

# Tuition rises again

## Spanish program in jeopardy

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

Since 1993, tuition at UPEI has risen by almost 45 per cent, and another increase seems likely.

"[Tuition has] gone up the last twenty years. I can't see why next year would be different," commented Neil Henry, Vice-President of Finance and Facilities at UPEI. The administration will not be certain how much tuition will cost for the 1999-2000 year until the provincial government's budget comes down, sometime within the next month.

But Henry estimates that tuition will probably increase by five to eight per cent. "It's not something the administration wants to do," he added.

First year student Ryan O'Connor is not impressed. "It's expensive," he says of the already high costs students face.

Athletic fees, which are tied to tuition, will also increase. Residence fees are set for other reasons, said Henry, and residences are intended to be a break-even business.

There are already differential fees for programs at UPEI, where Education students pay for their practicum, science students pay a laboratory user fee, and music students are subject to certain additional charges.

The revenue for the university depends on the grant given to UPEI by the government, and on tuition fees. UPEI is currently in the middle of a ten per cent reduction of the government grant, which has been spread over three years.

Last year saw a six per cent cut in provincial money. This year there was supposed to be a four per cent reduction, but the government cut less than they projected. For the 1999-2000 school year, the government grant is not intended to either rise or decrease.

The total amount of money cut from UPEI over the last three years was \$1.5 million.

But a zero per cent cut does not mean that UPEI's operating budget is unaffected. According to Henry, a decrease in government grants has two effects: the university loses money, and must also swallow cost increases.

"We need to look for \$3 million [for the budget]," said Henry, adding that over two years costs to the university have matched the \$1.5 million reduction of the government grant.

Henry also claims that 75 per cent of the university's operating budget goes towards the salaries of the 600 faculty and staff. Even a rise of one or two per cent adds significantly to the cost of running the university.

"It's the biggest single reason why costs go up every year," Henry replied.

The early retirement package given out several years ago reduced costs. In addition, UPEI cut staff and faculty positions, gave up

ownership of the rink, took from the Student Health Centre, and increased tuition to make up for the difference.

"It's not in the university's interest to raise tuition," Henry maintained. He also indicated that the Health Centre is always one of the last places touched when cuts are necessary.

"You get to the point where you can't take bits of things anymore," added Henry.

This year, the Spanish program is once again in danger. Last year, the program faced a serious and significant reduction in the services it provides. Students and faculty alike reacted strongly against the proposed cuts,

and the program survived.

"Its life [will be] determined by the [provincial] budget," commented Henry. "There is very little argument for cutting programs," he continued, adding that the administration is very reluctant to cut any program.

Henry indicated that students affect the government when the grant is being considered. Last November, a group of students protested at the opening of the Provincial Legislature about tuition hikes.

O'Connor was asked if he felt students could affect tuition prices.

"Indirectly," he replied. "By doing nothing that insures it will go up."

# Recycling at UPEI not as green as it could be

By LISA HOGAN

Beyond the arguments of landfill placement, there is the constant concern of the amount of waste produced by the community. Recycling efforts are at the forefront of many waste reduction plans, but many are concerned that UPEI is not keeping pace with the movement.

Dr. Marina Silva is an ecologist with the biology department.

"We [Silva and other professors in the biology department] don't think that it [waste reduction] is working at all, or that there is enough awareness."

Facts supporting the

need for recycling are numerous. Each one of us generates an average of 4.4 pounds of waste per day. One tonne of recycled paper saves 3,700 pounds of lumber and 24,000 gallons of water. Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates one job, landfilling the same amount creates six jobs, and recycling the same 10,000 tons creates 36 jobs.

But despite these statistics, many are still unconsciously reluctant to participate in the improvement of recycling.

No student is foreign to the seemingly endless stream of paper and photocopies that amass on a daily basis. Much of this never

finds its way to the designated blue bins for eventual recycling.

"Recycling of paper is very important," Silva says.

Silva and other biology professors offer a number of suggestions to help reduce paper waste and awareness of recycling at UPEI.

"One possibility to increase awareness is to have a day of recycling at UPEI, just as a starting point," she says. "As well, overheads could be printed instead of using plastic and professors could post their lecture notes or put them on the Internet."

"Both sides of paper could be printed on to reduce

paper waste, and professors could give out double sided handouts," she adds. "As well, students could learn how to photocopy using both sides of the paper, and recycled paper can be used."

When it comes to glass, many students seem to have an automatic incentive in recycling. "Pop bottles are often taken to be recycled for money, but fruit juice bottles often end up in the garbage."

There are also individuals who stave off waste by archiving many of their notes.

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