

Council committee gives preliminary report on Vet College

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U.P.E.I.

By Ruth Edgett

The committee examining the long-term effects of UPEI of the Atlantic Regional Vet College will make its final report on Friday at the last Student Union Council meeting of the year.

The study group, composed of three students, one faculty member and one representative of the university administration, was struck by council earlier this year out of concern about the academic financial future of UPEI.

Committee chair Michele Dorsey and SU President Jack Keefe gave a preliminary report to Sunday's regular council meeting and said their final report will outline the committee's stand with regard to the new school.

"The committee has changed my mind anyway," Keefe told the council meeting. He went into the study with severe reservations about the effect the facility could have on the liberal arts and sciences focus of UPEI. However, he said Sunday, the vet school will probably be a bonus to the university by increasing enrolment and

drawing non-students to services the college will offer.

Dorsey and Keefe said the consensus among people the committee interviewed was that no-one can predict how the college will affect funding for the rest of the university once the original agreement expires in ten years' time. Concern has been expressed that the college could end up with most of the money for post-secondary education on P.E.I., and that the rest of the university would be left out in the cold.

Keefe and Dorsey said they are satisfied with the explanation that no-one can predict what will occur.

The group interviewed four Deans, one Director, President Meincke and Dr. Reg Thompson, as well as any faculty members interested in expressing their opinions.

It was originally to be composed of students and faculty only, but council complied with a request from Meincke and Thompson that an administrator be added. Dorsey said she felt the three-way combination worked well.

She said the committee

concluded that the addition of the college will probably necessitate changes to the university Senate. The four departments of the vet school under current guidelines, would require four seats on Senate. If that were the case, the school could easily sway Senate decisions with a block vote, she said.

However, the committee feels the problem could be avoided by changing the University Act and the composition of the Senate.

Dorsey said all who were interviewed opposed the inclusion of a bomb shelter in the design of the new facility, and Dr. Thompson assured the committee a definite proposal for a shelter hasn't been made and probably won't be.

The committee was also told about economic spin-off that will result from construction of the college and employment of faculty and staff after it is built.

There were some who expressed fear the college would change the orientation of the university and its political structure. But while some said such a change

would be detrimental, another opinion was that UPEI needs to be "shaken up" so it doesn't slip into complacency, said Dorsey.

Keefe said there remains a concern that education will be streamlined at some future date so that only the vet college and the arts and science faculties remain at UPEI. This concern arises out of talks by provincial education ministers about the

possibilities of having universities in various parts of the country specialize in different disciplines.

Another question is whether the college should be integrated, affiliated or federated with the university. Keefe said he doesn't see the integration of vet school students as a large issue, although such a move would mean more money for the Student Union. If either of

the other avenues — federation or affiliation — is taken, the Student Council will probably have little to do with vet students, he said.

Dr. Thompson has repeatedly said the college must be integrated in order for it to be accredited. But Dorsey said accreditation will probably be given regardless of the school's status.

Friday's council meeting begins at 2 p.m.

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Payette "not prepared" for Ch'town meeting

By Carolyn Ryan

Representatives from UPEI met recently with newly-appointed Minister of State for Youth Celine Hervieux-Payette, and were not overwhelmed by the experience.

"The presentation was lacking horribly in anything resembling content," said outgoing Student Union president Jack Keefe, adding that most people at the meeting, Payette included, were unprepared.

Payette, who was appointed to the new Ministry in January, was in Charlottetown on April 3 to speak with spokespeople from UPEI, Holland College, Allied Youth, 4-H, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and les Jeuneuses Acadiennes.

"She's an intelligent lady," said SU president-elect Michelle Dorsey, "but her primary concern wasn't university students."

According to Dorsey and Keefe, Payette believes "university students have it made" in that they are receiving many benefits that non-students youth aren't.

Dorsey said, "She wants to give youth in general greater optimism, a hope that something can be done for them."

Payette believes that today's youth are in the position women occupied ten years ago, in that they are just beginning to realize what input and access they have to the government. She is looking forward to 1985, the International Year of the Youth, as a useful way of reaching more of the country's young people.

However, many doubt that the Ministry will ever accomplish anything, seeing it as powerless. According to a federal document written by Senator Jacques Hebert that was leaked in January, the youth ministry is "a simple and inexpensive way" of restoring hope to Canadian youth.

Payette has been given no new funds to plan new programs, although her ministry is now in charge of already established programs such as Katimavik and the regular youth employment creation systems. One of the

ministry's main goals, if one believes Hebert's report, will be to inform young people about programs available to them.

But Keefe thinks the ministry is still "too unfocused" to work. "She's dealing with university students and 14-year olds. They don't have many common interests."

Keefe feels Payette should take more guidance from college and university students. When he tried to talk about university affordability and accessibility, the Minister told him he was "very noble" to be worrying about young people who could not attend university.

"She gave me the impression that she thinks university students are always chasing causes," Keefe adds.

Dorsey believes Payette's is a significant and potentially useful position, but "only as long as she implements (new programs) by passing them on to the Department of Employment and Immigration. The Ministry shouldn't be just something to impress us."



Clyde ponders the aftermath of the annual year-end Student Union volunteer/employee party ... "What slob these students be!" (Photo: Grimmer)

Speaking of breakfast ...

Did you know that in Quebec, one egg is "un oeuf"? (You have to say that one out loud to appreciate it.)