

established by the budget. As Levy noted, "We have a responsibility to try and be as accessible as possible but the resources are limited."

Complicating the administration's efforts at revising their enrolment projections is the nature of the government disbursements. The budget's commitments have been placed in a fixed pool of money to be distributed to each university according to the number of additional students admitted to the institution. As a result, the individual schools cannot do accurate prior projections concerning their own funding level. In the viewpoint of COU President Harry Arthurs, "None of the universities will know how much money per student they will get until after the students have been admitted. Further, there is no guarantee that the funds will continue to flow until the students are graduated." The arrangement makes the disbursements to each university dependent on the proportion of additional students admitted that year by the institution in question. It seems the arrangement was designed, in part, to motivate each school to admit the greatest number of students. Yet with a reduced budgetary pie, a fixed allotment may have the opposite effect, as universities explore routes to restrain their expenses.

Helena Moncrief, press secretary for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, pointed out the positive aspects of the government's approach to the funding of post-secondary education. She noted that, with 22 capital projects already underway on various campuses around the province, the government has sought solutions to the overcrowding situation. Further, she has noted that since the Peterson government took office, the funding for capital projects has doubled. Moncrief also praised the government's explicit commitment of long term funds (\$440 million for capital funding over the next four years) as it has never been done before. According to Moncrief, Laurentian, one of the schools cited by OFS for being above the BU count, will be admitting an additional 1,000 students in the near future. In her opinion, the university system is not being left "high and dry."

However, OFS statistics refute Moncrief's contention about the quality of government support with respect to capital funding. According to the OFS, the total capital requirement of the university system will amount to \$862 million over the next five years. The OFS statistics include estimates concerning major repair and renovations, deferred maintenance and new construction. As noted, the government has allocated \$440 million for both the colleges and universities over the next four years. After the OFS subtracted the expenditures on temporary classroom space and the residence building program, the level of capital funding was reduced to \$252 million, or 29% of the total OFS estimate for capital requirements.

With both capital and accessibility funding at inadequate levels, the provinces' universities will continue to be financially strangled. Partisan politics, unfortunately, have and probably will continue to augment the problem. Indeed, the Liberals do not want to make the sacrifices needed to redress the actions of their PC predecessors. Any government with an eye on the opinion polls would be reluctant to significantly divert resources away from social programs to the universities. Nevertheless, in an era of upcoming free trade and intense global competition, the rejuvenation of the Ontario University system should be one of the government's foremost priorities. When Peterson received his massive majority in '87 it was hoped that his government would resist the short term palliatives of ordinary partisan politics and invest in the future health of the university system. Unfortunately, it seems that his government failed to insulate itself from short term political pressures.

Students oppose new financial liaison

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Despite the opposition of most student governments, York has started looking for someone to fill the newly created position of Financial Liaison Officer.

According to a paper released by Provost Tom Meininger, student governments, clubs and other groups funded by the University will be able to request that the Liaison Officer help them with their financial management, record keeping, insurance, investments, and any other financial matter.

The Liaison Officer will also develop educational programmes on financial management and business

practices. According to his paper, however, the Provost will continue to have authority when "the need for corrective action in the area of financial practice and control is identified."

The decision to create this position was made at least three years ago, according to Brenda Hanning, the assistant to the Provost. She said that Meininger, along with students, realized that because student governments and other groups are funded "under a grant system, we have to have responsibility for the way the money is managed."

Tammy Hasselfeldt, President of the CYSF, pointed out, however, that last year all of the student govern-

ments were against the creation of this position, as they will be forced to pay two-thirds of the Liaison Officer's salary and operating expenses. The other third will be covered by the Office of the Provost. The CYSF alone will have to pay close to \$2,000. "It's being forced down our throats," Hasselfeldt stated.

The Liaison Officer will operate under the authority of the Provost, and will meet regularly with a Users' Advisory Group (UAG) composed of representatives from the CYSF, Graduate Students' Association, Atkinson College Student Association, and the Glendon College Student Union. The Provost's paper states that the UAG will "provide

guidance to the Financial Liaison Officer on behalf of all users," and will "discuss policy issues related to the functions and responsibilities of the position."

Based on their prior year's performance, individual student governments may apply to the UAG for a waiver of up to 50% of their contributions. The decision to grant this waiver will be based on the extent to which the student government used the services of the Liaison Officer, and the quality of the government's financial management.

The advertisement for the position of Financial Liaison Officer appeared in the May 9 issue of the York University Bulletin.

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To arrange your participation, call or write before May 12, 1988.

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