

Ontario fees strike faces opposition

Demonstration next week

TORONTO (CUP) — Ontario students will demonstrate against tuition fees and loan hikes outside Queen's Park at the opening of the Ontario legislature Nov. 21.

The turnout may be small, however, since three large student unions have refused to participate. The University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, and Queen's University representatives voted against the action at the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) meeting in late October.

Since the meeting, both U of T's student administrative council (SAC) and Queen's student council have voted against participating in the demonstration. UWO's student council has not made a decision since many council members have resigned lately and have not yet been replaced.

The University of Waterloo student council decided Oct. 25 not to support the demonstration either. Attempting to comply with OFS requests for a "united front", council decided that if a demonstration is called, Waterloo people would participate as much as they could.

However, the council was reluctant to support the action with the small interest shown on the campus on the issue of tuition and loan hikes. Only 15 percent of the student body voted in the OFS referendum on the issue.

Meanwhile at U of T, the Victoria College Students' Administrative Council (VUSAC) executive has decided to take over the task of trying to organize a demonstration from the main SAC.

VUSAC president Gord Barnes said Oct. 31 the executive was angry with SAC's decision. He is sending a letter to

all U of T campus student councils asking them to "commit yourselves to this action to the greatest possible extent."

The letter states Barnes thinks "U of T's participation in such a demonstration is a necessary and integral component of the province-wide fees action." The fees issue is "simply the most critical to confront the university and students..."

"We will give students a chance to vote with their feet," Barnes said. He is "fairly optimistic we can get a turnout that will give government some indications of how students feel."

The initial reaction to VUSAC's proposal has been favourable, he said.

U of T SAC may reconsider their decision at this week's council meeting, according to George Strathy, Law SAC representative.

OFS general co-ordinator Craig Heron said Oct. 31 the demonstration is definitely on, with or without U of T participation. He told SAC last week that the withdrawal of the largest student body in the province, in addition Western and Queen's student councils, might have scuttled the plans.

OFS is holding a meeting in Toronto this week to decide on tactics for the demonstration.

Fuel was added to the fees hike controversy Friday, Nov. 3 at the installation of Carleton's University's new president, Dr. Michael Oliver.

"Raising university fees without compensatory adjustments in student aid to ensure continued accessibility for middle and low income families is avoiding a serious problem rather than solving it," he said.

UWO threatens reprisals

LONDON (CUP) — The University of Western Ontario has become the first Ontario university to publicly acknowledge that students will be penalized for participating in the proposed second term fees strike.

University president Carleton Williams announced to an Oct. 27 senate meeting that students withholding fees in January, as proposed by the Ontario Federation of Students and approved by a province-wide referendum in October, would suffer "academic penalty".

Although vice-president (finance) A. K. Adlington has stated the sanctions would only go so far as withholding transcripts, student leaders fear the psychological effect on hesitant students may seriously affect support for a possible strike.

Academic sanctions could go as far as expelling a student from the university.

Williams denied rumours Oct. 31 that the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) planned to advocate withholding the second installment of students' student award cheques until they paid their fees in full. The COU is the association of Ontario university presidents.

He complained the universities "have no defenses" against either the government's unilateral fees boost or the students' strike threat. They're like the "ham in the sandwich", he said.

Williams, who is also chairman of COU, prefaced his remarks by describing how the university would put in a squeezeplay.

"This is not a problem of the university's choosing, but it is the body that stands to lose," he said.

He estimated that more than \$2 million will be affected of those students who have yet to pay their full fees withhold those payments in January.

Williams also referred to a letter drafted by the COU April 10 that protested the Ontario government's fee

increase.

The letter "strongly protested" the increase, which was seen as a deterrent to enrollment. It said an accompanying increase in student award funds should have been made.

Williams added the fee increase had been carefully discussed and although the loan portion of Ontario Student Awards is up, "it's still a bargain".

Williams was referring to other provinces that do not contribute any funds to the federal awards program. Instead of a combination of loans and grants, their students receive their funds in straight loans.

Adlington said a fee strike would have an impact out of proportion to normal years because of the university's deficit budget. He explained the university would not only lose the interest on the funds, but because of the tight money problems, may have to borrow money to cover operating expenses.

"Are students going to fight the government until the last university (goes under)?" Williams asked. "I think it's about time" that students started thinking about that aspect.

The University of Toronto administration, on the other hand, has said it will not penalize students who participate in the fees withholding campaign.

Student leaders conceded that universities are in a poor position, but the concern of the students is with the Ontario government and the only weapon they have is the withholding of tuition fees.

The UWO students' council decided Oct. 31 to call on students to write in thousands of complaint letters to Ontario colleges and universities minister John McNie. However, the possibility of a January fees' strike, if negotiations with the provincial government fail, still exists.

Regina professors opposing democracy

REGINA (CUP) — A major fight is brewing in the social sciences division of the University of Saskatchewan, Regina campus, where the right-wing faculty members are trying to subvert democratic decision-making in their division.

The latest attempt came Friday, Nov. 3 at the regular division meeting, when more than 16 faculty members walked out, refusing to discuss two important motions.

One motion would prevent departments from refusing students the right to participate in decision-making. The other would give visiting professors and others, who have been at the university two years or more, the right to sit on committees formerly restricted to tenured faculty.

Before the motions could be considered, and even before the chairman could finish his opening remarks, psychology professor, Bill Muir, stood up and informed the meeting he thought the motion dealing with student representation was not "put forward in a serious manner". He was not going to "waste the taxpayers' money" by discussing it, and he was leaving, he said.

In a pre-arranged move, more than 16 faculty members then left the meeting, which continued without them.

The remaining speakers agreed that during the last two years the students' desire to participate had reached the point where only the conservative ten-

dencies of certain faculty members had prevented it.

Because of the serious impact of the motion for student representation in all divisional departments, representatives at the meeting decided to delay implementation until the Faculty of Arts and Science had reported on student participation. The delaying motion was passed with only three abstentions, and no opposition.

Debate on the second motion was cut off because many professors who would have been affected by it had left. But some representatives pointed out that visiting professors and non-tenured faculty have been denied the right to participate equally in the division because of inequitably applied bylaws.

The conservative faculty walkout was a deliberate attempt to deny the validity of democratic decision-making in the division.

The denial of student participation contravenes the intent of an original two-year old bylaw making student membership optional for departments.

The walkout is part of a continuing struggle between the right-wing and left-wing members of the division.

Political science department chairman Joe Roberts said the right-wing's action shows that when an elite loses control of the democratic process, it will totally reject the institutions which formerly gave it its power.

French Club events

ÉVÉNEMENTS À VENIR (UPCOMING EVENTS)

— mardi le 21 novembre (Tuesday, November 21) **Film français, L'Idiot** d'après le roman de Dostoievsky. 7 heures du soir — veuillez noter ce changement (7 p.m. please note this time change; in the Killam auditorium); petite soirée après au SUB salle 316 (informal gathering after the film in the SUB, room 316, in honour of French and French-Canadian cadets in the area learning English; free coffee and doughnuts).

— mercredi le 22 novembre (Wednesday, November 22); **Le Chant** (Singing); 3h30 de l'après-midi; (3:30 p.m. B 269 Killam Basement).

— jeudi le 23 novembre (Thursday, November 23); **Radio Dalhousie** de 7

heures à 8 heures (from seven to eight in the evening, an hour of French music with Colin and Cloé) de la musique française avec Colin et Cloé.

— vendredi le 24 novembre (Friday, November 24); **Réunion générale** (General and Representatives Meeting); 12h30 (12:30 B 400 Killam Basement).

Votre nouveau bureau (your new executive):

Président — Avarid Bishop 422-3177
Vice-présidentes — Patricia Dingle 454-1889; Linda Townshend 422-2944
Secrétaire — Heather Mason 455-3437
Trésorière — Barbara Spruin 422-9120
Convocateur social — David Weir 425-6929

Members-at-Large — Debbie Henderson, Joyda Rueggeberg, Lorna Lodvedt, Chris Bently, Claudine Soufflet, Peter Brinton, Suzanne Guillemette.

Indochina Teach-in

Saturday, November 18
Room 234, A & A Building

Speaker: Clair Culhane on Canadian complicity in the war.

Analysis of: — Imperialism as a Cause of the War

— Other revolutionary struggles and their relation to Vietnam

— The Geneva Accords of 1954 and the present peace initiatives

Panel Discussion — on how Canadians can best aid the struggles of the Indo-Chinese peoples.