

Impact of government wage controls on universities

OTTAWA (CUP) ---- What will be the impact of the federal government's wage controls on universities and colleges in Canada?

Rick Deaton, spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) which represents over 10,000 university staff, said last week the 10 percent wage freeze meant members of his union would "get the gears put to them" by the government.

He said the federal "guidelines" would likely apply to most institutions since most employed more than 500 persons, and predicted that university administrators would welcome the wage restraints as a way of controlling costs.

CUPE national president Stan Little has already described the government's economic program as a Halloween stunt, with workers getting the "trick" and employers the "treat".

CUPE's official position, however, on whether to buckle under to the controls won't be decided until the upcoming national conference in Toronto starting on October 20th.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) reacted to the federal plan by pointing out that universities fall under provincial jurisdictions, and by questioning whether the "guidelines" would be made to apply to universities.

CAUT executive secretary Walter Sim said university administrators may welcome the 10 percent maximum wage increase allowed under the program, given their present financial problems and the fact that over 75 percent of their operating expenditures are taken up by salaries and wages.

"But this would be true only if the provinces decide the guidelines apply to universities," he added.

If they do apply, Sim said the effect would be to freeze faculty salaries relative to salaries outside the post-secondary sector. "Faculty salaries which are already lagging behind wouldn't be rectified", according to Sim. Pay increments based on faculty promotions, however, would not be affected, he said.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the national organization of university administrators took a slightly different approach. According to spokesperson Rosemary Cavan: "While universities come under provincial jurisdiction, they don't come under provincial control".

She said AUCC is not certain if the guidelines will apply to the "autonomous" university sector or not for the end of this month in Ottawa.

Notwithstanding what the provinces decide, she said, the university presidents "will likely make a statement independent of any provincial prompting."

She was also uncertain if faculty "would want to be described as employees".

Whatever collective policy the universities may wish to develop in responding to the federal plan, she said, will be decided at the upcoming national conference plan-

Carleton negotiate

OTTAWA (CUP) ---- Contract talks have resumed between Carleton University and the union representing the faculty.

Although the administration has yet to respond to all the contract proposals put forward by the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA). Jill Vickers, the past-president of CUASA, said a response to the remaining proposals is expected on October 14, the day before formal negotiations resume.

But a meeting of the two negotiating teams was held on October 8, though no record of proceedings was kept. It covered a wide range of proposals, according to Vickers.

Negotiations are taking place on a package-bargaining basis, so any tentative agreement on individual issues will not be made public until the entire contract has been signed.

Carleton's senate met October 7 to discuss its position with respect to the faculty union and its contract.

Although senate did not discuss the basic issues, it passed a joint administration-faculty motion on tenure appeals to eliminate a stumbling block in the negotiations.

During the same senate meeting Carleton's students' association informed the university of its intention to become a third party in future faculty-administration talks.

Vickers said she personally favours this idea. Particularly, she said, since students have supported the faculty during the current round of negotiations. CUASA will consider the proposal in the near future.

There are no provisions under the Ontario Labour Relations Act for students to become a third party, so a request for revision of the act will have to be made to the Ontario Legislature.

There has been no response from the administration to the student proposal.

Council

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For me the most eyebrow raising part of the meeting came when 2 delegates were appointed to attend the National Entertainment Conference/ Association of Colleges and Universities/ International (NEC-ACU-I) taking place in Hyannisport, Mass. in a month. Three nominees were placed before the council: Mark Crossman, Glenn Robertson, and Richard Coughlan. Being around the SUB enough one comes to understand that the student most interested, involved and successful in running entertainment is Richard Coughlan. He is currently Entertainment Committee Chairman and is the person most responsible for this year's Octoberfest (and last year's). He was also the only nominee who definitely planned to be back next year and help the Union with his extensive skills. He was not elected to go.

Incidentally if one is interested in becoming a council member, one of the fringe benefits involved is the "free trips" to attend the numerous conferences held throughout the year. Also at this meeting Lynn Fitzgerald was appointed as delegate to the NUS/ACU Women's Conference in Toronto.

The council also managed to dispense with some of the grants that Clubs and Societies are lining up for. The Engineering Society was

given \$400, and after some debate the Camera Club was given \$300 dollars for a new enlarger.

Well less than 3 hrs. later the meeting adjourned. Despite the fact that some of the votes had to be taken over again because Chairman Ron McCabe could not properly count the number of hands raised, "I did see a couple of hands picking noses and things."



Val Dyer Senator

Car pools encouraged

With a view to encouraging the use of pool cars and thus reducing the number of cars being brought onto University parking lots, reserved spaces will be provided on a trial basis for pool cars at the regular price of \$40.00 per year. Those joining such an arrangement will be given a pro-rated rebate on their existing permits.

Two or more cars may form a pool and be assigned a space for \$40. This space will be clearly designated as reserved for the vehicles, the license numbers of which will be shown on the sign, and that unauthorized vehicles will be ticketed and/or towed away.

To ensure that there is no miss-use of this arrangement, permits will not be issued, thus ensuring that not more than one vehicle in the pool will be brought onto the campus at one time. The locations selected for reserved spaces will be as convenient as possible for the pool members except that they will not be sited within either of the existing pay lots or in areas which are difficult to control.

Individuals who wish to form a pool should apply to the Traffic Manager, Central Services Building.



Richard Coughlan watches in disgust

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