

# Federal Party Profiles on Post – Secondary Education Issues

The UPEI Student Union wishes to present to you part three of a four part series regarding post-secondary education issues as provided by the Canadian Federation of Students.

## Disabled Students

**Question** – Would you support the implementation of a national grants program to ensure accessibility for disabled students?

## Liberal Party –

Yes. The Liberal Party recognizes the special problems of accessibility facing disabled and handicapped persons. Disabled students are only asking for the same opportunities afforded other students. It is a simple question of fairness in our society.

## New Democratic Party –

We recognize that there are specific groups of Canadians who face greater hardships obtaining access to post-secondary education than the general population. While steps must be taken to in-

crease access for all Canadians these groups, like disabled Canadians, will require some special assistance. As you know, there are programs which presently provide benefits to disabled students. However, these are complicated, and in many cases, inadequate. As with other areas of student assistance there have also been problems of provinces reducing their support. We will commit ourselves to reducing barriers to access for disabled students and to study the question of special federal bursaries for this purpose. Such a study would also examine any other recommendations which might arise from the conference of the National Education Association of Disabled Students in St. John's in September.

## Part-time and mature Students –

**Question** – Given the rising proportion of students at universities and colleges who are part-time, would you support improvements in assistance arrangements to enhance accessibility for these

students?

**Progressive Conservative Party** – The government is actively examining a number of the issues (concerning student aid). We are in the process of introducing regulatory changes to the Canada Student Loans Program. As we proceed with a more thorough review of the program, we look forward to the Federation's continuing advice and cooperation. Among the issues identified as priorities are those dealing with debt load, interest relief, and the special needs of part-time students.

**Liberal Party** – Yes.

**New Democratic Party** – Yes.

## International Students

**Question** – What steps do you believe the federal government should take to increase the international student presence in Canada, particularly those students from the thirty least developed countries?

**Progressive Conservative Party** – Our government is work-

ing with the provinces and with interested organizations such as your own, with a view to improving the circumstances of international students attending post-secondary institutions in Canada. Recent announcements by the ministers responsible for immigration and international development assistance, easing the restrictions in this sector, are a sign of the government's ongoing commitment to making our education system more accessible to students from other countries.

**Liberal Party** – We believe the federal government should encourage foreign students and increase their presence in Canada. Steps to be taken should include the following:

- Do away with differential fees.
- Allow foreign students to work in Canada.
- Ease immigration difficulties.
- Increase bursaries for foreign students.

**New Democratic Party** – The most important step which could be taken in Canada to en-

courage the presence of international students would be a reduction or elimination of differential fees for such students. We support such a step. This will require negotiations with the provinces, as well as the provision of grants to encourage students from the most under developed countries.

**Question** – If elected, would you oppose differential fees that are charged to international students over and above regular tuition fees and which are often 2 to 5 times the regular cost?

**Progressive Conservative Party** –

The federal government views the presence of international students at Canadian educational institutions as a positive influence which is a great benefit to Canada. At the federal level, we are working together and through the Council of Ministers of Education to facilitate within our respective responsibilities their access to Canadian educational training opportunities.

**Liberal Party** – Yes.

**New Democratic Party** – See response to above question.

**THE GEM** would like to remind all staff members about the **Very Important Staff Meeting** on Monday, Nov. 14.

## A Highlight on a Classical Situation

What is the most exciting department on campus this semester? It's none other than the Classics department! Under the guidance of Dr. David Buck, Assistant Professor and Chairman of the department, Classics has undergone a severe renovation from what it once was.

"Essentially what happened was that over time the program got warped, and the sensible sequence of courses was lost," says Buck.

"I was hired to reform the department, and that's what I'm trying to do."

In consultation with President Eliot, who is also part of the Classics department, and the Dean of Arts, Dr. Buck revised the calendar to include a more coherent course sequence. As well as dropping five courses from last year's calendar, Dr. Buck has added seven more that are either new to the department or totally revised. This revision was necessary in order to maintain a sequential set of classics courses that covered everything

that needed to be covered. With only one full-time and one part-time professor this is difficult and some courses have to be rotated.

The minor program was the idea of Dr. Buck.

"We obviously have the department, but we have no academic statement because we don't have a major."

It was then decided that there should be a real minor instead of just a fictional one. The point of this program is to give student the proper recognition they deserve.

Other departments have also expressed interest in the minor program. Although these departments may have majors, they have few students who actually take enough courses to merit a major, but there are a number of students who take enough courses to gain a minor in that subject.

"In the long term, UPEI needs a major in Classics, because students are being disadvantaged if they are denied the opportunity to do an undergraduate degree in Classics".

However, there are no plans in

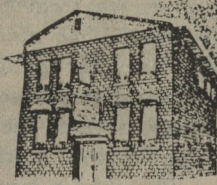
the immediate future for a major in Classics. This would involve hiring two more full time professors.

"The minor won't destroy the idea of a broader education. it will just mean that students get recognition for it."

The minor would have seven courses to the fourteen of the major.

Classics has caught on this year at UPEI. One reason could be the proper first year package, and the proper sequence of courses. Last year there was a total 74 students registered in Classics courses for both semesters; this year there were 88 registered first semester.

The new courses are Classics 202 (Augustus and the Early Roman Empire), and Classics 222 (Ancient Comedy). Classics 102 (Roman Civilization) and 201 (Classical Athens) have been totally revised. Along with these courses, the ones offered next semester will be the continuation of the first semester language courses, Greek 102 Latin 102 and 202.



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