

Grad visa students in fees limbo

By Hugh Westrup

Ten York graduate students caught between old and new government rulings may be forced to leave the university.

Their predicament has resulted from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' decision last summer to triple the tuition fees of foreign graduate students.

The regulation affects primarily those foreign students entering graduate studies since September of this year. However, it is worded to include students already in the Masters program who plan on continuing to the PhD level. When these MA students become PhD candidates they are classified as "new" students and must automatically pay the higher tuition

fees.

The ten foreign students at York affected by this catch in the ruling have grouped together in the last month to seek ways of alleviating their sudden financial burden.

Sonia Skakich, leader of the group, said the ruling is unfair to the transition students because, unlike the new MA students, they came to York without the knowledge that their fees would be so high.

"If we had known about the fee increase we might have gone elsewhere," said Skakich.

The students also think the ruling is unjust because it is based on an incorrect assumption about graduate study.

"The separation of a graduate program into MA and PhD levels is

an artificial one, provincially imposed", said Skakich. "In practice it doesn't work that way."

"Also, when entering graduate studies you're expected to go right through to your doctorate. Most of us were granted admission contingent on our willingness to work towards a PhD."

Last spring Ontario universities appealed before the government to

have the transition students exempted from the new ruling but their plea was rejected.

Now it is up to the universities and students to solve the problem.

Several universities have come to the rescue of their transition students. Trent and McMaster have waived the fee increase, and U of T has set up a special scholarship program.

Meanwhile at York, the Senate Academic Planning and Policy Committee is considering the establishment of a special scholarship fund.

According to David Atkinson, assistant to executive vice-president George Bell, the fund is likely to be financed by contributions from members of the York community.



No answer yet in Forest question

By Laura Brown

"Who is Jeff Forest?"

This was the initial response of York President H. Ian Macdonald on Tuesday night, when asked what steps the administration is taking over the Jeffrey Forest case.

Forest is an Atkinson lecturer who was arrested and charged with assault occasioning bodily harm, following controversial incidents in central square on November 17 and 18. Three others were arrested after the incidents which occurred during heated discussions about Zionism.

Forest is a supporter of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist - Leninist) (CPCM-L).

Macdonald said Forest will be asked to meet with a hearing committee, at a time to be established within the next couple of days.

Excalibur had contacted Macdonald after York assistant Vice-President John Becker, said the Forest case is in "the President's hands now". Becker was speaking in reply to a question following an aborted inquiry into the matter on November 30.

The inquiry ended after Forest left the meeting claiming the investigation was a "fraud" and that "any person who has democratic sentiments should walk out."

The meeting was held to investigate an incident at Bethune College on November 4, when a York student was forcibly evicted from an anti-racism meeting organized by the CPC (M-L).

The incidents at Central square on November 17 and 18 were also slated for discussion.

As the meeting began, James Nugent and other CPC(M-L) supporters attempted to enter the meeting room. They were informed that it was not a public meeting and were ushered out of the room. During the 45 minute meeting the group remained outside banging on the door and chanting,

"open and public investigation" and "reinstate Dr. Forest."

Becker remarked after the meeting that it would not have been fair to Forest to stage a public inquiry, because the lecturer could have been subjected to accusations and innuendo.

According to Becker's opening remarks, several students who had factual information about the November 4, 17 and 18 incidents were to come forward for questioning by members of the administration as well as by Forest. The meeting was not open to the public due to a request for anonymity by several of the students, Becker said.

Leslie Sanders, a representative from the Graduate Assistant's Association presented a letter which objected to the meeting being held.

Sanders said the administration's dealings with the Forest matter contravenes the collective agreement between the university and the union concerning the disciplining of employees.

She said the GAA has filed a grievance concerning the suspension of Forest, which it "doesn't believe to be justified."

Sanders maintained the university has a right to investigate the matter but has no right to act on it.

When Sanders' statement ended, Forest applauded loudly.

He proceeded to address the committee, outlining his grievances against the meeting.

Forest said the inquiry was merely a "kangaroo court" which was held in order to prepare conditions to fire him.

He said that he was not given sufficient notice of the meeting to prepare his case and his ban from the campus prevented him from gathering any witnesses.

Forest left the inquiry as soon as he finished speaking. At that point Becker said the meeting could not carry on, since Forest was no longer available to question witnesses.

"Should the administration decide not to aid the students it will be financially impossible for most of us to continue," said Skakich.

At present the main sources of support for foreign graduate students are graduate assistantships which pay from \$2400 to \$2700 for eight months work.

Skakich said other sources of income are scarce. Scholarships are few and outside employment is difficult to obtain because whether one works as a waitress or under a professor's Canada Council grant, one must demonstrate to the government that no Canadians are qualified for the job.

CYSF

A student service

A column submitted by members of CYSF (Council of the York Student Federation). Views expressed are those of CYSF and/or individual members.

On Thursday, December 1, 1977 with the concurrence of the finance committee and the executive of CYSF the term deposit with the Toronto Dominion Bank was collapsed and a new 30 day note was acquired at the United Trust.

CYSF is bringing Dr. Harry Parrott, Minister of Colleges and Universities, to the campus tomorrow. From 10 to 11 a.m. he will give a brief on the new OSAP regulations and answer questions from the audience. It's in Curtis I.



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