

Even after passing, seat reduction doesn't sit well with all councillors

COUNCIL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"To me, it just doesn't make a lot of sense that a student in Native Studies who wants to go and vote in a Council election, their vote is equal weight to five students in the faculty of Science," he said.

However, the amendment was met with staunch opposition from most councillors.

"As a Pharmacy councillor, I don't feel I could adequately represent the needs of a [medical] student," said Jay Gauthier during the debate. "Sure it would be possible, but I think it's asking too much."

Ultimately, the amendment was defeated by a large majority of councillors—a move Dollansky disagreed with.

"Unfortunately, by failing the amendment, we sacrificed equality for efficiency, when we could have had both."

But Arts councillor Caitlin Schulz—who spoke against Bill 7 during debate—disagreed with Dollansky's sentiments, stating that she "thought [the amendment] was ridiculous."

"I agree with trying to be efficient and with equality, but I think we're getting that done right now with 42 people," Schulz said. "I think we could have tried to become more efficient with the quantity we had instead of trying to change everything all at once."

Still, Dollansky feels the ten-councillor reduction would make council more orderly.

"32 was a number I felt would still



MIKE OTTO

NOT DOWN WITH DOWNSIZING Schulz is opposed to shrinking Council.

maintain an equal [amount] of representation, although not quite as good as what we would have seen under a combined-faculty system, while still reducing size in Council enough to encourage more active participation and a more manageable atmosphere in chambers," he said.

Schulz, on the other hand, remains unconvinced that Bill 7 will solve the problems of efficiency and equality on Council.

"I don't think it's in the best interest of the student population; 32 council-

lors isn't enough representation," she explained. "We have 30 000 undergraduate students with only 32 people representing them; I just don't think it's a good idea."

Council last experienced a major size change in 2001 when it voted to remove the five-councillor-per-faculty limit but kept the same formula for calculating the number of councillors per faculty, which effectively increased the size of council by giving larger faculties more representation.

NEWS BRIEFS

U OF A CONTINUES EXPANSION OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

With International Week starting on 28 January, the University is focused on establishing a strong position in the global community, and according to Barry Tonge, director of Education Abroad, the the program at U of A International will play an integral part in that goal.

Throughout the last ten years, International Education Abroad has seen a dramatic expansion of its programs. Study opportunities are currently available in about 45 different countries, and Tonge predicts that the number will increase to more than 50 within the next two years.

"We maintain regular programs on every continent except the Antarctic—and we're working on that," he said. "The Canadian Circumpolar Institute is looking at a program that would take a group on a ship down to the Antarctic to do a field experience. [After we] plant our flag in the Antarctic, we will actually have programs on all continents."

But setting up so many programs abroad is no easy task. It takes careful consideration to balance quality education, safety concerns, U of A interests, student interests, and the constantly changing state of foreign affairs, Tonge explained.

"We consistently have to contemporize the program to reflect those things," he said, adding both the director and participating students feel that an opportunity to study abroad is worth the hard work.

Motria Savaryn, a fourth-year economics major and German minor, studied in Germany and Italy last year. She said she has no regrets about her decision to study abroad, despite how challenging such programs can be for both

the University and individual students.

"It does take work, and for some people; it's difficult to be going away for the first time," she said. "It depends on your program in the sense of whether it's easy or hard to get credit. But in the sense of an experience or for professional purposes, I don't think you can say anything bad about it."

Martin Gallego, an engineering grad student here from Spain, agreed. He said that coming into contact with different cultures and different school systems is valuable because "you can have different experiences and compare and make your own idea about which is the best."

All of this increasing support for international schooling is a clear sign of how attitudes in postsecondary education are changing, according to Tonge.

"In the old days, it was a certain type of liberal arts student who took a junior year abroad, but now we see some of the biggest take-up is actually engineering, business students, and they recognize very concrete results," he said.

"Employers and CEOs like to recruit and employ people with international experience because they bring these critical competencies and skills that a student who stays for four years at the U of A will simply not have."

—Sunny Chan, News Writer

U OF A CONSIDERS IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS

Despite ongoing discussions, the University of Alberta has yet to decide on the best way to warn students of an imposing danger on campus.

On the heels of the Dawson College and Virginia Tech shootings, some schools, such as the University of British Columbia and the University of Calgary, had already implemented emergency warning systems. However, the U of A has yet to develop a comprehensive strategy, and is currently working on a com-

bined study with Simon Fraser University and the University of New Brunswick to evaluate possible warning systems.

According to University of Alberta communications professor Gordon Gow, the University is using a "wise strategy" by researching possibilities before implicating one. Gow's role in the effort is two-fold: as a researcher and as part of the Emergency Communications System Work Group.

Text messaging has been considered as one possibility according to Gow; however, he said it poses many logistical problems, such as potential network congestion, keeping databases up to date, and high administrative costs. He also suggested that perhaps a low tech solution such as public address systems and sign boards would be best.

U of A Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Chris Le explained that this is more than just an issue of last year's shooting.

"Even before I had come into office there had been talks about making sure that we had an emergency response [system for] different crises," he said. "The University has their mind on making sure they can be as proactive as possible."

However, before the University makes any major decisions, Gow stressed that it needs to determine the impact that such a system would have on the campus community, explaining that there would be continued studies on the subject and perhaps even student surveys distributed.

Le agreed that any possible system will require more research before it can best serve students.

"We pay our tuition expecting that get the most valued [university experience]," Le said. "We want it to be something that is efficient, that will be reliable, that will always work, [and] that we can trust."

—Megan Kingdon, News Writer



ROADHOUSE
GET BUCKED TUESDAYS!
home of the \$5 REVERSE COVER
Come down Tuesday nights, and get reverse cover b4 10pm, then enjoy \$1 highballs, till 12, \$3 highballs after.
10736 - Jasper Ave.
oilcityroadhouse.com
780.428.0099

THE BANK ultra lounge

WWW.THEBANKULTRALOUNGE.COM
10765 JASPER AVE.

H★LLYWOOD WEDNESDAYS

LADIES NIGHT!

\$1 DRINKS
(BEFORE MIDNIGHT)



GENTLEMEN \$3 DRINKS