

New elections

Committee to oversee Mac vote

Barb Taylor
George Doxey, Master of MacLaughlin College, has established an ad hoc committee to oversee new college elections, but a date for the vote must still be set.

The committee will be open to all MacLaughlin students and Doxey says, "I want to make sure that everyone is satisfied about the procedure."

Overhaul needed

On Monday, Doxey wrote to all students in residence informing them of the committee's establishment. Mary DeLafrancier, a former Chief Returning Officer for the Council, will be organizing the ad hoc committee and will be receiving applications until next Monday.

MacLaughlin CYSF representative Randy Dobson, who in the past has been critical of Doxey's role in the proceedings, says, "It's a pretty good move." Dobson hopes to sit on the committee to help ensure that questions about CYSF representation are dealt with properly.

Many people involved in the events at the college have called for a review of the council's constitution. Doxey says, "We're committed to a

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fund one. Pearlman is presently distributing pre-referendum questionnaires, which should be tabulated in approximately two weeks.

Earlier this year, Pearlman prepared "Towards The Creation: The Need For An Ombudsman At York University" a report which was distributed to members of the Senate, college masters and faculty members. The report detailed the proposed duties of a campus ombuds-person and the reasons for which Pearlman feels the office is necessary. If the referendum results are positive, the proposal would be sent to the Board of Governors for approval. The Senate would also have to give its approval before the office could examine scholastic records.

committee to examine the MacLaughlin student constitution." A motion was passed at a general meeting in November calling for this review to take place. Dobson agrees the constitution needs an overhaul: "It's certainly about time we came up with some agreed upon rules regarding elections." The committee would be a student one set up by the new council.

But he wants the new council to go further: "Personally, I'd like to see the new council set up a committee to look at the powers of the Master. This was a landmark year for us and it will set precedents. I hope that it sets the right one--that the Master doesn't get too involved, and

allows students to do their own thing." He also proposes that a conference of all college council presidents be held to draft proposals on student government-administration relations. He wants to see some student input on this and to "find out what the majority want."

Meeting within week

Within the next week, William Farr, Vice-President of Faculty and Student Relations, will be meeting with Doxey and John Becker, Assistant Vice-President of Faculty and Student Relations to review the situation. In interview given last week, Farr said he sees the necessity for

administrations to intervene with council procedures in some situations. However, he also said that the administration should not step in where the student press is concerned. "The structural relation with student council money is in the form of grants," said Farr. "If we were nothing but the banker, then I would think there would be no role at all." The administration collects fees from each student and passes them on as "grants" to the student councils. *Excalibur*, on the other hand, is funded by advertising money and some student council grants.

Doxey estimates that the entire election proceedings will take a couple of weeks.

Bill restricts union actions

Law does not stop negotiations

Barb Taylor
Union contract negotiations will be underway at York this spring and summer, despite a provincial bill which restricts wage demands and union actions.

Under Bill 179, union contracts are extended an extra year, and the York administration must give its approval if any negotiations are to occur. William Farr, Vice-President of Student and Faculty Relations, says, "We will be negotiating as usual this year. It's just like another year, except that the unions can't strike."

The best deal

Both parties are willing to negotiate, but there is some disagreement as to what is negotiable. Farr interprets the legislation to mean that all wages are increased by five percent, with the exception of those areas where wages are under \$20,000. Farr maintains that increases in benefits will also be five percent across the board. However, Hollis Rinehard, Chairperson of the YUFA bargaining committee, says, "We are constrained on the total amount--the way in which it is spent is not. We want to get the best deal for

our money."

Another contentious area is the differentiation between monetary and non-monetary benefits. YUFA says that class size is not a monetary issue because it does not affect the compensation of professors, but the administration feels that the costs involved in decreasing class sizes may make it a monetary issue. Rinehard says, "The university gets more money by increasing the number of students per class--we want to ensure that professors are consulted about sizes." How this issue is classified will determine whether it can be negotiated or what limits can be placed on changes.

Everyone will retire

Retirement policy is another important bargaining area for YUFA. "Faculty are now concentrated in a small age bracket--only a few are retiring at present, but in 20 years virtually everyone will be retiring at once. We're interested in establishing an age balanced faculty, for example, keeping on some older faculty while hiring some younger ones." YUFA argues that a more equitable agreement with the university

is needed in this area. Farr says that some areas of retirement policy are monetary and some are not.

In the event that the administration and the faculty cannot agree on what are non-monetary areas, the final decision will be made by a review group that the provincial government has just established.

Expires April 1

The legislation also allows for increases up to \$1,000 for people who are making under \$20,000. The administration will be negotiating this area, and have already worked out some cost figures. Farr says that a \$1,000 increase for those YUSA members in this category would be equal to an across the board increase of 5 and a half percent. Part-time faculty in CUEW would be given increases in proportion to their current pay and the amount of hours they work.

While the YUFA agreement normally expires April 1, negotiations begin 90 days before this time. Since the administration is willing to negotiate, this time-table will be in place this year. Both the YUSA and CUEW agreements expire later in the year.



Photo courtesy of Communications

FACULTY FOCUS

Centre enhances research possibilities

Carol Brunt

David Bell, Dean of Graduate Studies has been appointed Acting Director of the new Centre for Canadian Studies. The Centre is named after the late Honourable John Robarts, former Chancellor of York University and Premier of Ontario, and was first announced by York President H. Ian Macdonald at Fall Convocation, November 6.

Bell defines Canadian Studies as "research and scholarships are concerned with issues and problems in Canadian society or Canadian culture."

Through its proposed objectives, the Centre hopes to enhance research possibilities for those York faculty members involved in Canadian studies.

The Centre hopes to sponsor both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research in Canadian Studies through appointment of York professors as Research Fellows. Such appointments would release professors from some of their teaching duties, allowing them to conduct research. Similarly, promising graduate students could be appointed as Junior Fellows. To encourage promising research projects the Centre will provide seed money to faculty members or graduate students for preparation of their proposals; publish occasional papers and reports by researchers affiliated with the Centre; and provide annually for a visiting professor to hold the position of Robarts Chair. The holder of the Chair will teach both undergraduate and graduate Canadian Studies courses.

The second objective is to support the teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels through sponsorship of conferences and provision of undergraduate scholarships and prizes. The Centre's third stated objective, according to Bell, is to provide a focus for York's research activities by acting as a "clearing house" for ongoing research. The Centre would also maintain links between centres in Canada and abroad.

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