

Hassle over tuition hike in Ontario

OTTAWA (CUP) — Ontario campuses are gearing up to plan activities to demonstrate their opposition to the recently announced tuition fee hikes for the province's colleges and universities, preliminary reports indicate.

As of Jan. 27, seventeen student unions have reported plans for some form of action on or about Feb. 10, according to reports from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and member papers of Canadian University Press.

Most are seeking, or have already received, support from students for a half-day class boycott, in response to a call from OFS member unions and supporters at a strategy meeting on the tuition hike Jan. 15.

Those planning boycotts, or referenda seeking support for a boycott, include the universities of Carleton, Laurentian, Windsor, York and Toronto, and Algonquin, Confederation, and Centennial colleges of applied arts and technology. Ryerson polytechnical

institute will be holding a referendum on a class boycott for Feb. 10.

Those holding other types of activities — ranging from mass meetings to poster and button campaigns — include the universities of Ottawa, Lakehead, Guelph, Queen's and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the colleges of Cambrian, Sault-Ste-Marie and Niagara. Cambrian College held a full-day class boycott a few days after the announcements of the hike Nov. 25, and now is considering a mass meeting of students, according to OFS.

At Algonquin college in Ottawa the annual general meeting of students Jan. 26 overturned their student union's decision not to hold a referendum on the boycott which if passed will be held in mid-February.

The University of Ottawa students rejected a proposed class boycott last December, but a march on the university senate chambers Feb. 7 is planned. The University of Windsor

students union had already found strong support from students for a class boycott in a referendum a week prior to the OFS strategy session, and has now set the boycott for Feb. 10.

The University of Guelph has not ruled out a boycott, but so far has planned a mass meeting Feb. 3, while Lakehead University in Thunder Bay has an ongoing poster and button campaign in the works, according to OFS.

The student union at the

University of Western Ontario in London, where students voted to drop their membership in OFS last October, dismissed a proposed boycott referendum at its regular meeting Jan. 26 and plans no other action, according to sources in the National Union of Students.

The campus-by-campus activities were planned along with a four-pronged publicity campaign by OFS aimed at student, the non-student community, politicians and the media, as agreed to

at the January strategy session.

The fee hikes amount to a \$75 increase in fees for the province's 22 government-run community colleges, and \$100 for the 15 universities and Ryerson, bringing fees to \$325 for colleges and \$700 for universities.

Campuses across Ontario initiated petition campaigns last December, collecting 25,000 signatures opposing the hike, which were presented to Ontario minister of colleges and universities, Harry Parrott, Dec. 10.

Tuition fees hinge on costs

HALIFAX (CUP) — Tuition fees will have to rise if the governments of the Maritime provinces do not grant post-secondary institutions in the region an average increase of 12.5 percent in operating grants, the Association of Atlantic Universities has warned.

The increase is necessary to meet rising costs of more than 20 per cent and wage increases for faculty and support staff "within the AIB (Anti-Inflation Board) guidelines," stated association chair Ronald Barker in a release Jan. 25.

The demand is contained in a letter to the Council of Maritime

Premiers drafted the preceding week at Dalhousie University, where the 20-member association of universities and colleges met to discuss their needs and examine cost-cutting measures.

Barker said the 12.5 per cent increase was the minimum needed for institutions whose tuition fees, comprising about 20 per cent of revenue, "are already the highest in the country."

The letter to the premier proposes a 10 per cent wage increase for employees, noting that most wage settlements were below the AIB guidelines last year, while faculty in the region are the

lowest paid in the country.

The increase the association expects for 1977-78 is lower than the average yearly increase afforded Maritime post-secondary institutions in the three-year period between 1973-74 and 1976-77, which totalled 52.4 per cent, according to figures from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The association said at a recent news conference that the level of tuition fees next year depends on the premier's response. The answer may be given to the premier's council meeting in February.

Universities reject differential fees

OTTAWA (CUP) — The McMaster University board of governors has joined two others in Ontario in rejecting differential fees for visa students, but Lakehead University has bowed to the government.

"Make no mistake about it, the government is calling the shots," said Lakehead vice-president administration, Bryan Mason, noting that the university's size and location makes it difficult to absorb the extra costs.

"Whether one agrees with the government is immaterial. They pay the bill," he said. "One can be altruistic, but what does that do for the other 2,700 students (at Lakehead)?"

However, McMaster, along with Carleton and Laurentian will absorb the costs for at least one year.

According to president Arthur Bourns, the move was intended "to protect the financial integrity of the university," but, he added, "the fee will have to be charged if a solution cannot be found."

Rejecting the fee will cost McMaster \$220,000 in 1977-78, or .3 per cent of the total university budget, Bourns said.

Five per cent of the total university enrolment in Ontario is foreign students. At McMaster, the percentage is slightly higher at 6.4 per cent, but Bourns said there are several reasons for this.

One reason he mentioned is that McMaster places a great emphasis on its graduate programs and 20 per cent visa student enrolment "provides cultural and academic enrichments."

Although the board of governors agreed that a totally open-ended education system is one that no government can afford the two-tiered fee structure was called a "crude attempt" at cutbacks.

In addition to the three Ontario boards who have refused the differential levy, five more of the province's university senates have ruled against the proposal. Their rulings await board consideration.

Equal fees says UBC

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The University of British Columbia senate unanimously opposed a motion calling for differential fees for out-of-province and international students Jan. 19.

The motion did not even gain the support of its mover and seconder so it could be discussed. Mover, Joan Blandford, who first gave notice of the motion in November, admitted it "certainly isn't going to do much for the university finances."

"I'm bringing this up because two other provinces have brought these in. I'm asking that this be passed on so the board of

governors can study it. "There are also some reasons for not having (differential fees) as there are some students from underdeveloped countries," Blandford said.

Economics professor, Robert Clark, said about seven per cent of UBC's students come from out of BC and another three per cent for visa students.

"I think that we, as faculty and students, benefit from having them here," he said. "I think we have been seen as a university whose interests transcend boundaries."

St. John's, Newfoundland, Jan. 15, 1977—Rotary International District Governor Dr. Gordon Anthony has announced the availability of three Rotary Foundation educational awards for young people in his district for study abroad during academic year 1978-79. The awards cover the costs of language instruction, transportation, food, lodging, and tuition.

Rotarians are looking for scholars who are well-rounded, articulate, outgoing people who can interpret their homelands as well as absorb the cultures of their country of study. Candidates must apply for the awards by March 1, 1977 through local Rotary clubs where they reside or study.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, the world's oldest service club association, seeks to promote international goodwill and understanding. Its awards programs are supported by voluntary contributions of Rotarians and others worldwide.

The Foundation's awards are placed into five categories, the largest of which is the graduate fellowships. Each graduate fellow must be twenty through twenty-eight years old and have earned the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree.

Students who have completed only two years of study on the university level may apply for the Foundation's Undergraduate Scholarships. Applicants may not be married and must be eighteen through twenty-four years old.

Technical Training awards are

available to people who have had the equivalent of a secondary education and have worked for two years in a technical field. In the past, students have studied vocations from bookkeeping to hydrofoil construction. Technical Training awardees must be twenty-one through thirty-five years old.

Also available are awards for teachers of the handicapped and journalists, which are granted to winners of a worldwide competition of candidates sponsored by Rotary clubs. In 1978-79, the journalism award program's first year, the Foundation will grant twenty awards. Up to 120 Teachers of the Handicapped awards will be presented the same year.

Teachers applying for this award must have the equivalent of a secondary school degree, have worked with the handicapped for two years, and be twenty-five through fifty years old.

Applicants for journalism awards, if students, must have completed at least two years of secondary education in journalism. Professional applicants must have been working for two years and be twenty-one through twenty-eight years old.

Over the next three years the Foundation's trustees have committed the U.S. \$22 million for their programs. In Concert with their motto of "Service Above Self", none of the program's awards can be made to Rotarians or their families.

Rotary awards available

Catch 22... If You Can

EDMONTON (CUP) — A University of Alberta student found himself caught in the middle of Catch 22 while trying to claim a \$150 provincial scholarship the first week in January.

John Douglas, an education student, approached an administration office wicket where the secretary informed him the scholarship was in.

"Do you have your ID card?" she asked.

As he pulled out his card the woman looked through his file and informed him "I'm sorry, I can't

give you your cheque now. Your fees are unpaid."

"I need the cheque to pay my fees," Douglas replied.

"Sorry, Catch 22," she said.

"I am not authorized to distribute cheques if fees are not paid."

"But," Douglas protested, "With the cheque I can pay my fees."

"No cheque if fees unpaid."

"But ..."

"Catch 22."

Douglas ended up applying for a short term \$150 loan at his local bank.