

User fees implemented for inter-library loans

By **MELISSA DOUCETTE**

Students and faculty of UPEI must now pay a user fee for Inter-Library Loans (ILL). Undergraduate students pay \$2 for each ILL, while faculty, graduate students, and outside borrowers pay \$3.

Under the old system, the first five ILL's were free to undergraduates. For subsequent loans, the library absorbed the first five dollars of the cost, and the student paid the rest. Now, the \$2 user fee per loan is the only one charged to undergrads.

Dr. Marva Sweeney-Nixon, Biology Professor, contends that her department is not well equipped to reimburse students for ILL expenses accrued for class work.

Often, biology students find they need to travel to Dalhousie University to con-

duct research, continues Sweeney-Nixon.

In addition, faculty, graduate students, and outside borrowers must pay the cost of the ILL as well as the user fee. Depending upon where the ILL comes from, ILL costs can run anywhere from \$5 to \$20 per loan.

In the opinion of some faculty, the user fee coupled with the increasing cost of ILL's is discouraging thoroughness in research for all members of the university community.

"The library is essential to campus activities," notes Sweeney-Nixon, who feels that budget cuts critically effect research, teaching, and students.

Dr. Irene Gammel of the English Department comments that many professors are considering travelling to Toronto

or Boston for research purposes.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult to conduct serious research [at UPEI]," adds Gammel.

Dr. Roger Gordon, Dean of Science, comments that publishing is fundamental for a professor's career stability and promotion in today's highly competitive market.

But the library staff feel they had little choice in the decision to implement a user fee.

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UPEI library not immune to cuts to education.

- Photo Richard Haines

Student union general meeting given little attention

By **MELISSA DOUCETTE**

A spirit of resounding indifference characterized the

first UPEI Student Union (SU) General Meeting of the year. The Pit was no more crowded than usual, and most students

seemed to be disinterested or unaware of the proceedings.

The poor attendance may be due to a lack of promotion

of the meeting.

According to the UPEI SU Constitution, Article XIV (F), all General Meetings require proper notice given through the campus radio and the student newspaper. Notice of date, place, and agenda must be publicized in two consecutive editions of the paper.

Quorum—the number of students needed to declare an official General Meeting—must also be met. If there is no quorum, another general meeting must be held in that semester, as the SU is required to host a minimum of one per term.

Under Article XIV (C), this number is set at five percent of the Active Members, roughly around 100 students.

The UPEI SU speaker is also obliged to officiate all General Meetings.

But notice of date, place, and agenda of the UPEI SU was not placed in two consecutive issues of *The Cadre*. The UPEI SU speaker did not preside over the General Meeting, and it is not known if quorum was met.

The meeting agenda was fairly limited, consisting of a general introduction to the union, reports from the SU Executive, and announcements.

Out of all the Executive, Vice-President Pauline Tran tried to inject some vigour into the listless crowd. Many paid little attention to the happenings, and one person yelled,

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The Pit hosted the SU general meeting to a lukewarm response.

- File photo