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Maine
Campus

Editorials

Privilege vs. priority

The new library circulation policy announced by Dr. James MacCampbell is deficient in one area--it does not apply to the faculty.

Students who have been at UMO for any length of time know very well that this is nothing extraordinary. Faculty members have long been held above the student as a privileged class. Their extensive library privileges are just one facet of the caste system fostered by university policy.

We, like Dr. MacCampbell, however, take exception to their privileges--especially their library privileges in light of the head librarian's rather startling revelation that the faculty have not returned more than 12,000 volumes since 1964. Many of these overdue volumes must be embellishing certain faculty members private libraries and are not likely ever to be seen on library shelves again.

And MacCampbell is helpless to get these books back as faculty members have library

privileges which allow them to check out books for a semester but does not provide fines for overdue books. MacCampbell thinks this is unfair to other patrons as well as overindulgent of the faculty. He says very few other universities provide such generous library privileges for their faculties.

Of course, this probably is offensive to some of UMO's faculty, particularly those who agree with the rather unfortunate opinion expressed by the faculty in a Council of Colleges' statement last year -- "the faculty *is* the university."

Now we don't mean to deflate anybody's ego but that opinion is antiquated. Further, we believe the student has too long been brushed under the administrative carpet in favor of the faculty and administration. Somewhere, somehow the university administration has failed to grasp the concept of service *to* the student.

That's what a university is all about, isn't it?