

ving for tenure, how that is changing the relationship an individual student can have with an individual professor ...certainly at a place like UBC it is not possible but one of the great things about this place is that your professor's know you by name, and ask you where you were if you miss class. and I feel that sort of diminishing, because the focus is maybe on making money outside the university rather than being a mentor to each individual student, as much as is possible.

WM: Look Kent, we have a scale here and we have what I think you quite rightly identified as an institutional practice, or set of manners, that favor ready access to professors, that favor mentoring relationships between professors and students and I see that as something of great value and something we should promote and should be held on to as the great asset of UPEI. I have no doubt that people feel pressures in so many ways family pressures, financial pressures, the demands that go with being increasingly successful in ones career. I must confess that I face those every day my self.; 15 minutes I can manage 90 is more difficult. I don't see that, as itself, a problem. I accept it as a fact of life and I expect many of our students do too. It's really about commitment and about attitude. And one the points that sort of underlies your question is that there is a competition between scholarship and one's teaching responsibilities or mentoring responsibilities; frankly I see that as a false dichotomy and indeed I bet if you thought about the people who are... who bring the greatest value to those mentoring relationships, you would find that they are the people who are

doing interesting research and are on the leading edge of their field. It's not that people pay the price in terms of the quality of the connection with students to do that cutting edge scholarship. I don't believe that. I think that if there is an issue and I'm quite happy to see it as an institutional issue if indeed that whole aspect of the institution is suffering I'd be very surprised if it was the people who are the most productive as scholars who are underperforming in terms in what they are giving to their students.

KB: How do you as president influence university life? What I mean by that is academic life, social life, and what you have called para-academic life in the community at large. How do you, in your role, influence that unobtrusively?

WM: I don't think you can do it unobtrusively but it should be done as part of my job and as part of the institutional challenge and vocation. Example and tone. I think example is very important in the role of university president. I think the question of tone and humor is really important in institutions and an institution's relationship with the community. So I think we should encourage ourselves to laugh and have fun. And I think that if we're doing that I don't think we'll have trouble getting the community to join us. I don't think we'll have trouble getting an active contribution from across the university community, including students. That's obviously the ideal you're talking about when asking your question. But it is an issue a constant day by day issue for UPEI and for all universities and frankly I think there's a lot to be done at UPEI, and certainly not

only by the president, to do everything we can to enhance what we call the quality of university life. END

Part 2. Next Issue. *A discussion of the Irving corporation, tenure, and when a university president should be run out of town.*

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