

# We Don't Seem To Have Missed Much Yet

penditures under the Act. Every dollar the student pays in tuition, the federal government gives the province a matching grant. A policy motion made at the plenary, recognizing that the present Act provides an incentive to the provinces to increase fees, and noting that this conflicted with NUS policy on "equality of opportunity and accessibility to post-secondary education", stated that:

Tuition fees not be considered part of the financial resources for post-secondary education, and that federal transfers be conditional upon the abolition of



tuition fees." Another policy resolution asked that "All expenditures by the institutions related to post-secondary education be included in the provision of transfers." Under the current system, areas which are not covered by provincial funding such as student services, residences, and food services, are not eligible for matching federal grants. A third policy motion asked the federal government to increase its contribution to low-income provinces until the "cost of post-secondary education in the province has been met." This would have the effect of overcoming regional disparities by increasing the amount of federal support going to provinces with a small population base and limited provincial revenues for post-secondary education. Another policy resolution asked that a stipulation be contained in the new FAA to ensure that all federal revenues allocated for support of post-secondary education be used for that purpose, and not be spent by the province in some other sector. The purpose of the resol-

ution was unclear since no cases have arisen in which the province actually spent less than its federal transfer on post-secondary education.

One policy resolution that did not make it through the plenary, raised by Guelph, stated that since "the corporate sector is the single element in society which derives the greatest benefit from post-secondary institutions", the corporate sector's portion of the tax-base should be increased in proportion to its responsibilities and obligations to society".

The Lethbridge delegation asked for this resolution to be deleted from the policy statement because it was "too political", "adventurous", "not feasible" and "beyond our scope".

John Shorthall, the student president of the University of Waterloo and OFS chair, supported deleting the statement. Although he had agreed to support the statement in caucus, he reversed himself at the plenary, arguing that although the base had to be considered, it should not be done in the context of the FAA. "Where the taxes come from is irrelevant to this Act", he said.

Brian Mason of the University of Alberta, having recently seen a NUS referendum shot down on his campus announced, "If this motion became known at the U of A, it would seriously harm future referendum results."

An alternate resolution was approved stating that NUS will study the question of whether corporations are paying for post-secondary education in proportion to the benefits received by them.

Strategy resolutions were also passed, calling for "the holding of local campus information sessions" to "raise the awareness of students". Moreover NUS will seek the active support of the provincial and regional student associations, as well as support from the Association of Colleges and Universities of Canada and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

There was no discussion or direction from the plenary as to the practical application of that strategy.

## Student Radio

The future of student radio in Canada and the role of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC) in

governing the airways was an other workshop topic.

The workshop discussed the recent decision of the CRTC to allow student-run community radio stations only on a "restricted commercial policy", and the two-year moratorium on licensing of new student stations.

Randy Williams, station manager at Radio Carleton, argued that there is no reason for limiting the amount of commercial time for student stations which are well run, financially solvent, and which provide distinct quality programming.

Delegates from Memorial U were concerned over the CRTC policy of community rather than specifically student-oriented programming, although Manitoba and Waterloo delegates disagreed and emphasized the need for liaison with the community.

At the plenary it was agreed to set up a task force to investigate the status of student broadcasting locally to investigate CRTC policy, and to plan a national conference of student broadcasters with a view to establishing a national organization.

## Other Policy Statements

A resolution adopted at the last NUS general meeting recognizing that "it is undeniable that there exists two nations within the structure of Canadian federalism" and recognizing the Association Nationale des Etudiants de Quebec (ANEQ) as "a national organization with the same status as NUS" was withdrawn.

It was replaced with a statement recognizing ANEQ as "the representative voice of Quebec students" without reference to Quebec's status within confederation. The resolution also called for the establishment of "working relations" with ANEQ.

- In the area of employment NUS went on record as urging the federal government to step up its summer employment programs, called for the minimum wage for students working for post-secondary institutions, and opposed "work-study" programs which force students to provide free labour to employers.

Other motions were passed urging local campuses to set up employment committees to monitor student employment locally.

- NUS voted to oppose admission quotas for international students, and to oppose the test currently being used to test the English proficiency of international students.

As well, NUS condemned the Green Paper on Immigration policy as a "racist document designed to shift the blame for the economic crisis in Canada onto the backs of the immigrants and to promote splits between Canadian and immigrant people."

- In the area of housing, motions were passed calling for an end to discrimination against students in general, and international students in particular, and called for increased government funding of low-cost housing.

- A motion from the women's caucus declared that women's studies programs were important and should not be cut back due to financial reasons, and urged the federal government to continue support for the "programs and institutions developed during International Women's Year."

- A motion was passed reaffirming support for the role of NUS as "a coordinator" for the growth of the student movement in Canada, and instructing NUS representatives to seek development of "formal structural ties" with provincial and regional organizations.

