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Secret committee picks three to fill Harry's shoes

by Excalibur Staff

York will have a new president by the end of April.

After ruminating over resumes for seven months, the highly secretive search committee came up with a three-name shortlist Monday night, March 23, only two months late.

Last May, President Harry Arthurs announced his plans to step down this July 1 and return to teaching law after six years in York's top executive post. The three candidates are:

- Stephen Fienberg, currently York's vice president of academic affairs and a veteran U.S. statistician and administrator;
- Susan Mann, most recently vice-rector of the University of Ottawa and a renowned Canadian historian;
- Henry Nelles, chair of the Ontario Council on University Affairs and a York history professor.

The candidates will make public appearances on campus throughout the coming week. The York senate will vote on April 6-8. The unusual ballots will not allow "no" votes — "endorse," "accept" and "abstain" will be the only options in a process

criticized by many senators for its lack of accurate representation.

The final stage of the selection process will occur in late April as York's Board of Governors either approves or rejects the Senate's choice.

Although committee members claim they have had few disputes, the selection process has been criticized from the outset.

In November the committee announced they had hired Landmark Consulting, a private 'headhunting' firm, to recruit candidates from businesses and other campuses.

In his final report, search committee chair John Banks congratulates Landmark for helping "identify and evaluate potential female candidates."

But in November a committee member admitted that Landmark was hired largely because it was a "good political move" to contact members of the business community.

Earlier this month, Student Senator Caucus chair Justin Linden had complained loudly after the committee announced they would not have a shortlist until the end of May.

"This move is obviously intended

to sneak the election process through when students aren't around," Linden said at the time.

The committee announced late last week that they would be able to pro-

duce a shortlist Monday, after a closed meeting with the Board of Governors and the Senate Executive Committee.

Linden said he was satisfied with the process.

"It has the appearance of fairness, if not actual fairness," Linden said. "Although I think my protests may have had something to do with their promptness."

Rez students stuck with lousiest of all landlords

by Sara Singer

If you live in rented accommodations, you are protected from landlords evicting you without legal grounds, dropping by without notice, charging extra mandatory fees or billing you for damages. Your landlord cannot legally increase your rent by more than 5.4 per cent this year.

But if you live in a York residence, you are not legally protected from any of this, and your rent will increase by six per cent this year. University students living in residence are exempt from the Landlord-Tenant Act, making universities the most powerful landlords in the province.

Chris Lawson, a researcher for the Ontario Federation of Students, says the lack of residence coverage under the LTA allows York to alter the leases at their own discretion. If there is a revenue shortage, for example, the residence can introduce coin-operated laundry machines and other ancillary fees.

"In terms of rent contracts, the university can't go doubling the monthly rent midstream, but they can raise it dramatically from year to year, and there's always an excuse to raise rent," said Lawson.

Universities have always justified rent increases by saying it is still cheaper to live in residence than off campus. However, many residences

now cost more than typical off-campus student housing.

At York, residence rents are below the national average but have been steadily increasing in recent years to catch up.

Norman Crandles, executive director of York's housing services, defended the university's exemption from the act by arguing that the LTA is meant to cover accommodations that are self-contained and designed for year-round living.

"It's inappropriate for students to be covered by the same regulations as other housing since the situation is different," said Crandles. "For example, if you are no longer a student, you are not allowed to live in residence and should not be guaranteed the right of tenure under the LTA."

But Crandles did admit that the exemption strips residence students of most forms of protection.

"The university technically has a lot of leverage over residence students that a private landlord wouldn't have. Students sign a contract but the contract can be destroyed."

On other campuses, residence tenants are protected to some extent by inter-residence councils. They act as a landlord-tenant organization and provide a way of communicating with the university bureaucracy.

York does not have an inter-residence council.



Resisters remind Rushton he's a racist

by Harry Rudolf

A small but dedicated group of York students attended a rally against psychology professor Phillip Rushton and his racially-derived theories at the University of Western Ontario on Friday March 20.

A group of about thirty students from Western and York marched on the Psychology Dept. offices and the office of the president of Western, waving placards and chanting "no justice, no peace." Occupants of the president's office locked their doors and remained hidden during the rally.

Rushton's theories, which use physical and behavioural observations to claim that Asians are superior and Blacks are inferior to Whites, have been called racist by other scientists and condemned by many activists.

Despite continual protests over the last three years, the administration at Western still allows Rushton to teach his controversial theories to second

and third-year psychology students. Until recently, the administration supplied the professor with eight security guards in front of his classroom. Last year, Rushton presented some of his lectures on video.

"It perpetuates racism and poisons the atmosphere," said Western student Don Hutchinson, president of the Academic Coalition for Equality and protest organizer. "We don't believe that racism belongs on this campus and should be sanctioned by the administration at Western."

Elizabeth Carroll, vice president of A.C.E., said members of her organizations have been threatened by the university.

"The administration has gone great lengths to protect him. Five of us were mailed letters from the vice-president of the university threatening us with expulsion because of our peaceful protests."

Members of A.C.E. have filed charges against Rushton and the vice-president with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and are awaiting a hearing.

Protesters at Friday's rally said the problem of institutionalized racism goes much deeper than Rushton. According to Western student Robert Brodey, "Rushton's just a small piece of the puzzle. We have to deal with the structure that allows these characters to sustain themselves."

Only eight York students attended the rally, travelling in a bus chartered by the York Federation of Students. Magda Jamma, a first-year Arts student, said she felt it was her duty to attend the rally.

"I'm here today because I'm upset at what is being allowed to take place at Western. This flies in the face of Canada and human rights."

Vyry George, another York student at the demo, said she finds it "disgusting that someone like Rushton is allowed to actively participate in the educational system considering that education can be used as a positive tool to combat racism."

Conspicuous in their absence were members of the *Gazette*, the Western student newspaper, who failed to cover the rally.