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Tuition going up - again

Jonathan Mann

York's tuition fees may rise about 13 per cent next year.

That increase would bring the cost of a year's study for a full time undergraduate arts student to \$1034, a \$119 jump from this year's \$915.

The University of Board of Governors is expected to announce the exact figure later this month.

According to Bill Farr, Vice-President (Employee and Student Relations), there are two

components to the anticipated fee increase.

First, the university is obligated to increase tuition fees by an amount corresponding to any increase in government grants to the university. While the government has not yet announced just how much its grants will rise, Farr told *Excalibur* that, "Estimates have varied from 7 to 9 per cent." He believes that the figure will be closer to 8 per cent.

The second component of the expected fee increase would be a 5

per cent hike imposed by the university administration. Last March, the Ontario government gave the province's universities the option of raising their fees up to 10 per cent. York raised its fees only half that much, and so, "The option remains open to move on the remaining 5," according to Farr.

The two components are independent, but according to Farr, "The planning...has been in the direction of imposing both these increases."

With the increase in tuition,

student aid funding is also expected to rise. The Ontario Student Assistance Program has, in the past, kept pace with rising tuition costs, and according to Jo-Anne Albright, Director of the Office of Student Awards, this is likely to be the case once again.

"OSAP responds very nicely to these kinds of increases," she said.

Albright has received no word of the anticipated increase, and could not state whether York will increase its bursary funding. "I have been saying all along that our bursaries funds have to go up 13

per cent," Farr commented. Asked if students can expect this increased funding, he replied, "I would be sanguine."

Council of the York Student Federation President Malcolm Montgomery greeted the news of the increase with disappointment. "I think it's crazy," he said. He explained that the Council will be submitting briefs to members of the university's administration to explain its opposition to the plan. "We're just going to go the usual route," he said.

Planning committee excludes faculty reps

John Molendyk

The exclusion of faculty representatives from a recently established government committee dealing with the future of Ontario universities is causing considerable concern for the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

According to Howard Buchbinder, chairperson of the York University Faculty Association, unless a change in the committee's makeup can be effected faculty members will be forced to stand on the sidelines while the destiny of Ontario universities is shaped by a small group of senior bureaucrats, university administrators and corporate executives.

YUFA, one of OCUFA's member bodies, is planning a public meeting next week to discuss the matter with members of the York community and University representatives.

The controversial committee is the product of a rapid series of events which began late last summer. On August 25 Premier William Davis met with a delegation from the Council of Ontario Universities, and asked for a brief on what could be done about the current funding and planning crisis in Ontario universities.

Methodology unclear

COU is an organization of Ontario's University Presidents.

A COU brief entitled "The Situation of Ontario Universities" was submitted November 5. It called for the alignment of universities with government objectives like decreased funding.

It also recommended the establishment of a tri-partite committee, to consist of representatives from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, COU, and the Ontario Council on University Affairs, an organization which acts as a liaison between Ontario's government and universities.

The committee's task is to study the future of the Ontario university system in depth, and to recommend specific measures to

bring about change. Its preliminary report is expected by the end of next month, and the final report by June 30.

The COU brief recommends the maintenance of "high-quality" education through the scaling-down of university objectives and services to match recent decreases in provincial funding. More funding by the province is considered in the report to be an unrealistic proposition.

The method by which this scaling-down is to be implemented, however, is not clear. YUFA Information Officer Robert Albritton said that while the report favors a vaguely formulated incentive/disincentive model, it seems in actual fact to favor a "centralized authority" model, in which the affairs of all Ontario universities would be managed by one powerful regulatory body.

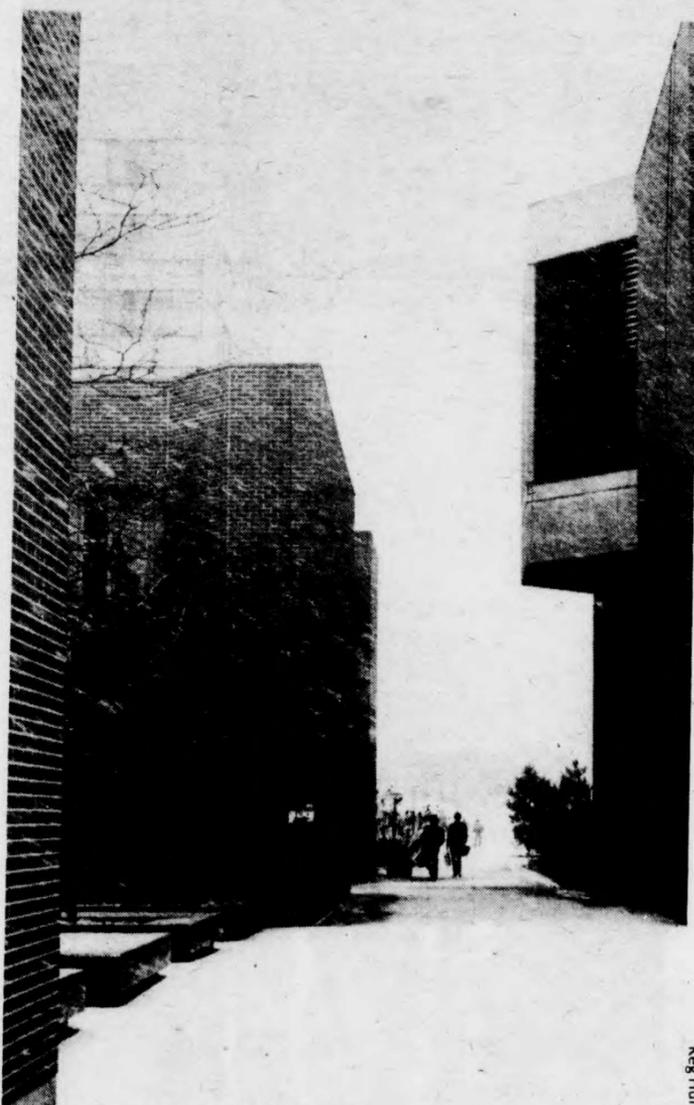
In a recent YUFA newsletter, Prof. Buchbinder emphasized the detrimental effects of such a body, stating that by placing the whole of academic decision-making in the hands of government bureaucrats, universities would lose their own autonomy. Professors and students would suffer alike, he said, under such a system.

Minister of Education and College and Universities Bette Stephenson endorsed the COU brief in the Legislature Nov. 18, praising the suggestion of a "broadly-based" tri-partite committee. The announcement left OCUFA member bodies highly agitated, and in a telephone vote held Nov. 21 members voted unanimously to demand representation on the committee.

Although pressured by OCUFA, Dr. Stephenson refused to consider faculty representation, arguing that faculty was a "special interest group". On Nov. 25, after meeting with an OCUFA delegation, Dr. Stephenson announced the composition and terms of reference of the committee in the Legislature.

Faculties "insulted"

OCUFA President Sarah Shorten was angered by the exclusion of



Snow falls outside York's hallowed halls.

faculty representatives from the committee. "By what definition can five government officials, three heads of universities and five messengers from the corporate elite be described as broadly based?" she asked. Prof. Shorten also described as "an insult" Dr. Stephenson's charge that faculty was a special interest group.

Two faculty people were in fact appointed to the thirteen-member committee, but YUFA points out that they are sitting on OCUFA and not faculty representatives. The one representative from York, Osgoode Professor Marilyn

Pilkington, could not be reached for comment.

York's position for the committee is being formulated by a Presidential Advisory Committee chaired by Vice-President of Academic Affairs W.C. Found. Dr. Found stated this week that the tri-partite committee will likely be short-lived, and that the whole issue of university funding and planning should go to a Royal Commission for further consideration.

Dr. Found saw the question of faculty representation on the committee as settled, and felt

See the world for just one buck

Jonathan Mann

Itching to go to Israel, teething to see Tokyo?

You may get your wish if you hold the winning ticket March 19, when the Physical Education Department, in conjunction with the Men's Interuniversity Athletic Council and the Women's Athletic Council will hold the draw for two return seats to anywhere CP Air flies.

The tickets, some 35,000 in all, are being sold by the Phys. Ed. department and varsity athletes to help raise money for inter-university athletics.

According to MIAC President David Carmichael, the lottery is being held because "everything is going up so rapidly and our budget isn't going up at all." The funds raised through the sale of the \$1 tickets will be going towards "equipment and things like that" he told *Excalibur*.

Ticket sales started Monday, January 5th and Carmichael expects to sell the full 35,000 printed, if not more. "It'll take some digging for sure," according to Carmichael, but "we hope to sell quite a few."

Reg Hunt

there was "no point" in trying to change Dr. Stephenson's mind. He did express the belief that faculty needed to be represented in the overall planning process, and felt that the opportunity would come if the matter was in fact referred to a Royal commission.

YUFA will sponsor a public meeting on the issue next Thursday, January 15, at 12 p.m. in the University Senate Chamber. York President H. Ian Macdonald, Vice-President (Academic Affairs) W.C. Found and OCUFA President Sarah Shorten are expected to attend.