

## **Excerpt from Senate Minutes of May 10, 2007**

### **5.4.5 Working Group on Part-time Student Issues**

*(See document Sa070510-5.4.5 for more details.)*

Members were informed that the demographic of part-time students has changed considerably over the past decade with part-time student enrolment accounting for approximately 20% of total University enrolment. In the past, part-time students were generally mature students employed full-time or with family responsibilities looking for night classes. Today, students from various age groups and stages in their lives, with an increasing number in the 18-25 age range who are working part-time or full-time to cover the cost of their education, make up the part-time student demographic.

The report notes that many of the issues affecting part-time students also affect the student body at large, and are keyed into the University's mission as outlined in *To Greater Heights*. For instance, it was noted that the particular needs of part-time students reflect the University's learning-centred priorities, as well as specific issues such as the need to enhance campus community connectedness for a commuter student population. In many ways, the traditional distinction between part-time and full-time students is becoming blurred, as the part-time demographic profile shifts, and as full-time students face some of the same challenges.

Members were informed that the main challenge for the Organization of Part-Time Students (OPUS) continues to be communication with the part-time student body. It was noted that over 700 part-time students have not activated their UWindsor IDs and thus do not receive or read university email.

It was noted that part-time students, whose work and family commitments often control their schedules, would greatly benefit from the development of alternative delivery courses. (*i.e.*, online, satellite, mixed-mode, hybrid, *etc.*).

Senators were informed that the Student Committee will continue to review the part-time student issues identified in the report in order to determine and ensure the appropriate course of action for implementing the recommendations.

Dr. Katherine Quinsey (chair of the working group) along with Mr. Ali Ahmed (OPUS) and Dr. Linda Patrick were commended for their comprehensive report. It was noted that the report brings to light issues of importance which should be further considered, and raises the profile of part-time students and their needs.