

# ANALYSIS

## Calumet and Bethune see SRC paper creating some problems

In the following article, - Excalibur's David Dollard continues an ongoing series by examining the views of the CYSF non-member colleges of Norman Bethune and Calumet on the recent recommendations prescribed by the SRC to change the structure of student government.

The structure and funding of student government at York University have been scrutinized over the past by various commissions. Recently, the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of the Board of Governors drafted a policy paper on changing student government, based on the Gilmore Report. The SRC recommendations suggested that the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), be recognized as the central undergraduate student government body, incorporating present non-member colleges, Norman Bethune and Calumet, bringing undergraduate representation on CYSF up to full capacity from the present 46% representation. Also, the faculty governments will be established if 25% of students in a given faculty support the creation of a government through a referendum. Faculty governments will also be a part of CYSF.

With the recognition of faculty-based governments, students will have an option of joining either

faculty-based governments, colleges, or both. However first-year students will be forced to affiliate with a college and a faculty-based student government, (if one exists). After first year an undergraduates' choice between governments will be binding for two years to ensure funding stability.

With SRC approval, by President Harry Arthurs, Norman Bethune College and Calumet College will become members of the CYSF. Representatives of the two non-member colleges have voiced their concerns about and reactions to the SRC paper.

With respect to the SRC suggestion of voluntary membership in either a college or faculty after second year, the representatives from Bethune and Calumet expressed concern over the adverse effect they believe this will have on the present funding of college governments. "I think recommendations to strike faculty governments, the way it's written now (in the SRC report) "throws out some of the baby with the bathwater." It allows to put in place several governments all of which won't have sufficient funding to do the kinds of jobs colleges and student governments should do," explained Calumet Master Peggy Keall. Keall said that the addition of faculty governments would split the existing pool of funds for student government provided through student fees.

Gil Brown, Chairperson of the Calumet General Meeting (CGM), but speaking as a private member of the CGM, (as was External Affairs

Officer, Laura Facella, who accompanied Brown), explained that "personally, I don't feel threatened by faculty governments because I realize they're a good thing. (In another sense,) I feel threatened by faculty governments because they'll be taking money away from the colleges, and a college cannot survive on \$10,000, or whatever it might get on a voluntary member (basis)." Because of the feared reduction in college government's operating grants, Brown said that the economic burden on the colleges to pro-

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vide services and activities would have to be shifted to the students. Brown also offered a funding solution by suggesting, "...it would be a great if all the administration took a cut in pay, gave that money to the faculty governments, and left the college governments the amount they get right now."

David Lumsden, Master of Norman Bethune College, equally expressed concern over the effect the SRC paper, if approved, will have on college funding. Lumsden feels that "deleterious competition" will result between faculty and college governments striving to attract membership through cheaper fees. He also stressed that this competition would divide the colleges and faculty governments so much that the CYSF would be weakened at the expense

of these "provincial units." Lumsden also said that comments made by Sue Watt, Chairperson of the Creative Art Board, in an *Excalibur* article of September 17, were indicative of the beginning of this division.

Lumsden also wants to see student government restructuring to be something coming from within the student body instead of something being forced upon students by the administration. He referred to this period of change as "the refounding of York University," and wants to see the students as the new "mothers and fathers of Confederation," not the university.

To all those interviewed by *Excalibur*, the solution to best alleviate the deleterious competition is "mandatory coaffiliation (MANCO)." Basically, MANCO would call for forced undergraduate membership in both college and faculty governments (if they exist), thus ensuring secure funding for both parties. Master

tives also question the function and nature of the proposed faculty governments and how they plan to provide for undergraduates the way college governments have. According to CAB's Sue Watt, the colleges feel they are threatened "because they realize that faculty governments are a good thing." Laura Farella replied flatly "No," when asked if she realized that faculty governments are a good thing. Kevin Adams, Chairperson of the Norman Bethune College Council, explained that "certain faculty governments might be a good idea." He elaborated that with the size of the University and the number of people at York, all students may not be getting the services they need, so the addition of extra governmental bodies could alleviate the problem. Farella explained that "I don't think we know what a faculty (government) can offer." She went on to detail the advantages, primarily the variety and relief from academia, that colleges can provide over faculties.

MANCO has been described by Lumsden as being "bureaucratically simple." Without it, he fears that students would choose the college or faculty with the cheapest membership fee, regardless of the service, or lack of service, provided. Calumet's Brown expressed another concern that the increased competition would reduce the present system to a point where colleges and faculties would be looking to produce the best attraction to entice new members and that the bulk of the operating grants would be used on orientation so that once students are recruited and affiliated there would be little funding to provide essential services.

Finally, Lumsden expressed apprehension that the positive direction and initiative taken may not result in anything substantive. "My greatest fear right now is that the sense of willingness to improve the system that we have would dissipate if we don't act within the school-year," he cautioned.

Keall felt that MANCO was necessary, "if you had to have faculty governments." Keall felt that the present faculty associations looked after student academic concerns well enough so that they should remain associations, and faculty governments are thus not essential.

Master Lumsden sided with this idea explaining that faculty governments "can't just be window-dressing for the faculty, they must have real voting clout in the running of their faculties." Lumsden also explained that as faculty governments begin to fill and play the role of college governments, they will become more like colleges, "because they will have to encompass all the (present) functions that college councils do."

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