

250,000 STRONG AND GROWING

The Canadian Association for Part-time University Students (COPUS) held its Annual National Conference at Carleton University, Ottawa, June 24, 25, and 26. The following includes: - a report on the conference - insight into the needs and concerns of non-traditional students - COPUS activities on behalf of what is now estimated to include over 40% of the total Canadian University population.

The opening plenary, 'Analysis of a COPUS Research Project', featured Dr. Paul Anisef, Associate Professor of Sociology at York University, who was contracted by COPUS to complete a report which describes the recent changes in the part-time student population since 1974. The project found that part-time studies tend to attract mature students, students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and female students.

However, since there are limitations on the programs available to part-time students, Dr. Anisef said that comparisons cannot be made. As well, student fees and the availability of loans should also be considered.

The first workshop was entitled 'Recruiting and Motivating Your Team', and was presented by Janice Sonner of the Volunteer Leadership Development Program. It consisted mainly of discussions on the composition, goals, and effectiveness of the board or committee.

The second workshop, titled 'Starting a Part-Time Student Organization', was presented by the Executive committee of the University of Windsor Part-Time Student Organization.

The group, founded in 1978,

has been working towards success in forming a part-time student organization. They deal with problems that face part-time students from the point of view of both part-time students and that of the university community.

They operate on the basis that there is one simple requirement for starting an organization - that people see a need for it. With this in mind, they discussed some of the problems which are experienced by part-time students, some of which are inadequate library hours and food services, lack of office support services, and lack of office hours during the time when most part-time students access the campus.

Thus, the widely reflected concerns of widely reflected concerns of part-time students form the basis for organization or group action. Once membership on a committee is established it

is vital to obtain and retain credibility.

There were also two other workshops, held in concurrence with the above mentioned ones; 'Canada Student Loan Program-Problems and Solutions' and 'Women in Part-Time Studies'. As well, there were a number of other functions, some of which included the COPUS Annual Meeting, the COPUS Annual Fund-Raising Auction, and the COPUS Annual Banquet.

The conference was well attended. All provinces except Nova Scotia and Manitoba were represented. The tone was positive and part-time students

shared a renewed sense of purpose and commitment.

On behalf of COPUS and MAPUS I would like to thank the following for financially support-

ing a UPEI representative to the conference:

Student Services
Student Union
Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Science

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank:

The Registrar's Office, the Extension Department, the English Department, the computer Science Department, and the Modern Languages Department.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Paula Gauthier
COPUS Provincial Coordinator
MAPUS President



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