

Excalibur

Vol. 13, No. 17

York University Community Newspaper

Thursday, 1 February, 1979



Students gambled away government loans, scrip money and life savings at "Monte Carlo Night" last weekend. Massive exhibition of vice packed three dining halls and brought in over \$1,000 for the

Physically Handicapped Independent Advancement Community Services. Sponsors were Winters and Vanier student councils and PHIACS.

Randy Bregman

Dean attacks budget policy

By Hugh Westrup

York's budget planners have responded to government restraint in the past in a way that, if continued, could seriously reduce the standard of education and morale of the York community, says arts dean Harold Kaplan in a report prepared for the Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

Kaplan criticizes the administration for concentrating on year-to-year solutions at the expense of formulating a long term plan.

"We desperately need a thorough and explicit statement forecasting what this university will look like in five or ten year's time," the report says.

Kaplan emphasizes the need for a long-range policy on fund raising, expanding enrolments, utilizing undeveloped land, and seeking governmental assistance for multicultural and bilingual programs.

For the long term, he also suggests the university adopt a system of deficit financing. Debts accumulated over a period of reduced government support would be discharged in five to ten years time when he predicts York will enter a period of stability.

"Deficit financing would not obviate the need for cuts, only cushion their impact in any given year and spread the impact across a longer time frame," he says.

Kaplan also attacks the budgeters' practice of accumulating "massive central reserves" of money to meet unexpected short term expenditures. He says inflated reserves are unnecessary, but are usually spent anyway, at year's end, in hurried moments of "budget dumping".

"The university should devise procedures whereby faculties that have unexpended funds at the end of the year are able to carry at least a portion of these savings into next year's budget, procedures that would encourage saving and discourage last minute unloading."

Kaplan told Excalibur that next year's cut could begin to be reduced immediately if faculties would refrain from accelerated spending in the closing months of the current fiscal year which ends April 30.

"I suspect there could be \$1/2 - 3/4 million in leftover money that could be intelligently spent next year," he said.

Commenting on the possibility of deficit financing, President Macdonald said:

"It's seductive in that it's a way of avoiding harder questions. It is a straw to grasp at. But it may be valid — we're looking at the 5-10 year outlook,.... building more pieces into the equation."

Kaplan's report also profiles the losses expected in each department in his faculty based on a university wide cut of \$1.8 million. He called the tentative \$2.7 million figure announced at last Thursday's senate meeting by President Macdonald, "appalling".

"A cut of that size would clobber us," he said.

Mac defends new vice-presidency

By Kim Llewellyn

President Macdonald's decision to create a new vice-presidency has spawned a great deal of speculation among members of the York community in recent weeks.

The York University Faculty Association, the major initiator of this speculation, held an open information meeting last Thursday to discuss with Macdonald this new position of vice-president of academic affairs.

Approximately 40 people, mostly faculty members, showed for the meeting, and expressed doubts as to whether a) the university can justify the expense of such a position in light of recent cutbacks and b) whether the academic vice-president will be able to administer his position effectively and fit into the existing bureaucracy.



Chairperson of YUFA, Mike Copeland chaired the meeting and pointed out, in his opening remarks that, of approximately 158 positions on Senate only 28 voting members participated in the April 27, 1978 decision of the Senate to hire a new vice-president. Copeland wondered if Macdonald would consider a vote of 18 for, one against and nine abstentions as grounds to reconsider the decision. Ten is quorum for a senate meeting.

On January 8, 1979, Copeland wrote a letter to Macdonald asking him a series of eight questions about the new office to which he requested a reply at Thursday's meeting.

Macdonald, in an open letter to the York Community, replied before the meeting.

He explained in the letter that, "In my opinion, such an office was not necessary at

York during recent years, but the need to develop academic plans for the difficult years that lie ahead and to engage all members of the community effectively in that process suggests that such an office is now desirable."

Macdonald sees the duties of the new vice-president as being: "... to make recommendations to the President regarding the

state of the University as an academic institution....; to integrate and coordinate the utilization of teaching resources within the university....; to recommend to the President allocation and reallocation of academic resources within the university....; to perform other tasks assigned from time to time...."

(See New academic, pg. 2)

Protest smoulders

Senate to probe cheating

By Laura Brown

The University Senate agreed at the January 25 meeting to investigate the administration's decision to offer an optional Economics makeup examination to replace the poorly supervised December 18 exam which was disrupted by noise and cheating.

Reports on the issue will be submitted to Senate Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards by Dean of Arts, Harold Kaplan, who authorized the optional exam, and second year economics student Doug Emsley. Emsley first brought the issue to the attention of the administration, saying only a new compulsory exam would validate the marks.

When asked to explain the matter to Senate, Kaplan briefly stated "the facts as he had gathered them", agreeing the exam was written under adverse conditions

"It was a very stupid mistake made by the chief invigilator.... the faculty member deserved and received an official reprimand", he said.

Terming the incident "hasty, messy and wrong", Kaplan told Senate that unless the cheaters were actually identified, another compulsory exam would punish the innocent students.

"An optional exam was the fairest way out", he commented.

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