

Make a DIFFERENCE!

Run for the AP!RG Board of Directors!

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group and is a student-run, student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest. AP!RG exists to provide students with resources to be active citizens, and does so by providing funding for student working groups, and support to help students transform social concerns into effective action.

Nomination packages are available at:

- the AP!RG office (9111 HUB),
- the Students' Union Office (2-900 SUB),
- online at www.apirg.org.

The Nomination deadline is Wednesday, February 13th at 5pm; please email cro@apirg.org for more information.

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

DR. SARAH McEVOY

ENG COMP 100

Sarah is an excellent instructor. She is CLEARLY enthusiastic about the class she is instructing. She does her best to keep the class interested, even when the material is uninteresting. She is understanding and patient when you ask questions, and if she cannot answer you immediately, she does some research and makes every effort to answer as quickly as possible. She also makes herself available out of class time to help with questions or labs. When meeting with her out of class time, she does not rush, but takes the time to explain everything until you understand. She also provides plenty of [material] to prepare us very well for our exams. I would not hesitate to say she is the best instructor I have ever had.

Do you have a professor that's unique and shows their value of undergraduate teaching? Nominate them! Email avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

Nominations can also be picked up and submitted at any Faculty Association or InfoLink desk, or the SU executive offices front desk.



KATIE MOONEY

COMMUNIST DISCOURSE People gather in the SUB Alumni Room to discuss a communist future for Canada on Monday.

CPC leader talks social democracy during U of A political roundtable

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

The head of the Communist Party of Canada was in Edmonton on Monday as part of his cross-country trip to promote the party's socialist view of democracy.

CPC leader Miguel Figueroa participated in a discussion at the University of Alberta, focused on the importance of the imminent provincial election.

"[The Alberta election] will be an important testing ground," he said. "Defeating the Tories in Alberta would go a long way to defeating them across the country, which would be in the best interest of the vast majority."

Also attending the discussion was Naomi Rankin, one of the two candidates running for the provincial CPC. She echoed Figueroa's sentiments that the upcoming vote has the potential to begin a shift to the left.

"This could be one of the most interesting and exciting elections in Alberta in a long time," Rankin said. "There's a real deep discontent that [the Conservatives] cannot explain away. [...] This is an opening; people are fed up. People want change. We can address the real issues of class in Alberta."

Figueroa believes change would be beneficial at the federal level as well.

"The re-election of the Harper Tories,

especially if they get a majority, would be extremely detrimental to the future of our country, for our sovereignty, for preservation of the environment," Figueroa stated. "They're representing the interests of Big Oil and Big Capital, not the long term interests of our country or our globe."

The CPC, Figueroa said, advocates the view that Canada's interests are better served through strong social programs and fair representation in government with a proportional representation election system.

"[The First-past-the-post system] herds people into voting not for the party that comes closest to what they want, but instead for the least of what they don't want," Figueroa said, adding that a more equal democratic process can be achieved when the wealth of the nation follows suit.

"You can't have genuine political democracy when the economy is profoundly undemocratic," he said. "Capitalism runs rampant; globalization is increasing disparities between the rich and poor. [...] Rights working people had fought for decades to win—trade union rights, social programs like healthcare and education—are all coming under attack."

Figueroa has never been elected to office, but it hasn't discouraged his fight for gender and social equality, as well as against racism, which he

calls a flawed veil behind selective immigration practices.

"We oppose immigration policies that are skewed in a racist way," he said. "People come to this country, and their credentials aren't recognized. There need to be a lot of changes made."

The party would like to see changes in regards to postsecondary education, too.

"We think education is a basic right. It should be based on merit and effort, not on the ability to pay," Figueroa explained. "In a wealthy province like Alberta there is absolutely no justification for [tuition as a] barrier to universal accessibility."

Figueroa said that the CPC has no real-life model, as countries like the Soviet Union have "committed crimes in the name of socialism."

In Canada, Figueroa explained the mainstream left-wing choice, the New Democrat Party, has strayed from socialist ideals because they believe in small reforms to capitalism, which at its root is still individualism.

"The idea of counter-posing the individual to the needs of the community as a whole has been brought to its zenith under capitalism. [...] You get ahead at the expense of others; it's a cutthroat society, law of the jungle," he said. "Is humanity doomed always to have such attitudes? We don't think so. But of course, it's not going to happen overnight."

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Lack of consultation detrimental—Marshall

LISTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I feel they are significantly ripping up the fabric of one of the tightest and strongest communities on our campus, in a proposal that hasn't fully been thought out, that hasn't been consulted with the community, and that hasn't been vetted to different members," Students' Union President and former LHSA president Michael Janz said, prior to the Administration's announcement that hiring for next year would be able to go ahead as in previous years.

"I guess I have to admit the process wasn't as engaging as it should be. We've agreed to that," U of A Vice-President (Facilities & Operations) Don Hickey said, adding that the University would now move forward with a review of the election system in conjunction with student representatives.

"We are committed to work with the students after the elections on what are our concerns, what are the students' concerns, is what we have the most appropriate or is there a more appropriate system of getting these positions in place," Hickey said.

Janz said he was "absolutely floored"

that the University was considering a move like this, as he felt it "would alienate so many current students and alumni in the year of our centennial."

Janz further noted that in Schaeffer Hall, the only Lister tower where members are appointed instead of elected, there have been attempts over the past six years to also get those members elected.

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DON HICKEY
U OF A VICE-PRESIDENT
(FACILITIES & OPERATIONS)

However, other proposed changes concerning the way student offenders are dealt with will be implemented as of 1 May. Hickey explained that offences on campus have risen "in double-digit percentages" over the last two years and that there was agreement over the need to revamp how

discipline is conducted.

Hickey said that for example, "furniture being thrown out windows is a very serious issue."

Hickey further noted that in response to the massive student reaction, the administration takes a holistic approach to its consultation procedures.

"Our constituency isn't just students—we interact with student families quite a bit too, and sometimes the expectations of the families and the students don't match completely," he said.

However, the logistics of the changes aside, Janz stressed that the initial lack of student consultation that occurred was inexcusable.

"Consultation isn't just me telling you something is happening; consultation is having a dialogue and input from both parties, and that [hadn't] happened here," Janz said.

Listerites proved their ability to quickly mobilize over the Internet as well. By the time the administration announced hiring would continue unchanged, the Facebook group created in response to the proposed changes had already surpassed 1300 members.