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Laurier's board of governors
approves 1988-89 operating budget

Wilfrid Laurier University can once again look forward to a balanced budget, according to board of governors treasurer Eileen Mercier. The 1988-89 budget was approved by the board on April 26, and shows an anticipated 8.4 per cent increase in revenues for the university over last year, to \$42,504,043, and an anticipated 8.3 per cent increase in expenses, to \$42,409,027.

In a memo to the board, Dr. Andrew Berczi, vice-president for planning, finance and information services, said that the new budget contains significant increases in areas "which will directly improve the working conditions of faculty and staff as well as the educational and social environment and experience of our students."

Among the budget's highlights are

- * thirteen additional faculty positions, with additional secretarial support,
- * \$100,000 from the academic enrichment fund for faculty teaching load reductions,

an increase of 16.6 per cent in operating support for faculty research,

an increase in the scholarship and bursary fund of 11.5 per cent, which brings the total annual commitment for the fund to \$492,380,

* graduate teaching and research assistantship funding increased by 26.3 per cent, to \$477,870.

The board also approved the allocation of \$540,000 in surplus from the 1987-88 budget year for an expanded AT&T Unix computer service on campus. New students at Laurier will be introduced to the Unix system in the fall, and returning students will be encouraged to make the switch.