

U.P.E.I. ARCHIVES

# NEWS

## MPHEC report represents student

*"... tuition costs should be eliminated, and education should be free in this country."*

This statement comes from a report to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission which on October 2, was presented by SU President, Gordon Cobb.

Past SU President; Michele Dorsey, Cathy Campbell, Jacinta Gallant, and Carolyn Ryan; VP Academic, contributed to Cobb's report, which centered around the theme of better communication between the university and government.

The MPHEC recommends the level of funding that will be given

to universities by the government. Cobb felt that his oral report went "very well". The major funding issues mentioned in the report were for better athletic facilities, and a greater course selection for students.

In the report, Cobb seems to take a negative view of the new Atlantic Veterinary College which is receiving separate government funding. Cobb dismissed this observation, stating that he was simply "trying to illustrate the student perception that the Vet College is roaring right ahead, with things still needed here".

Cobb described in his report the UPEI athletic facilities as being "a downright embarrassment for all who are a part of the university community". Cobb felt that the state of UPEI's athletic facilities is one "of the biggest concerns on the campus."

Cobb was attempting, through

his report, to represent what students popularly felt. "But, of course, my feelings were represented as well," he said.

When asked about past university funding by the MPHEC, Cobb said that it, "fell short of our expectations. We've come through a time when we've been fighting over what the university is supposed to be, and trying to establish and identity." Cobb feels that as a result of this, there is "not good communication between UPEI and the government. We don't realize the importance of one to the other."

In his report, Cobb suggested that university education be free of cost. When asked about this suggestion, Cobb replied that "I think it's not impossible. At one time parents had to fight to send their kids to elementary school. It was the same for high school." He expanded on his views by

saying that there is "so much money put in by the government to help students pay tuition. The government puts more money into


putting money into the hands of the students". Cobb wants to see the Government, "placing a higher priority on education".

Cobb also mentioned in his report the problems faced by mature and part-time university students to get the courses they want, because teaching is directed at the main stream of students". In order to solve this problem, Cobb felt that the university "requires more staff ... requires money basically".

The decision resulting from consideration of Cobb's report is expected to come sometime next year.

Cobb felt that in his report he "illustrated problems, and offered a few solutions."

by Sheila Lund



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