

the Link

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Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

April 13, 1981

EXTRA

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Concordia departments plan cuts

By LINK STAFF WRITERS

The slashing has begun.

Concordia university deans and administrators have begun the arduous task of cutting \$3 million from the university's budget.

In sessions held mostly behind closed doors, and with virtually no input from faculty or student representatives, deans and administration department heads are in the process of planning the trimming back of their budgets, before someone does it for them.

The moves, indicating the start of the university's general cutback, come as the result of a projected record university deficit and an order from the Board of Governors to reduce university spending because of a lack of Quebec government funding.

The government has allocated in its 1981-82 budget only a 6.5 per cent increase in grants despite a request for 14 per cent from most of Quebec's universities, including Concordia.

Concordia remains the least funded university in the province and the cutbacks leave it financially strapped.

The task force, established by the Board of Governors (at their meeting in March), will begin this week to hear from university deans and administrators on suggested cuts.

"We have asked the pertinent department heads to make a presentation to the committee of

what they would do if they had to cutback up to 10 per cent of their operating budget," Graham Martin, vice-rector Administration and Finance, told **The Link** in an interview Friday.

Potentially the independent cuts of all the university departments could amount to more than the \$3 million needed, at least on paper.

"We obviously won't take all of the cuts that are recommended by everybody; it will be a question of picking and choosing the ones with the least impact," said Martin.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

Martin also said by implementing the cuts this way departments can judge for themselves priorities.

"It's up to each department head. What we are assuming is that they know better," said Martin.

All departments, both academic and administrative, as well as such things as physical plant, have to make a presentation.

CLOSED MEETINGS

Once the task force has received presentations from all the departments it will hold closed sessions to selectively decide where the \$3 million will come from.

Early indications are that the worst hit areas in the university will be in Arts and Science (Concordia's largest faculty) where at least \$1 million is expected to be slashed.

The cutting process at Concordia differs from the ones other universities are using, Martin said. At U of M the administration has decided in favour of an across the board cut of 5 per cent. Everything is on the block.

Concordia decided to at least consult the deans on priorities in an attempt to minimize the impact.

However not everyone agrees with the procedure.

SECOND RATE EDUCATION

"The bottom line is we're already getting a second rate education as far as funding goes and if they're going to cut I think we should have some say in it," said Glen Murray, co-president of the Concordia University Students' Association.

The task force does not include any student or faculty representation.

"We felt that it was not a representative type decision. What we had to do was pick people who had the necessary overview," said Martin.

He also said they felt the committee's work load was too heavy for student representatives (especially during the exam period).

As well he said he had very little control over the timing because of the Quebec government's budget and the fiscal year of the university.

LONG TERM INPUT

"The question I would have to ask the student representatives is

what is the long term input concerning these things. Are they inputting at the department level, which makes more sense?" said Martin.

At this point student input has been requested only at the level of the actual task force, and even this request was only received Friday in a memo to the CUSA co-presidents from Martin. The memo was dated April 7.

Although most of the priority setting for the cuts will be made by the deans (based on the directive from the task force) none of the student groups contacted Friday by **The Link** had been offered any opportunity to contribute.

campaign against the cuts and what they called the administration's "secrecy" following Wednesday's council meeting where the cuts were discussed.

The council at this point had very little information in front of them. It still wasn't clear what directives the task force had given the deans and administrative department heads.

The student representatives were especially angry at the lack of information provided by the administration. They had also not received the invitation from Martin despite the fact that the task force had been formed three weeks earlier and the deans had for the most part already decided

also objected to the cutbacks, but not on a procedural basis.

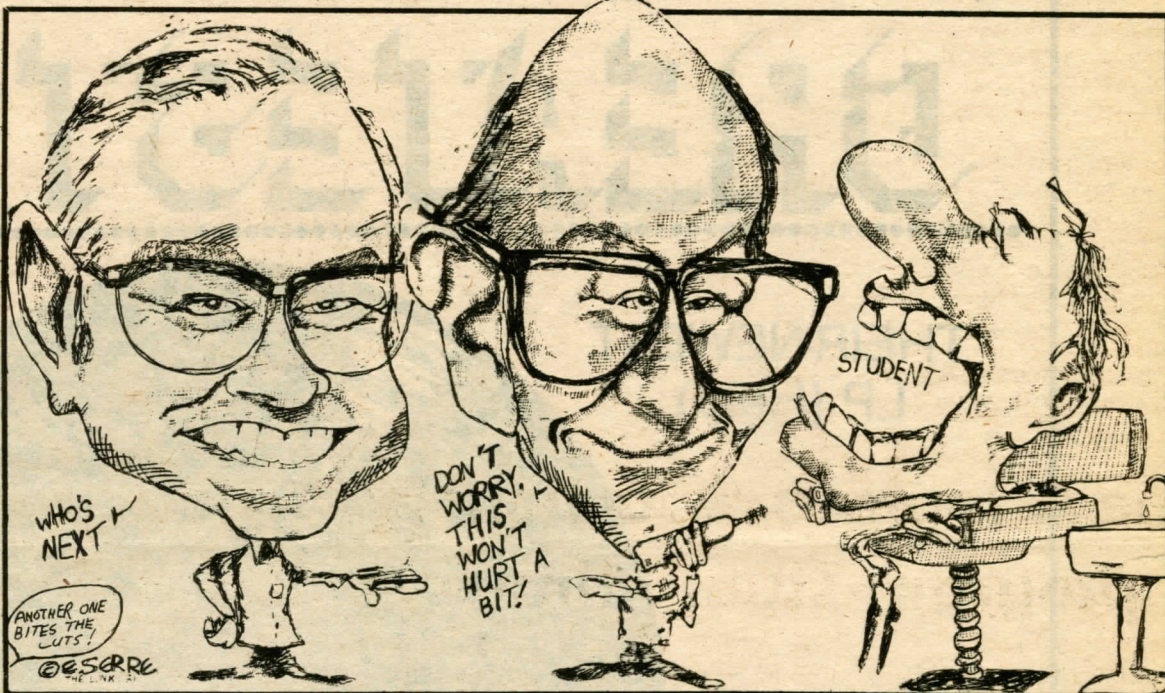
They say they will not accept cuts at all.

"I will ask for an increased budget," said Commerce Dean Pierre Simon. "I have no plan (to cutback)."

Simon said a 10 per cent cut in Commerce would mean that a 50 per cent reduction in admissions would be necessary.

"We're stretched too far as it is," said Roland Wills, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs. "What we will do is reduce the number of students (entering)," said Wills.

He also added that the quota for next year was already set at 750, 250 less than were admitted



Some groups felt that by the time they contributed to the discussion at the task force level they would be up against the priorities already established by the deans of their respective departments.

EDUCATION REACTS

Education students were the first to react against the cutback procedures, and this only on information from a faculty member.

At a meeting last Monday of the department (where students have seats) education student representatives had their first opportunity to express their concerns. Division II Dean June Chaikelson and assistant Dean Ron Coyte were invited.

The students objected to the way budget cuts in the department were being carried out saying that some cancelled courses would endanger their degree requirements. They also objected to the firing of two sessional teachers.

On Tuesday the students decided to draw up a petition against the cuts and faculty firing. The group collected almost 200 signatures in 24 hours.

The association has also sent a protest letter to the task force and university education department officials.

CUSA QUESTIONS

CUSA launched a major

where their department cuts would take place.

Council also mandated members to collect as much information from their individual faculties.

"If there can be a common criterion agreed upon and if the deans, rather than heavily handedly implementing the cuts, can coordinate the overall picture for the departments across the board, then it would make a lot more sense," said Murray.

Murray also said that the cutbacks should be discussed at departmental councils with students, faculty, and staff present and that they would make a proposal to the task force directly only as a last resort.

NO CRITICAL PATH

"Graham Martin has not provided anyone with any information, has not given us a critical path of when they're dealing with what," said Murray. "The whole thing seems to be a very haphazard disorganized approach."

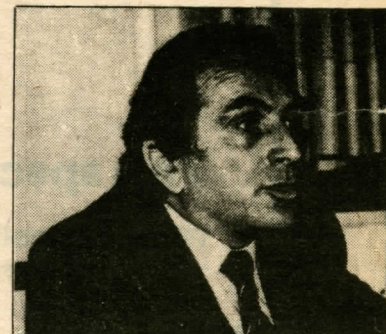
"The students directly affected by it have some idea on what courses they need to graduate, partly because of the poor academic advising system. No one in any of the departments, when you do it in such a fragmented way, knows what the overall implications of cutting (a course) are," said Murray.

The Commerce faculty has

for 1980-81.

Although Martin said that the 10 per cent cutback was still only a base figure to be used in a presentation he did say no departments would be exempt from scrutiny.

"I wasn't aware that Simon was taking it quite that way, the committee will have to come to grips with that problem," said Martin.



Commerce Dean Pierre Simon

"I would say that it would be quite appropriate for the committee, regardless of the fact that a certain dean decided not to recommend any cuts, to still allocate a cut to that faculty. It might also be legitimate for them to say the dean concerned has a very legitimate case and that there should not be a cut and an extra heavy cut somewhere else," said Martin.

Simon said the full time faculty were the most overworked in the university, taking an average four course workload as opposed to three in other faculties.

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Dépot legal - 3^{ème} trimestre

Part-time union fails; jobs first on cutting list

By JOHN TOURNEUR

Concordia's part-time teaching population will likely be a hard hit sector in the university's cutback program.

Representing almost half of the university's total faculty, they are also the first on the cutback lists of many departments.

Despite this insecurity, the Concordia Association of Part-time Teachers (CAPT) failed their union certification bid by a bare 38 vote margin in a vote held in the first week of April.

The vote was 381 for, and 221 against joining the Centrale des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN). However a majority of those eligible to vote (837) would have been necessary to obtain certification.

Allan Gottheil, union representative at the CSN, still believes there is no great danger.

"Part-time teachers are the most cost efficient," said Gottheil; they are the cheapest labour on campus.

Graham Martin, vice-rector Administration and Finance, said Friday if the part-time teachers

had unionized, they would not be protected any better, since in any contract there would be a provision for layoffs.

"However," Martin added, "it would depend on what they negotiated."

Martin has already gone on record saying that there will be no layoffs of full time faculty or support staff.

"In the framework we're operating under there is a respect for personnel policies," said Martin. "In other words, we're not applying layoffs."

But Martin said there would be a look at a reallocation of work, and possibly some employee transfers.

Gottheil says the union bid is not over, just set back.

"Unfortunately the rules are a great disadvantage to the union wanting certification." He said that elected officials never require the majority of the eligible voters, and that the labour law outside Quebec does not have this clause.

Gottheil said the union will now contest the voter's list used.

Fine Arts plans reduction in program studio time

Reductions in part-time faculty hours are planned as a cost saver in the Fine Arts faculty.

Day time part-time faculty, teaching studio courses, may be facing a reduction of two hours, Tony Emery, Dean of Fine Arts confirmed in an interview Friday.

Presently full time day instructors teach studio courses totalling six hours a week, while the same course offered in the evening is compressed into one four-hour class.

However studio assistants or technicians may be available to help out students in the time rationed courses. Students would still be able to stay and work in the studio after the instructor had finished his/her four hours.

"We've been looking hard at the budget and we've been trying

to find ways (of cutting) without damaging the structure," said Emery.

Emery also said that since the Fine Arts faculty was new and its full time staff not fully established the cutbacks will hurt primarily the part-time staff.

Currently part time staff are about 150 per cent in proportion to full time faculty.

The four hours of contact time suggested by Emery is not enough, according to Marie Josée Dauphinais of the Fine Arts Students' Association (FASA).

There is "so much material to learn," said Dauphinais.

The faculty is looking at other ways to compress their budget before their presentation to the task force.

Arts and Science to shoulder brunt of budget cutbacks

By LINK STAFF WRITERS

It is estimated that \$1 million of the proposed \$3 million budget cutbacks will come from the Arts and Science faculty.

The faculty's three Deans and Provost have or are in the process of meeting with all department heads to discuss possibilities of where, what and how to cut from the various departmental budgets.

"The only decision (already made) is that cuts have to be made," said Maurice Cohen, Dean of Division III.

The Deans will present several recommendations to the Special Budget Task Force this week.

There are however parts of the budget that will definitely not be cut.

"We are not touching full-time staff or full-time support staff," said Don Taddeo, Dean of Division I.

The following is a summary of the proposed cuts in each department. Some departments were not affected by the cuts, so they are not listed. As well, some departments could not be reached by *The Link*.

DIVISION I

According to Taddeo, the cuts in this division will most likely affect part-time teachers, part-time technical assistants, part-time secretarial staff and the non-salary budget. Some courses will be dropped and it is probable there will be course, or at least section, cuts next year. Taddeo said the cuts will not be implemented in a way that will affect students' programs.

English

English departmental cutbacks will affect primarily part-time faculty members, but not full-time tenured faculty said Arthur Broes, chairman of the English department.

Extra course sections will be cut but "students will be able to get all of the basic courses," said Broes. Basically the cutbacks will be in non-core and summer courses.

In creative writing and composition courses, there will be "an increase of about 24 to 30 credits. Areas in which the department has experienced growth won't be affected," said Broes.

However, there has been a slight drop in literature course enrollment. Broes said the only effect, other than a reduction in credits offered due to lower enrollment, on the courses would be to increase the class sizes. Presently the maximum is 40 to 50 students per class although the usual enrollment is 20 to 30 people, said Broes.

French

Chairman Pierre L'Héroux said he was discussing the cuts with Taddeo and members of the department.

"The principle that we are trying to work on is that the cuts should not punish the students," he said.

However, a certain number of courses will be cut, including some summer courses. The

French Summer Institute, however, will function as usual.

History

On the immediate level, said Steven Scheinberg, chairman of the History department, one half of the history summer session will be cancelled as a result of the cutbacks. He does not yet know about the long range effects of the cutback scheme.

Scheinberg projected that the greatest effect of the cutbacks will be on part-time teachers.

"I imagine that part-timers giving courses in history will indeed be rare," he said.

Presently the department employs approximately 27 full-time instructors and seven or eight part-time teachers.

Scheinberg is concerned that the cuts will only effect academic matters.

"A lot of us sense that there has been a mushrooming of bureaucratic services. From the faculty point of view, as we go into the whole budgeting exercise, a lot of us have our eyes on the bureaucracy. There will have to be a real assurance that the bureaucratic side is looked at (in terms of budget cuts)," he said.

DIVISION II

Education

"I am offering to cut sections of courses with the aim of preserving the program," said Department Chairwoman Arpi Hamalian. "In all, we are cutting seven six-credit equivalent courses.

The cuts could result in the loss of positions but it hasn't yet, she said.

Hamalian also said courses which were planned for next year will not be offered.

If the department must cut anything else, "I don't know what will happen though we are hoping to preserve anything with academic relevance," she said.

Sociology

"My guess is that we will cut two courses this summer and possibly six courses in the fall/winter terms," said department head Joe Smucker. "These cuts are not definite but (are) estimates."

Other proposals include cutting course sections, looking at offering courses one year and not the next, cutting courses that have declining enrollments and/or underenrollments and cutting part-time professors.

"Right now, we have nine part-time instructors and I don't know how many will be cut," said Smucker.

Smucker said he will also look at the overall operating budget.

"Cuts in that budget will affect programs like the visiting scholars and money for students who mark papers," he said.

DIVISION III

Maurice Cohen, Dean of this division, will make his presentation to the Task Force this week. The departmental heads have given him various proposals.

Cohen said the proposals with

"minimal consequences" will probably be implemented.

"We are looking at possibilities in savings," he said. "The end result may not be a cutback to students."

Biology

According to Chairman Roy, cutbacks in the department would probably come in the very near future.

"There are very few places (cutbacks) can come from," he said. "One area is the part-time staff."

Other areas include duplication of courses, increasing full-time faculty loads and consolidating sectors, he said.

Mathematics

Hopefully, the overall quality of the department will not suffer because of the austerity measures to be taken by the university, said Chairman Proppe.

"Before, we had expected to hire two new full-time faculty, and we were informed we will not be able to hire them," he said.

As well, administration cuts will be made. These cuts include part-time secretaries and stipends (honorariums) for professors who perform administrative duties.

Students will also be affected. Markers, part-time senior students who grade weekly assignments, will be affected.

While 40 percent of math students benefit from markers, Proppe said feedback could be provided without additional cost to the university.

Independent students will suffer the most in the math department. While no courses are being eliminated, new sections will not be opened to accommodate students at registration. As they are the last to register, independent students will suffer the loss.

Physics

According to Dr. Dubas, chairperson of the physics department, three faculty members who have left their positions will not be replaced. This loss represents a savings in terms of salaries of approximately \$90,000.

However, as a result of the cuts, five full courses and three half courses will be dropped from the physics program. These courses are electives and non-programmed selections, said Dubas. In addition, the operational budget will be pared.

"In the fall, we will be far more critical in the duplication of courses if the enrollment doesn't warrant it," said Dubas.

DIVISION IV

Unfortunately, Division IV Provost Martin Singer could not be reached. However, Graham Decarie, coordinator of the Canadian Studies program, said that because these programs used courses in other departments, the cutbacks would probably not affect this division. Students are urged to contact their program heads to make sure anyway.

Student council mobilizes

The Concordia University Students' Association has launched an attack on the university's cutback plans.

Following a poster and flyer campaign launched Wednesday the association is also gathering signatures on a petition against the cutbacks. The petition is specifically against the dropping of courses, or sections and the firing of faculty. It also states these

measures "would result in the decline in the quality of our programs."

The association has also organized an information session for Tuesday April 14 in the cafeteria at 5 p.m. on the 7th floor of the downtown Hall building.

They are planning a telephone campaign to individual deans asking why and how the cuts are being made.

