

This is your education neighbourhood

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

Designation: government approval of institutions that is necessary for students to be eligible to receive student loans. the federal government, under pressure from the banks, are trying to develop a policy for designation of institutions and/or programs that have high default or unemployment rates. Often, they try to link the two. For example: education students often have a higher rate of unemployment than other students due to cut backs in this necessary field. If the government gets its way, these students may not be able to receive a Canadian student loan. Good idea, boss.

1600: how many people are employed directly or indirectly by the University, according to some provincial government promotional material. it's apparently a good idea to cut funding for the University. After all, why would the province with the second highest unemployment rate in the country need that many workers?

1.82 billion dollars: how much money the Royal bank made last year. Kinda sounds akin to Dr. Evil, doesn't it? The Royal pulled out of student loans because they were losing too much money.

Differential fees: charging different amounts of money for different programs. In other words, the course you take (history, science, etc.) would determine how much you pay. This already happens at UPEI, where science students must pay additional fees for science labs. Other programs charge ancillary costs, too. So much for a unity, eh?

Jubilee 2000: an ecumenical international coalition of social justice groups. Based on a biblical passage, they are calling for the International Monetary Fund to forgive third world debts by the year 2000.

Value-for-Money audit: affirms that "institutional

autonomy . . . helps to protect and preserve academic freedom." The audit has been considered one of the most intrusive processes and was essentially forced upon the University. No other audit of its kind has ever been performed on a Canadian university.

Transfer payments: money given by the federal government to the provinces. Some of this money funds social programs, such as health care and education. Coincidentally, cuts in transfer payments and cuts to social programs are happening at the same time. Go figure!

Pepsi: Get used to the fact that UPEI is no longer part of the next generation. It appears as though Coke has an exclusive deal with the University, which means you can't buy Pepsi products on campus anymore.

Credit worthiness: the federal government's term for the process of deciding whether or not students have a credit history that makes them "worthy" to receive a student loan.

Keep in mind that student loans were developed in the first place because students couldn't get loans from banks.

10 per cent risk premium: 10 percent of the total amount of money loaded to students through the Canadian Student Loan program is paid to the banks. After all, the big six only make a record profit of around 8 billion dollars last year. The amount of money they are supposedly losing on student loans will likely drive them into bankruptcy.

Default rates: a number or percentage of loans that aren't steadily repaid. Banks usually won't release these figures for student loans, but claim they are so high that the banks need more money, among other things. It is suspected that these default rates—which you are not allowed to know—are artificially inflated by including students who miss a few payment, but later on continue paying. In other words, they get out of default, but are still included in default statistics.

Graduate degree at UPEI

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research grants will include for contribution to overhead costs of the University. A number of UPEI faculty are currently supervising graduate students who are paying tuition at other universities. Graduate students will also enrich the campus culture and serve as a source of guidance and information for undergraduates.

The University and the Faculty of Education will now work on implementing the Masters of Education Program which has already received approval from the MPHEC. "Offering a Master of Education at UPEI will be good for

the University, the province's teachers, and the children in our schools who will receive the best possible education," says Dr. Vianne Timmons, Dean of the Faculty of Education.

"We have worked very hard to prepare a graduate program that is innovative, academically-merited and cost neutral."

Over the next six months other Schools and Faculties will be working on proposals for UPEI's Academic Review and Planning Committee which approves programs to be forwarded to the UPEI Senate and if approved, to the MPHEC.

The Faculty of Science is currently working on graduate program proposals with the Departments of Chemistry and Biology.

"This is wonderful news," says Dr. Roger Gordon, Dean of Science. "It gives our faculty the incentive to create program proposals designed to educate current and future scientists for senior positions in new industries and technologies."

The University is not seeking additional government funding for graduate programs. All programs will have to account for adequate human resources and infrastructure and must demonstrate market need and academic merit.

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