

"It all comes down to integrity"

Support staff committee has no staff reps

(Continued from page 1)

In a later move, Mitchell and Hayes became "resources" to the committee, since it was felt they should not be formal members: Mitchell is responsible for the areas of policy which the committee is supposed to investigate.

Wilson feels the committee should have some members from the grade and step scheme employees.

"The facts that one finds depends upon what one looks for," she said. "Without meaning any disrespect, I

don't see how a committee of faculty members and senior management people are going to know what to look for.

"The system at York works perfectly, as long as all of an employee's superiors exercise perfect integrity all the way up the line. If there's a slip anywhere, then the support staff member gets shafted. It all comes down to that one word, 'integrity'."

Committee chairman Jack Brown told Excalibur the committee is under no direction and no pressure.

"We are an absolutely independent fact-finding body," he said. "I was picked for the committee because I have 27 years of experience in the field of personnel research work behind me.

"Goodale is an expert in the area of personnel also. He has distributed a scientifically prepared (anonymous) questionnaire to all staff members.

"I've been told that we are perceived as a management committee. I don't know how to fight that perception.

"All of us are working very seriously to make this university a better place to live and work in."

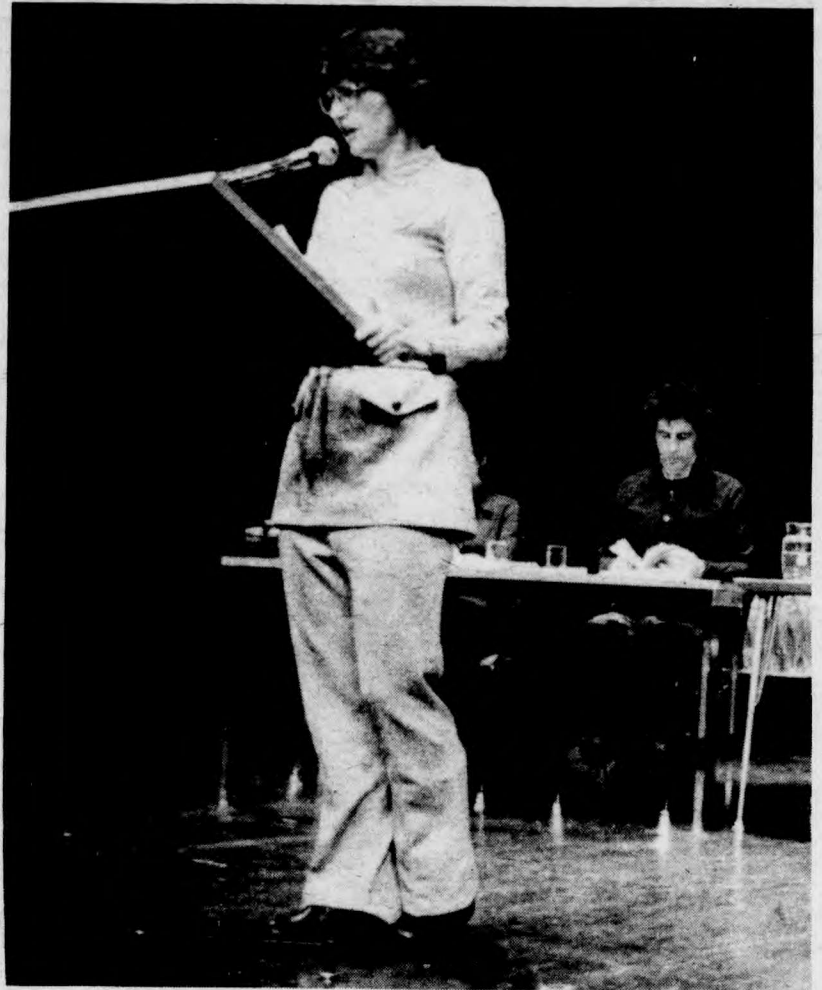
President Macdonald told Excalibur there would be no change in the committee's composition, despite the recommendations of the task force report.

"My impression (at the time the committee was established) was that we had some fundamental restructuring to do in regard to the support staff," he said.

"I have asked for a report to be prepared in time to make administrative changes by July 1.

"I am satisfied that the committee is a competent one and will proceed with integrity."

The report of the task force will be discussed in a special meeting of senate this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.



Vietta Wilson, speaking on the status of woman report.

Comment

Several grounds exist for invalidation of election

By OAKLAND ROSS

There are several grounds on which a case for the invalidation of the current CYSF elections could be based.

ULS presidential candidate Dale Ritch was disqualified from the election for violating an order from the election tribunal to suspend the ULS campaign. This order was based on charges that the ULS had begun campaigning before the official opening of the campaign period, February 28.

The campaign period was originally set to open on February 24, immediately after the closing of the nominations period. However, in an effort to bring more candidates into the field, the CYSF voted at its February 12 meeting to extend the nominations period until February 28.

Since article 18 of the resolution on the conduct of elections states that the campaign period does not begin until the end of nominations, a change of the nominations period implicitly changes the campaign period.

But the February 13 issue of the Daily Bulletin announced that although nominations would close on February 28, the campaign would begin on February 24. This announcement, provided to the Bulletin by CYSF president Anne Scotton, was repeated on February 18. It was the only public notice of the dates of the campaign period.

Article nine of the election by-law states that the chief returning officer (CRO) shall "cause to be publicized in such a manner as to reasonably notify members of constituencies of the council" of an election. This publicity "shall include the dates of the election, the dates of the nomination period, the dates of the campaign period."

No public announcement issuing from CRO Henry Goldberg's office made any mention of the dates of the nomination or campaign periods.

Article 61 states that "no election is to be declared invalid by reason of any act or omission by the chief returning officer... if the election was so conducted as to be substantially in accordance with this resolution... and provided that the act or omission did not affect the election results."

If the CRO had provided ample public notice of campaign dates, the ULS might not have started its campaign early; the tribunal might not have suspended the ULS; the

tribunal ruling might not then have been violated; and Ritch might still be in the election.

(But if a complaint about the competence of the CRO is filed by any party, the complaint must be heard by the election tribunal. This is stipulated in article 65. The tribunal consists of the speaker of the CYSF, the CRO and a third acceptable party.

(Thus, the CRO would be placed in the rather interesting and, one might say, conflicting position of sitting in judgment upon himself.)

It is also possible to question the validity of the election tribunal's decision to disqualify Ritch for violating the ULS campaign suspension.

The announcement of the election tribunal on Monday described the "fight for fair elections" leaflet as "an obvious and blatant attempt to influence people to vote ULS by use of the phrase 'indicate your support in the upcoming election'."

It was primarily upon this phrase that the tribunal based its charge that the leaflet constituted campaigning.

However, the tribunal misquoted the leaflet, which actually called on students to "indicate their support in the upcoming election as they see fit".

Finally, the election may be challenged according to article 64 of the election by-law. It states that "primary consideration is to be given to the fact that elections or referenda should reflect accurately and to the greatest degree possible the freely expressed opinion of the constituent students of York university."

Opinion poll may accompany ballot

(Continued from page 1)
was spending the weekend. He proved easy to convince.

As a result, the ULS has been displaying posters this week declaring that "a vote for Koornstra is a vote for Ritch".

Ritch explained to Excalibur that if Koornstra wins, and if the ULS gains a majority of seats on the new council, Koornstra will immediately resign and the council will vote to appoint Ritch as interim president for the summer. Next fall, a new presidential election will be held.

"We're not machinating behind the scenes or pulling strings," said Ritch. "This is the most democratic way; students are well aware of what's going on."

He said that the ULS had also considered organizing a mass boycott of the elections as a prelude to attempting to invalidate them on con-

stitutional grounds, but had rejected this plan since there was little chance of new elections being held this year.

Current CYSF president Anne Scotton described the ULS decision to run Koornstra as a surrogate candidate for Ritch as "a good political move."

However, in view of growing concern among students regarding the fairness of the conduct of the elections, the CYSF executive decided this week to attach an opinion poll to the ballots. The poll reads, "In view of the problems surrounding the present CYSF election, do you feel a second presidential election should be held as soon as possible?"

The poll was attached to yesterday's ballots, although the council did not vote on ratification of the move until last night.

At press-time the outcome of that vote was not known. But if the coun-

cil voted against conducting the poll it will be removed from today's ballots and yesterday's poll will be destroyed.

It was also revealed this week that ULS member Giorno, who was tossed out of the election along with Ritch for signing the leaflet distributed by the committee for fair elections, had not, in fact, signed the leaflet, and was not a member of the committee.

The ULS admitted that two of its members, Mike Hollett and Gord Graham, had added Giorno's name to the document under the mistaken impression that Giorno supported them. They have formally apologized.

Giorno has since denounced the ULS as "non-thinking fanatics" and has therefore refused an offer from the election tribunal to let him appeal his disqualification.

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