

STORM BREWING ON ACADEMIC FRONT

BY THE SUN STAFF

The university will be devastated if the recommendations of the President's Planning Advisory Group are followed, say some professors.

"If this goes through, in ten years we will have no university," said John Quincy, Classics professor.

In a report dated October 4, the four member committee recommends;

- * that the degree program in Music be eliminated and replaced with a Conservatory,

- * that majors in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Studies, Economics, and Religious Studies be eliminated though still offer courses,

- * that the university move away from the traditional disciplines and into Business Administration, Engineering, Computer Science and Biology.

Reaction to the report has been negative, though professors and even fewer students have seen it. (Many were surprised that the committee existed.)

"The authors of the report haven't a clue what a university is supposed to stand for," said David Milne, Political Studies professor. "Can you really have an arts department without philosophy or political studies, or a science department without chemistry or physics?"

"This report goes against the very idea of what a university is about," said Leo Chevrier, a 3rd year Canadian Studies and History student. "It is turning practically into a vocational institute."

Chevrier added that enrollment statistics did not justify the recommendations that majors be dropped in Arts and Science, as half of the student population is in this area.

Brian Brennan, Student Union V.P. and third year Business student, disagreed. "It's (the recommendations) sort of getting down to the things that are most important to students," he said, adding "I'd rather see them cut unnecessary programs than the Athletics Department."

Others were concerned that with a greater emphasis on technical programs, many Prince Edward Island students would go elsewhere for their university education. Also, as majors are reduced to joint programs, students wanting to do graduate work will have to spend a year or more upgrading their degree before being accepted into another university.

Up until yesterday, none of the members of the committee wanted to comment on the report until it is brought before a Special Senate Meeting to discuss the issue. The meeting will take place on October 14.

BY PAT MOORE

Members of the university community have questioned the proceedings and composition of the Planning Advisory Group.

The committee was struck by President Peter Meinke in May to examine the "long range options for the university."

All four members of the advisory committee were appointed by Meinke and were to conduct meetings with students, faculty, and staff.

The faculty association executive did not recognize the committee from its inception, and said it would not comply with it.

Several faculty members said the scheduling of the meetings during the summer was a bad idea, as many faculty were away.

Students were also away, and only one, two-hour meeting was held with four members of the Student Union executive. All four, are Business students.

Bert Tersteeg, chairperson of the Music department, said not one member of his department was consulted.

"This was disappointing for me", said Tersteeg, "since the department would be changed into a conservatory eliminating several positions."

David Milne, Political Studies, was concerned by the fact that the committee consisted solely of administrators with no representation from faculty or students.

Brian Brennan, Vice President Internal, stated that students should not have been represented since their stay at UPEI is temporary.

An emergency meeting of the Senate will be held on Oct. 14 to discuss the report.