



KRISTINA SULATYCKI

PLEASED PROVOST Carl Amrhein is pleased with Alberta's new tuition policy.

## TIMELINE

January 2005—then-minister of advanced education Dave Hancock began consultations to review post-secondary education.

February 2005—Premier Ralph Klein promised Albertans in a televised address that the province would have the most affordable tuition policy in the country.

June 2005—the *A Learning Alberta* review began, headed by a 17-member Steering Committee, who undertook the task of a comprehensive post-secondary education review.

November 2005—the Alberta Learning review brought together 250 postsecondary education leaders to discuss the ongoing review.

Hancock suggested that the tuition policy would be announced in the spring of 2006.

April 2006—Dave Hancock resigned from his post as minister to run in the Progressive Conservative leadership race and was replaced by Denis Herard.

May 2006—the government successfully passed Bill 40, which took tuition out of legislation and put it into regulation.

Herard suggested the policy would be announced in September 2006.

On Friday, 3 November, Minister Herard announced the new tuition policy.

Pannu echoed these statements. "By simply increasing the loan limits, the government has simply allowed debt loads to go up," Pannu said. "What the government needed to do was change its financing policies to shift the focus from loans to forgivable grants upon the completion of a program."

With the Progressive Conservative leadership race in full swing, Cournoyer said a new lobbying strategy will have to wait, and that the SU and CAUS will continue to pressure the government to follow through on Klein's promise.

"This is the kind of policy that should

have been implemented 15 years ago, before tuition at the University of Alberta saw the massive increases that it did—with the 300 per cent increases," Cournoyer said.

According to Statistics Canada, the average cost of tuition in Alberta during the 1990/91 academic year was \$1286, which was below the national average of \$1464. Tuition fees in Alberta for the 2006/07 academic year are \$4828, compared to the national average of \$4347. Québec students paid the lowest tuition in the country this year at \$1916.

## STREETERS

Former president of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, was sentenced to death on 5 November, for poison gas attacks on Kurdish peoples.

Do you support the use of the death penalty for war criminals?



Megan Davis  
Science III



Brock Richardson  
Poli Sci III



Graham Connolly  
Arts IV



Farzad Khoshandangoli  
Sciences IV

Yes I do...Mainly because [Saddam Hussein] basically killed a lot of other people, so I think the only fair retaliation is that he be put to death.

I just think that in the particular case of Saddam Hussein, that the court that has been set up there by the Americans is about as valid as one of Mick McGeough's calls.

Yes, I do in certain cases. If it's a fair and reasonable trial that's approved of by the people that they oppressed.

I'd say absolutely because being as he committed so many atrocious crimes against the Kurds and the Iranians using poisonous gas, absolutely.

Compiled and photographed by Kelsey Tanasiuk and Junette Huynh