



The main building of the University of Prince Edward Island, built in 1862, houses administrative and academic offices.

UPEI also experiments with different working arrangements for faculty

The following article has been reprinted from the Nov. issue of University Affairs.

There must be times when many universities in Canada envy the University of Prince Edward Island — its charter prohibits the offering of graduate programs. This university can concentrate on undergraduate education without the usual worry of "keeping up with the graduate Joneses".

Created in 1969 by the provincial government, the university was formed by the merger of St Dunstan's University, a Catholic institution, and Prince of Wales College, a provincially operated, non-denominational, degree-granting institution. (The St Dunstan's campus became the site of the new university and Prince of Wales became Holland College, the province's only college of applied arts and technology.)

In 1977-78 there were 2,000 full-time equivalent students enrolled in degree programs in arts, science, education and business administration and in pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, engineering, law, architecture and agriculture.

The university's small size and location are simultaneously an advantage and a disadvantage, according to Ronald Baker, its founding president.

Being small in a rural setting with an island population of 120,000 makes it difficult to be able to afford to offer a broad range of courses economically.

The university worries about recruiting by the many Nova Scotia universities which, says Dr Baker, "is getting rough".

At the same time he notes, the univer-

sity's influence within the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) is "totally disproportionate to its size".

Dr Baker, who completed his term of office last July, thinks that he has received more than his fair share of national appointments partly because of the need for PEI representation. He served on the Canada Council for six years, on the board of directors of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and as chairman of the Association of Atlantic Universities.

The same is true for faculty, he explains. Many more than would be expected on the basis of the size of the institution have assumed important roles in various regional and national organizations.

In cases where it is difficult to decide who to appoint from the Maritimes, it often causes less dissension to choose someone from PEI.

Serving the island

Dr Baker says that 85 per cent of the university's students come from the island. Only four per cent of the total enrolment are foreign students — largely from Hong Kong.

Until the 1970s most graduates wanted to leave the island to find jobs. Now most want to stay on the island and those who studied elsewhere want to come back.

This poses problems for the province because the economy cannot support all the university graduates who want to live there.

The island has no large industries; the only growth in job opportunities has occurred in the public sector.

Experiments

Perhaps because it is a small university UPEI is willing to experiment with different working arrangements for faculty.

There are now two couples at the university sharing teaching appointments.

Both the psychology and music departments have such arrangements set up at the request of the couples involved.

In the psychology department the single full-time position shared by Elizabeth and Terry Percival is due for tenure review this year.

Elizabeth is chairman of the department; her husband teaches personality and moral development.

They, like the Apfelstadts — Hillary and Marc — in the music department, share a single salary and teaching load. Both couples say that the arrangement benefits the department because it in effect gets one-and-a-half people for the position — each partner assumes a three-quarter

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