

\$1,000 campaign limit for student elections

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

Candidates for CYSF positions this March will be able to spend up to twice as much on their campaigns than last year's candidates.

The CYSF voted 7-2 last Wednesday to accept chief electoral officer (CEO) Garry Choo's recommendations that candidates running for presidential and vice-presidential positions be allowed to spend up to \$1,000 on their campaigns. Candidates for other positions will be allowed to spend up to \$400.

Presidential and vice-presidential candidates last year were allowed to spend up to \$500 while candidates for non-executive positions could spend up to \$200.

CYSF president Peter Donato worked with Choo on the changes and feels they will help heighten student awareness about election campaigns at York. He said York

has the lowest voter turnout of any university.

He added that the \$500 had fallen behind the times.

"With \$500 you can't do too much," Donato said, suggesting that more money will allow candidates to increase the number of promotional materials they can buy and increase awareness of the campaign. He said the CYSF is considering a further amendment requiring all candidates to put the election date on their posters and flyers.

"With more posters and more awareness, we should get a better turnout," said Donato.

He disagreed with fears that the increased spending will allow candidates to buy an election win.

"Spending money doesn't necessarily mean you'll win. It doesn't take money to get your message across," he said. "If you're smart and on top of the topics, *Excalibur*

will endorse you and that has a lot to do with winning."

Donato said, however, that he "won't deny the fact that this gives someone the chance to spend money and win" but that "students should be educated and look beyond the posters."

He added that the changes would show that running for the executive is "like an investment" and that "it's worth it to be a president or vice-president at CYSF."

Choo's recommendations also included a new provision whereby presidential and vice-presidential candidates would be eligible for refunds of up to 50 per cent of their campaign expenses. The provision states that if a candidate receives 50 per cent of votes cast then he or she will be eligible for a 50 per cent refund on campaign expenses from the CEO.

Candidates will also be reimbursed 40 per cent of expenses for garnering 40 per cent of the vote,

and 30 per cent of expenses for 30 per cent of the vote.

Vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship voted against the proposal, saying that although a \$500 maximum for executive candidates was too low, \$1,000 is "outrageous."

"Something like \$750 would have been adequate," she said.

Winship called the \$1,000 maximum a "psychological deterrent" to potential candidates who will not run because they will feel that they need \$1,000 to win. She called the reimbursement provision "a great idea" but the reimbursements only cover up to 50 per cent. She said, "Why be out \$1,000 or \$500."

"We're catching up to [the University of] Toronto. Why do we have to be like Toronto? It's not what York wants," she added.

UofT Student Administrative Council (SAC) researcher Chris Balkissoon said presidential and

vice-presidential candidates who run as a ticket are allowed to spend up to \$1,400 on their campaigns. Candidates are reimbursed \$1,200 if they get 25 per cent of the vote with a "sliding scale" of reimbursements for candidates getting less than 25 per cent.

Other SAC candidates have no spending limit but are not eligible for reimbursements. The turnout last year for SAC elections was about 4,200, he said.

The CYSF election turnout last year was about 1,600 for the presidential elections.

A further change passed by council upped the required number of nominating signatures needed by candidates. Presidential candidates will now need 100 signatures instead of 30, while vice-presidential candidates will need 50 instead of 30. All other candidates will need 30 signatures instead of 20.

One word puts proposal on hold

The OFS and CYSF fail to reach an agreement to end their dispute

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

Almost, but not quite.

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the CYSF failed to reach an agreement to end their ongoing dispute after CYSF representatives prematurely left a Thunder Bay OFS conference on Friday.

President Peter Donato and vice-president (external) Peter Merrick left the OFS conference after the OFS would not accept an agreement passed by the CYSF last Wednesday. Donato and Merrick said the OFS was demanding wording changes they could not accept without approval from council.

The CYSF and the OFS had reached an agreement in principal in a November 29 meeting at the OFS's downtown office, Donato said.

The dispute centred around a contract drawn up by the CYSF based on the agreement which called for the CYSF to pay a total of \$40,000 to OFS: \$10,000 to settle its membership fees for 1988/89, \$10,000 to settle its dues from this year and \$20,000 to settle its membership for next year.

In exchange, the agreement called for the OFS to recognize the CYSF as a "full voting member of the OFS for the period commencing January 11, 1990 until June 30, 1991." The agreement also states that the CYSF must hold a tentatively scheduled October referendum to let students decide if they want to continue belonging to OFS.

According to OFS spokesperson Greg Elmer, the OFS executive had problems with the wording of the agreement because the

word "commencing" would have implied that the CYSF is not currently a member of the OFS. He said the OFS has maintained all along that CYSF has been a member and has included the CYSF's \$30,000 membership fee in its annual budget.

Elmer said the CYSF drew up the agreement based on its understanding of the agreement and that the word "commence" was "biased in that [the CYSF] was saying that their membership ended and we had always maintained that their membership never ended."

OFS chair Edith Garneau said that after Merrick and Donato left the conference, the OFS passed a

revised version of the agreement which deleted the word "commencing."

She added that despite maintaining that the CYSF has always belonged to the OFS, the new agreement will absolve the CYSF of what it sees as past outstanding dues which currently stand at \$60,000.

Elmer said once the two parties reach a deal, the "outstanding debts" will have to be written off.

"If the CYSF ratifies the agreement then we will have an agreement. If York wants to amend it then that's when we get into trouble," Elmer said.

The CYSF has yet to debate the latest OFS proposal.

The OFS is a student lobby group that pressures the provincial government on issues affecting post-secondary students and is comprised of constituent universities and colleges. The University of Toronto, the largest university in the province, pulled out of OFS in 1981.

Former CYSF president Tammy Hasselfeldt, who was vice-president (external) when the CYSF pulled out of OFS, said the CYSF pulled out of the OFS because it did not feel the OFS "was a viable organization representing the York student views."

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service status for YCPA in spite of opposition

by Nancy Phillips, Heather Sangster and Daniel Wolgelerenter

The York Council on the Prevention of AIDS (YCPA) granted service status by the CYSF, despite controversy, at last week's explosive council meeting.

The motion to grant the YCPA service status was not on the agenda of the January 10 meeting, but Paul Vendrasco, external commissioner for the CYSF, made a motion to put it on the agenda, which was seconded by Stephanie Infurnari.

CYSF president Peter Donato was opposed to having the matter put on the agenda. "I didn't want to bring on another service until the Women's Centre was straightened up," he said.

York's Women's Centre was granted service status at the December 6 council meeting.

Service status can be granted to organizations that serve a particular community need and do not depend on membership for existence. Service status guarantees funding from the CYSF.

Donato added that he told Kelly before the meeting, "If there's time, we can discuss it under new business. There was no time. I had to leave for Thunder Bay." Donato went to

Thunder Bay that evening for an Ontario Federation of Students conference.

Kelly was granted permission to speak, and Donato left the meeting. He returned partway through Kelly's talk. He said to Kelly, "If you can be a prick, I can be a prick too." Later on "he called me a chronic liar," said Kelly.

A heated argument ensued between Donato and Vice-president of Programmes George DiPede. DiPede said, "It's a worthwhile cause," and Donato should not interfere and let council debate and vote on the motion.

At one point DiPede told Donato to "Fuck off and go to Thunder Bay."

Kelly said he doesn't believe Donato has anything against him or the YCPA, but "his behaviour stems from the fact that he was politically outmanoeuvred. He wanted to have a say in what was decided."

Donato told *Excalibur*, "Ron's a good friend of mine. He would have been on the agenda on the 31st."

Kelly said he wanted the service status before January 27 so he could mention it in an abstract being prepared for an AIDS conference he will be attending soon in San Francisco.

by Nancy Phillips

In response to an alleged assault, president of the CYSF Peter Donato asked for his vice-president of finance's resignation yesterday.

He asked for Franco LoFranco's resignation after filing a complaint with student affairs.

Donato claims that LoFranco assaulted him in the CYSF president's office after last week's council meeting.

LoFranco denies that any physical contact took place.

The alleged incident seems to have stemmed from a verbal altercation at the council meeting in response to a disagreement about the CYSF's handling of a dispute with the Ontario Federation of Students (see accompanying article).

During the course of the argument, "He called me a prick," LoFranco claims.

Donato says he told LoFranco, "I'd like to discuss your professional behaviour in my office sometime." LoFranco then left the meeting, which lasted about another three quarters of an hour.

"He had 45 minutes to think about what he wanted to do," says Donato. He alleges that when he went into his office, LoFranco slammed the door shut which caused the clock to fall on the floor and break.

Donato alleges that LoFranco then lunged at him and began the assault. "I didn't touch him. I'm smarter than that," says Donato. "He said 'I'm gonna kill you,' and 'You don't know who my father is.'"

Donato claims he tried to leave the office but, "he said, 'Where are you going, you're not going anywhere... He said something like, 'You don't embarrass me in public.'"

Donato says he has witnesses to the welts on his neck as well as to the gash on his buttocks allegedly caused when LoFranco pushed him into a desk.

Donato claims LoFranco was going to throw a heavy paperweight at him, but decided against it, allegedly saying he wouldn't because people would know it was him who did it.

LoFranco, however, has a different story.

LoFranco admits, "I stormed into the office like hurricane Frank." He claims this startled Donato and caused him to fall against a desk, cutting himself.

"We were face to face," alleges LoFranco. "I hurt him emotionally. I started saying things I didn't mean."

LoFranco claims Donato's neck was red from anger.

He says, "It's good to get things out. Instead of blowing up at the administration we blow up at each other." He would not comment on what they argued about, saying, "That's personal stuff."

Despite LoFranco's claim that "There are no problems any more... things are back to normal."

"That's his interpretation," says Donato, who is "damn well" considering laying charges.

Vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship, who says she did see marks on Donato's neck, says council is going to have an emer-

gency *in camera* meeting this week to decide how to deal with the matter. "We want to work this out. We don't want to see resignations, law cases or impeachments."

Paul Vendrasco, external commissioner of the CYSF, said he saw Donato's ripped jeans but would not say whether he believed there was a fight or not.

Quote of the week

"If I can abuse my power, I will."

CYSF president Peter Donato at the January 11 council meeting.



The work of two *Excalibur* photographers, Sherwin Klass and Daniel Judd, was not credited in previous issues. We apologize for the oversight.