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GENERAL VOLUNTEER MEETING:

6pm, Thursday, 13 September
Alumni Room, Main Floor, SUB



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U of A wants 500 new professors

Administration hopes the hiring spree will increase international recognition

CATHERINE SCOTT
News Staff

Stemming from University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera's Dare to Discover initiative, the U of A has launched a recruitment campaign that hopes to bring in 500 of the best professors in the world over the next four years.

The initiative plans to put the U of A on the map as an internationally recognized and respected university, and that in order to do so, it must stay on top of recruiting for top instructors. This means that the search can't be limited to Canadian professors because, as acting provost and vice-president (academic) Dr Art Quinney noted, approximately 35 per cent of new faculty have been arriving from outside of Canada.

"We are competing with other institutions, [not only in] Canada, [but] internationally ... to find the very best people that we can," Quinney said.

According to Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel, not only will talented professors contribute to the prestige and image of the U of A, he believes it will also improve

the quality of education.

"As long as the University is able to ensure that faculty are passionate about research as well as teaching, I think this could go a great way to refiguring the quality of undergraduate education," Samuel said.

"We are moving forward, and we are having success in recruiting just outstanding people."

ART QUINNEY
ACTING PROVOST AND VP (ACADEMIC)

He went on to suggest that about 40 per cent of a professor's time should be devoted to teaching, with another 20 per cent dedicated to research.

Quinney echoed these expectations, noting that excellent teaching, research, and community service go hand-in-hand.

In addition, Samuel and Quinney both stated that there's a need to improve the student-to-faculty ratio.

Right now, it stands at about 23:1; according to Samuel, the optimal ratio is 15:1.

"We want to increase the number of professors so that [they] do have more interaction with students," he said.

Among the professors that have been hired recently is Dr Arya Sharma, who specializes in obesity research. He begins on 1 September as the chair in obesity research and management at the U of A. Sharma has also been hired as medical director for Capital Health's Weight Wise program.

Although the recruitment campaign is already in full swing, there remains work to do.

"We still have to develop and get the funding to really look at the full 500 professors over the next four-year period," Quinney said.

The funding for this campaign is currently coming from an enrolment-planning fund and donations to the U of A. According to Quinney, with these added resources, the the program is heading in the right direction.

"We are moving forward, and we are having success in recruiting just outstanding people."

City polling station removed from Lister

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

After only 39 students voted there in the 2004 municipal election, the City of Edmonton has decided to remove a sub-polling station from the Lister Hall residence.

"We were really disappointed with the lower turnout," Jacqueline Roblin, City of Edmonton manager of elections, said, explaining that the sub-polling station had been a pilot project suggested by the City's Youth Council as a potential way to increase voter turnout.

Roblin explained that the station, which was open for six hours, cost just over \$500 to run, but cited Edmonton's shortage of workers as the main reason for its discontinuation.

"In the current labour market, we're scrambling for workers, and our main goal is to staff the polls where we get the turnout," she explained. "This sub-poll is nice to have, but if we're short of workers, it doesn't logistically make sense for us to be placing workers in a sub-poll where we historically have had dismal turnout."

Upon hearing of the City's decision, Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky tried unsuccessfully to convince them to reconsider.

"I explained to them my concerns, which were that Lister Hall residents are very busy, they aren't necessarily familiar with the Edmonton community, and they have increased interest in municipal issues," Dollansky said, adding that since the last City election, he believes students have begun to pay more attention to municipal politics due to factors such as the U-Pass implementation and the housing crunch.

"I was encouraging them to reinstate it, but they said they're in a tough spot right now finding staff as it is, and it just wasn't working out."

However, Roblin suggested that parallels cannot be drawn between the low turnout that was seen at Lister and student voter apathy.

"Just because only 39 people voted in the last election doesn't mean that university students didn't have an opportunity to vote," she said, noting that many students



MIKE OTTO

BALLOT BOX BLUES LHS President Kyle Marshal hopes the lack of a Lister-based polling station won't stop Listerites from voting in October's municipal election.

don't list Lister as their permanent address and they may be choosing to vote in home jurisdictions outside Edmonton.

Roblin explained that, with the residence sub-polling station gone, Listerites will still have access to the Windsor Park Elementary School polling station, which is located only two blocks away from the residence.

However, despite the short distance, Dollansky affirmed that he would do his best to make the journey easier on Listerites.

"We're just going to have to really work hard to try and get students involved because this just makes it a little bit more difficult to get people to take a little bit of extra time out of their day to walk over and vote," Dollansky said. "It's a concern but it's one that we're going to have to deal with."

Kyle Marshal, 2007/08 Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA) President, said that he was also disappointed by the City's decision, but that he will now be working with Dollansky to make sure students are informed about voting options.

"Some people have night class, and they have to now go out and search within their community to find a place to vote," Marshal said.

"At this point, we're just going to work very hard to ensure that Lister Hall residents know where they vote," Dollansky said, adding that he plans on being pre-emptive to ensure that other polling stations aren't also removed from Lister.

"I'm going to be calling Elections Alberta and Elections Canada to ensure that they keep the polling station in Lister."