

University of Manitoba student newspaper threatened with shut down

Students at U of M claim the Manitoban "sucks"

By JEREMY NELSON

WINIPEG (CUP) -- University of Manitoba students may soon be without their campus newspaper thanks to a controversial motion passed at the student union's general meeting.

The motion orders the University of Manitoba student union to cut the \$6-per-student levy the newspaper the Manitoban presently receives to \$4 per student for the 1999-2000 publishing year, and to \$2 for all following years.

Introduced last week by engineering students' representative Chad Silverman, began by saying the Manitoban "sucks."

The general meeting is the only event where average students can make direct motions, providing quorum of 200

individuals is reached.

"I voted in favour of the motion because I just wanted to cut," said Silverman, adding that many engineers were also angry about the removal of a cartoon the paper used to run.

The syndicated comic strip was pulled after students expressed concerns it was sexist.

"I felt I was paying out too much to different student organizations that needed money."

Under the newspaper's budget for the 1998-1999 publishing year, \$2 per student would not even cover the cost of printing the paper.

The motion received little discussion. It is now before a student council committee before being sent for final approval by the student union. However, the motion may be

retroactively ruled out-of-order because it may have violated student union by-laws. The regulations state motions must be posted well prior to meetings so students have an opportunity to express their

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views before a vote.

"We are talking to our lawyers to discover whether the motion was appropriate and a legal motion, and then they'll take it from there," said Kelly Friesen, director of public relations for the student union.

The Manitoban will also be considering legal action against the student union and those

involved in the motion if it is not ruled out-of-order, said the paper's editor Ed Janzen.

He says the motion not only violates student union by-laws but also flies in the face of a 1997 referendum in which 1,814 students voted in favour of both the \$6 levy and giving the Manitoban full editorial and financial autonomy.

"I was struck by the disorganization and the contradictory nature of the [motion] organizers' complaints with the Manitoban," said

Janzen.

He added the \$6 each student pays to finance the paper isn't that expensive. "The six-dollar levy works out to 25 cents per student per issue, which is a very small amount, especially when you take into account that we are charged with the responsibility of covering events and issues at one of Canada's largest universities," he said.

"UMSU collects 30 times the amount students pay to the Manitoban," he added.

University enrolment down: Statistics Canada

By ANGELA PACIENZA

TORONTO (CUP) -- The number of people choosing to attend university has once again decreased, recently released government figures show.

University enrolment across Canada declined by nine per cent in the past five years with some regions experiencing as much as a 44 per cent reduction, the October 14 report from Statistics Canada indicates.

The report attributes the nation-wide decline to a 24 per cent drop in part-time students since the 1992-1993 academic year.

Among mature part-time students, ages 25 to 44, enrolment declined 28 per cent for men and 31 per cent for women.

Some provinces saw more of a decline than others. Prince Edward Island, New-

foundland and Manitoba all experienced more than a 40 per cent decrease in part-time students.

The largest increase of full-time students occurred in British Columbia where 16 per cent more students are attending school, the annual report showed. Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Saskatchewan also experienced substantial increases.

But student leaders say the numbers only tell one side of the story.

The head of one national student lobby group says the report doesn't document hidden factors -- like high tuition fees and student income levels -- that have probably contributed to the decline.

"Enrolment figures should always be perceived with caution because they're not always clear," said Elizabeth Carlyle, national chair-

woman of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Carlyle added the statistics don't paint an accurate picture of trends in education in Canada. "The federal government has not commissioned adequate studies to track post-secondary education and the income levels of people attending."

But Fromowitz added those figures may be misleading, since the university doesn't count students in full-time faculties who are taking a partial course load.

The average calculation for a part-time student across Canada is three courses or less. However, Nicola Paterson, an analyst with the Center for Education Statistics, says there's no standard definition of part-time and full-time studies.

"That can have an impact on the figures," she said.

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