

# Senate still not ready to decide on College

Once more, the UPEI Senate has delayed a decision exactly how the Atlantic Veterinary College will fit into the structure of UPEI. At the March 30 meeting, most of the discussion on the College centred on the question of integration —

whether the College should have the status of a faculty within UPEI.

A round-the-table airing of opinion revealed that the vast majority of Senators are "either rabid, mature, or wary integrationists". Only two faculty members vocally

opposed integrating the College.

Senators were reacting to a report from the ad hoc steering committee on the Vet College, which presented its report last week. The committee was given a mandate to examine the questions

of a name for the Vet College, a definition of relationship, and the necessity, if any, for changes in the University Act by the provincial legislature.

The committee essentially reduced the main arguments to the following opposing statements: 1) UPEI may be too small to retain its identity as a liberal arts and sciences university in the face of Veterinary College integration, and 2) Accreditation of the college will be difficult, if not impossible, without such integration.

One of the most prevalent themes in the discussion was that of community.

"We are a community of scholars in pursuit of higher learning," said Dean of Arts Verner Smitheram. "Is there any reason to think that vets as a group don't share this value?"

He scoffed at a common "worst case scenario: Keep the beast at arm's length! If we put our finger in its mouth it may swallow us whole."

Several Senators fear the possibility of the campus splitting into hostile "we-they" camps if the college is not an integral part of the university.

Others like the idea of integration because it will allow Senate and other university regulatory bodies to keep a close watch on the College,

and ensure that any actions potentially damaging to UPEI would have to be approved by representatives from the whole university, not just the Vet College itself.

Also, according to Chemistry prof Glenn Palmer, "It would give us an idea of their wants and prerequisites."

Lack of strong arguments for the other two alternatives, affiliation and federation; the importance of accreditation; community opinion; and a simple "Dean Thompson (of the Vet College) has been studying this for five years. He recommends integration, and he should know" were also given as reasons to support integration.

Some were not swayed by them.

Dr. P. Nagarajan of the Economics department was one. "First the school must be created before we can know what to integrate."

He thinks the entire discussion should be left ten years until the initial stages of development are over.

Others among the "wary integrationist" camp were worried about what will happen in ten years, when the interprovincial agreement to jointly fund the college expires.

"They'll be in direct conflict with us for funds," states student Senator Norman Beck.

Dr. David Weale brought up the issue of "the battle for the mind, as opposed to a mundane vision of training people to do this or that". In his opinion, "grafting on a large professional school will make it difficult for this university to work toward the goal."

As the meeting concluded, and Senators requested an opportunity to return to their constituencies with the concerns raised in the discussion, it seemed that the often-reluctant consensus was toward integration, but with some reorganization of present decision-making structures within the university.

Student Union president Jack Keefe, who changed his mind from wanting affiliation "preferably in another province" to approving integration, doesn't see many implications for the SU if an integration policy is adopted.

"After all, the number of new students will be limited," he explains.

More cryptic is Roger Black, Faculty Association president who admitted he is "saving the best for later."

"The Faculty Association welcomes the prospect of its membership increasing by 50%, with the attendant increase in fees, especially from those in the higher income bracket," was all he would say.

Your attendance is requested at the spring general meeting of the UPEI Student Union. Main order of business will be the ratification of a new constitution for the SU. Executive reports will also be given. Monday, April 9, 1984, at 12:30 in the Robertson Library lounge.

Copies of the constitution available at the SU office during business hours.

The student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island

## The Netted Gem

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382-name petition presented

## Unanimous "no" to shelter

By Carolyn Ryan

A U.P.E.I. Senate motion to go record as being strongly opposed to the construction of a fallout shelter under the Vet College has passed without dissent.

The motion was brought to Senate by History professor David Weale at the March 30 meeting.

Weale also presented a petition opposing the provincial government's \$2 million shelter. Circulated by the U.P.E.I. Women's Studies Committee, the petition gathered 382 names from students, faculty, and staff angered by the thought of this university being used for a military purpose.

According to President

Peter Meincke, no concrete proposal concerning a shelter has been made; and the provincial government has not yet approached U.P.E.I. to ask for the 20,000 square feet of the Vet College basement necessary for its construction.

As part of a federal-provincial agreement, six provinces now have radiation shelters, while money is available to the other four. This is apparently where the \$2 million would come from.

Meincke said the shelter would be connected with the Emergency Measures Organization and could potentially be used in case of flood or tornado, as

well as nuclear holocaust.

He added that U.P.E.I. probably became involved only because "it's too late to look into (using) the basement of DVA."

Most Senators seemed vehemently opposed to the whole idea of a Vet College-fallout shelter combination, calling it "contrary to the ideals of education" in this institution.

"To build such a shelter implies nuclear war is winnable and startable," emphasized English professor Terry Pratt.

Weale made the motion with the intent that it be communicated to the Board of Governors and the Vet College planning committee.

And this, boys and girls, is what a body of profs with only a few students thrown in for balance looks like when it's not making important decisions — which is what the UPEI Senate spends most of its time not doing. (Photo: Grimmer)

Women have finally found acceptance in virtually every occupation in India except bookkeeping. With all the progress, there's still no accounting for women.