

WILL BUSINESS KILL UPEI?

by Anna MacDonald

A recent debate concerning a possible change from the Department of Business Administration to a School of Business, has caused a great deal of controversy and heated discussion among both the Faculty and students of UPEI.

At present, Business Administration is classified as a department under the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Arts. Any students attending UPEI for the business program must register under the Faculty of Arts with a major in Business Administration.

Some of the Faculty and students of Business feel that the Business Department would function more effectively as a separate school.

Professor J. Revell, head of the Department of Business Administration, expressed his views on the issue in an interview with the SUN. Revell feels that the time has come for change at UPEI.

In 1969, the Business Department consisted of three faculty members and less than 100 students. It is now a fully integrated degree program with an enrollment of approximately 400 students or 30% of the student population at UPEI.

Revell feels that Business Administration should have separate status due to differences in organizational structure. Business is not a faculty because it is unidepartmental while the Faculty of Arts is multidepartmental.

A change from departmental to school status would place Business Administration in its proper place at UPEI, according to Revell. School status, he feels, would actually create a better business program for the students.

Although Revell expresses confidence in a new status for business, some arts faculty members and arts students have expressed fear that school status would give the business sector too much influence in matters such as budget, staff changes, and curriculum.

Revell replied to this fear by saying that the university would have to ensure safeguards that would prevent business or any other department from getting a bigger share in the budget.

President Meincke stated in an interview that "the determination of the needs of any one department or program has to be made by comparing it with all the other programs and departments throughout UPEI and not just with those in a particular faculty. Thus, school status for Business Administration will not enhance its ability to get a greater share of the pie."

Meincke stated that such safeguards are built into the budget process itself.

Some arts students have expressed belief that school status would result in the increased specialization of business. Meincke replied by saying, "I certainly do not believe school status will increase the degree of business specialization. There will be important input into planning and development of the program through the Academic Committee. I am confident that Senate will continue to keep a very careful eye on what happens in the business program."

Revell believes that school status will actually increase the interaction and integration of students and faculty members from both business and the Faculty of Arts.

Meincke replied by saying, "I do not think making business a school will either enhance or increase/decrease the interaction of business students with students enrolled in arts programs. This interaction will continue to come through being enrolled in the same courses. I am also confident that the increased activities of the Student Union will play an important role in bringing all students in this university together."

The implications of a new school status for business could possibly have far-reaching effects for UPEI. While some students and faculty members in both

arts and business applaud the idea of a business school, others feel that it may be detrimental to the Faculty of Arts. Frank Ledwell, Dean of Arts, refused to comment on the issue at this time. But one arts professor mentioned that if business became a school, and students were made to take more business courses, the fine arts and other small arts courses may phase out due to lack of enrollment.

If this becomes the case, the fear of UPEI losing its status as a "liberal arts" school to become a community college may be well founded.



Business putting on the dog!!

- President - Harmut Jewan (Germany)
Re-election
- Vice President - Heather MacDougall (Canada)
- Secretary-Treasurer - Memboob Rahemtulla (Kenya)

FUR'NERS MEET


by Heather MacDougall

The first meeting of the 1980/81 International Students Society of UPEI was held Wed. Oct. 8. The agenda included a review of the past year's activities; the election of this year's new executive; and some suggestions for the upcoming activities of the society. Among those in attendance were Jim Griffith of Student Services; Profs. Jammu and Judson, UPEI's foreign student advisors; and Nadine Smith, the International Education Representative for Red Cross. Unfortunately, the student turnout was not as great as anticipated. Nonetheless, officer elections were held. The resulting executives were as follows:

The members and executive of this year's society have the advantage of an established constitution, a subcommittee status for the Students Union, thanks to the work of last year's executive.

The membership of the International Student Society of UPEI is not limited to foreigners. On the contrary, the society welcomes all students, Canadian and non-Canadian. A society such as this gives an opportunity for each member to establish good friendships and to widen world views at the same time.

The executive will be meeting this week to plan projects for the coming year and the next Society meeting will be well announced.




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