

Eastern universities look hard at tuition hike

by Peter Brown and Mike Soro
Imprint staff

WATERLOO (ISIS) — Tuition increases seem to be on everyone's lips these days.

A Queen's University report proposes increases of \$125 per year, on top of inflation, over the next five years according to a press release from the Ontario Federation of Students.

The report's recommendations mean a first year student's tuition would leap from \$1,536 in 1989/90 to \$2,410 in 1993/94, if inflation were included.

The confidential report, obtained by the OFS, is titled Ontario Universities: A Blueprint for Action, and is currently being circulated to all Ontario university Boards of Governors by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

The OFS is angered by the clandestine nature of this unreleased document, according to the press release. "The forum for the discussion of this issue is in the university hallways and classrooms, not behind closed doors," stated Shelley Potter, OFS Chairperson.

"At the very least, the OFS expects complete disclosure of all the circulating proposals in order that a proper discussion can take place with full student participation," she said.

The discovery of this report comes at an appropriate time. On Monday, three presidents of Ontario universities, representing the COU, spoke in front of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at Queen's Park. They called the status quo "a

blueprint for mediocrity," and said that capping enrollment is the only real alternative to tuition hikes. They do not believe that accessibility would be harmed by increased tuition.

Sixty per cent of Ontario's families can afford to pay more for post-secondary school education, they said, and tuition today would be 600 dollars more per year if it had been increased by the inflation rate since 1967.

But Potter attacked the COU's position, saying that the average student already graduates from university with a \$12,000 debt, and increased tuition fees could only add to the forty per cent who cannot afford university.

UW President Douglas Wright, speaking to *Imprint*, echoed some of the ideas of the COU, but

stopped short of supporting the specific proposals of the Queen's report. He did agree with the report's desired ratio of student to government contributions: 1 to 2.5 or 3. Right now, each student dollar is matched by four dollars in government grants, (*The Imprint* is the UW Students' Union newspaper.)

Wright said that students do not recognize the crisis facing universities because they don't have anything to compare it to. "Students weren't around... fifteen years ago, when it was better, and they don't go to visit universities in Alberta or Alabama."

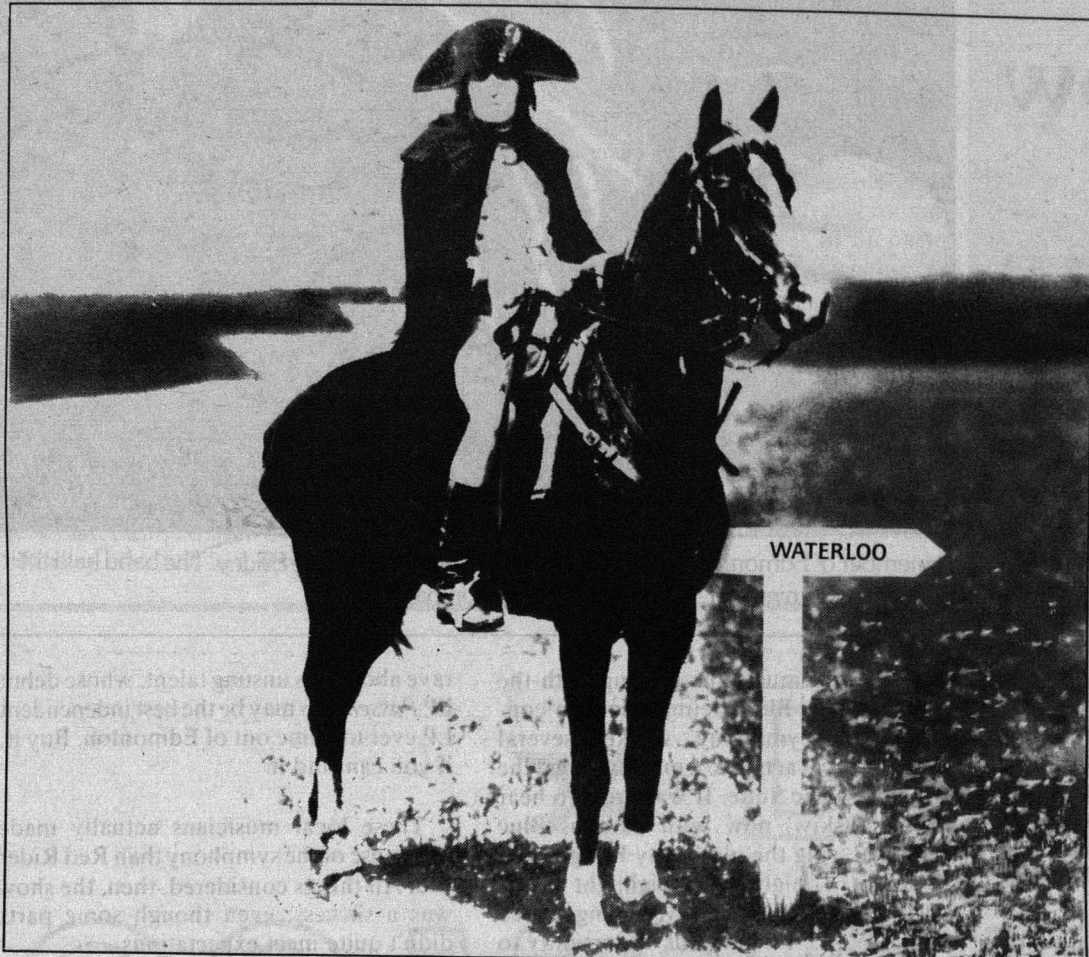
The average American public university receives \$8,680 (in Canadian dollars) from their state's government, compared to \$5,250 in Ontario, according to

figures compiled by UW's Operations Analysis.

Wright went on to say that universities need more money, and that it must come from increases in both tuition and government grants.

He called the option of obtaining significant funds from the private sector "not possible."

He did not suggest a level for tuition, but noted that tuition fees are at their lowest level ever, compared to family incomes. He doubts if modest increases would limit accessibility. "What determines whether someone goes to university are attitudes and expectations formed... in grade eight and nine." Family attitudes, not cost, is the most important factor.



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Native funding

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performance and graduation, greater Indian control and support for the goals of Indian self-government," he added.

Voyageur said that the term 'self-government' is not defined. She was also concerned that Cadieux will be on vacation during the protest.

Indian people demand that free post-secondary education be recognized by treaty and that a moratorium be placed on any changes until the issue is resolved, said Voyageur. Cadieux rejects this position, saying he "cannot believe that references in the treaties to education include(s) post-secondary education."

U of A Students' Council passed a resolution calling on the department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to "delay implementation of the Act until consultation has occurred and both sides are satisfied," said SU

vp external, David Tupper.

A large growth in student numbers, from about 3,500 in 1977-78, to some 15,000 in 1988-89, caused the post-secondary budget to expand from \$9-million to close to \$130-million.

The government will perform a major reappraisal to determine how the program could produce larger numbers of graduates within a budget that could not continue to grow at the pace of the last decade.

"Education is a right of every citizen in this country," said Voyageur, who will be participating in the rally.

Indians from Edmonton and surrounding areas will miss a day of school Wednesday; at 10 a.m. they will meet at Sir Winston Churchill Square to take part in a protest against a policy which comes into effect on April 1. The rally will end at Canada Place.

The final tally: '89 SU election results

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Hudson, Karen	1684	Chu, Peter	3201
Evans, Mike	2145	Squair, Ian	2984
Tupper, David	2587	BOARD OF GOVFNORS	
VP ACADEMIC		Twible, Steve	2609
Cole, Rob	3067	Rogers, Kimberly	1998
Mustapha, Suresh	3182	Klapstein, Kevin	1691
VP EXTERNAL		PRESIDENT ATHLETICS	
Forth, Jason	2951	Chamney, Rick 4709(YES) 735(NO)	
Deisman, Wade	3167	VP MEN'S ATHLETICS	
VP INTERNAL		Pallas, John 4684(YES) 754(NO)	
Bang, Melinda	3093	VP WOMEN'S ATHLETICS	
D'Souza, Aruna	3149	Kmech, Monica 4868(YES) 586(NO)	
		REFERENDUM QUESTIONS	
Question #1 — tuition policy		Question #2 — CJSR funding	
5201 (yes)		3771 (yes)	
796 (no)		2422 (no)	

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