

EXCALIBUR

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Yolton second choice

Upstairs shuffle, Slater quits post



The real crunch comes next—how will the search be run in finding someone to fill York's top-dog spot?



David Slater — resigned Monday



Richard Storr — president for a day

Philosophy department head and U.S. citizen John Yolton is York's new president. The interim appointment was made yesterday after Richard Storr, acting dean of graduate studies, said heart trouble would prevent him taking over from resigning president David Slater.

Storr, a U.S. Social history specialist and also an American, was appointed acting president Tuesday following Slater's resignation Monday night at a board of governors' meeting.

"The position of president involves difficult inter-personal relations and I do not believe that I can be sufficiently effective to my own standards in serving the needs of the university in the present circumstances," Slater said in a letter to the board. His resignation is effective June 30, but he was granted an immediate leave of absence. The board said it hoped he'd remain at York "in a capacity which will provide him greater opportunity for teaching and research."

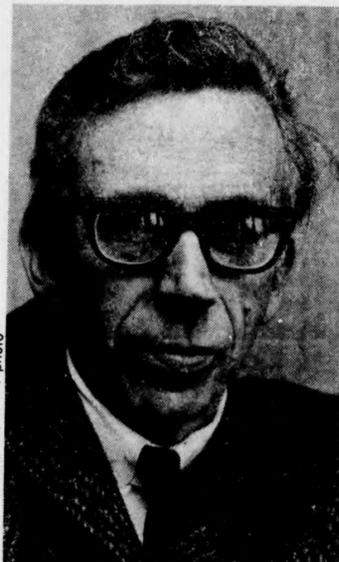
In finding a new president, board chairman Robert MacIntosh said in a letter to the York community that "agreed procedures" and "an agreed process of consultation throughout the university" would be used. He said the interim president would provide a continuity of executive leadership until a new president is selected. To assist the interim president, the board named Bill Farr, former secretary of the university to the post of vice-president in charge of co-ordinating policy planning.

Yolton, describing himself as a "hard-nosed academic," said yesterday he sees finances as the priority right now and "after that, I'd like to get the community back to teaching concerns". He's been at York since 1963 and this year was one of two senators elected to the board of governors.

Slater, regarded by students and faculty alike as an honest approachable man who kept his door open to students, lost the confidence of many senior faculty and administrators in the course of a four-month budget crisis. His resignation came as no surprise, but the timing of it was. Harry Arthurs, Osgoode law dean, speculated Tuesday that Slater quit now because next year's budget is in the planning stages and Slater saw he hadn't solved any of his problems about budget approach.

Slater has been plagued with several crises this year, the most serious a budgetary one that panicked the whole community in October when it was announced there was a \$4.1 million deficit. This was tied to a shortfall in student enrolment — 11,088 full-time undergrads had been expected, but only 9,853 showed up.

In the ensuing flurry of plant cutbacks and threatened faculty firings, a senate committee investigated and found that the actual deficit was \$2.1 million. Cuts brought this down to \$1.2 million, and a



John Yolton — interim head of York

surplus from last year left the net deficit at \$705,000.

But in a hectic two-month process of reassessment, two senior administrators quit, another threatened to quit and a fourth had a falling out with Slater over a demand for an oath of loyalty. The four, former academic vice-president Walter Tarnopolsky, former dean of administrative studies Barry Richman, arts dean John Saywell, and Atkinson dean Harry Crowe, all expressed doubts about Slater's ability to lead the university through the crisis.

Who cares?

What did you think of the Slater resignation?

Jeff Goodman: "Seems to me that it's the latest fad, everybody's quitting — even the students."

Barb Lando: "There will be no significant change with or without him."

Tom Smith: "Slater was sort of a myth to me. His resignation means that God is dead."

Joan Mayotte: "I really don't care one way or the other. One administrator is as good as the next."

Dan Griffith: "Slater thinks that everybody thinks he's worse than he really is."

Dale Ritch: "President Slater has been torn between the Board of Governors and the province on one hand and the faculty and students on the other. The president's chair is just too hot a seat to set on."

Ritch also suggested that the new president should be elected by the entire university community — students and faculty included.

Students seek senate support

The York cutbacks committee will attempt to enlist the support of senate today.

At the fees moratorium last Thursday students voted to "force the senate to endorse the meeting's demands and tactics."

Under the slogan "Free and Universal Access to Education", the group is demanding: a stop to cutbacks in university spending by the government; a repeal of fee hikes and return to the loan ceiling of \$600; a lower age of independence at 18; taxation of corporate profits to pay for education; and rehiring of nine York cleaners laid-off last week.

The campaign for a fees strike may be having some effect at York. Student liaison officer John Becker released figures yesterday showing that approximately 63 per cent of full time undergraduates have not yet paid all their fees as compared with 40 per cent at this time last year.

Accurate information on the activities on other campuses around the fees issue is scanty but it seems clear the Ontario Federation of Students campaign is going no where in a hurry.

An occupation of the administrative offices at Brock University continues today in support of a demand to rehire 16 faculty members whose contracts were not renewed because of budget cuts.

The board of governors considered the student demands yesterday and a student meeting will be held today to hear the results.

At Trent, a joint student-faculty-staff committee has been formed to

study alternatives to president T. Nind's proposal for substantial cutbacks.

He announced last Thursday that several departments would have to be amalgamated; the German department dropped; a block of buildings sold; and as many as 40 faculty and staff members would be fired.

Between 800 and 1,000 students have attended several meetings to discuss the issue of cutbacks.

The new committee will study alternative ways of cutting back and an open plenary will make decisions binding on the senate and the board of governors.

At the University of Toronto, an open meeting is planned for Tuesday

to discuss how the students should proceed in the fee strike. Thus far 6,000 U of T students have not paid their fees as compared with 4,500 last year.

The OFS called for province-wide moratoriums at the end of the month in a weekend meeting, but by Monday decided to abandon the plan when they received no support from local councils.

At various times in the past two weeks there have been occupations at Laurentian, the University of Western Ontario and, for a short time, Lakehead University.

The students' council at Queen's is still trying to organize a fee strike before the Jan. 31 due date for fees.

Union talks called off

An agreement between the York administration and York's 238 workers is not in sight and talks have been adjourned for a cooling-off period.

When talks broke off last Wednesday, union and management were apparently far apart on 30 bargaining points and the question of money had not yet been raised.

Certain basic things have been cleared up such as the contract language governing seniority.

Differences are now under review by labour board conciliator John Hopper, who could recommend that the two sides return to the bargaining table but will probably report to the ministry of labour that the two sides are too far apart.

A "no-board" report to the ministry (no conciliation board) will open the way for a strike or lock-out 14 days after its release.

The university is now standing by its 6 per cent contract offer, which will not leave much for a wage hike after benefit costs are deducted. At present, male cleaners get \$3.50 an hour, women get \$3 per hour, and tradespeople make \$5.90 per hour.

The union is bargaining for a pension plan, more sick days and holidays and free tuition for the workers and their families as is now provided to York faculty and staff.

They are also seeking wage parity with the North York Board of Education maintenance workers — approximately a \$1 increase across the board.

Lay-off protest talk today

A meeting to discuss student reaction to the recent lay-off of nine York cleaners has been called for 1 p.m. today in the bear pit in central square.

The organizers of the meeting, the York cutbacks committee, are calling for reinstatement of the workers. A committee spokesman said the reversal of Ontario government cutbacks in education spending is a common goal for both workers and students.

The committee pointed to support given to students from the 238 workers in the York local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in the recent occupation. CUPE also funded buses to the fees demonstration at Queen's Park in the fall.