



JOHNNY VECIRO

FROM SHUFFLEBOARD COURT TO CENTRE COURT: The Presidential Policy Committee has combined Osgoode Law School and Administrative Studies Business School convocations.

## Osgoode students protest convocation combination

By DRAZEN BULAT

Three Osgoode Hall law students have drawn up a petition protesting the decision made by the Presidential Policy Committee to combine the convocation ceremonies of the Osgoode Hall Law School and the Administrative Studies Business School.

At the request of President Harry Arthurs and Provost Tom Meininger, Convocation Officer Nancy Accinelli chose a new location for the ceremonies. According to Accinelli, the new location of the York Tennis Club permits more students to graduate at the same time and also reduces the number of ceremonies held at York to five.

The three law students, John McCormick, Tony Rein, and Cathy Wilson, have collected more than 300 signatures in just over a week. They hope to present the signatures along with proposed alternatives to the Administration.

"Graduations are for students and their families—they should not be planned for efficiency, but rather to accommodate the students' needs," McCormick said. He added that combining the two graduations could jeopardize the intimacy of the traditionally small Osgoode ceremony: "Combining our convocation with that of the business students would result in a disruption of this community feeling." McCormick continued, "I know of some people who will not be attending the ceremony this year just because it will be held with another faculty."

Part of the history and tradition is the graduation ceremony," Rein said. "Combining the ceremony with that of another faculty disregards the importance of the history and traditions of the school."

Kathy Kay, president of Osgoode Hall's student government, the Legal and Literary Society, agreed that the Osgoode convocation should be held separate from that of the business faculty.

Marc Gold, the Associate Dean of Osgoode Hall said, however, that "despite the initial desire to continue with the same arrangements as in the past, Osgoode is prepared to go along with the Administration's request." He said that the combined convocation is an experiment and the success of it will determine whether the same format will be used next year.

The Undergraduate Business Council (UBC), the student council representing the undergraduate students of Administrative Studies, has agreed to pass the petition around the faculty, but has not yet decided what to do with it. "We'll wait and see the response from the students before we do anything," Burke Smythe, president of UBC said.

However, according to Meininger, it is "effectively too late to reverse the decision" of the combined Osgoode Hall/Administrative Studies convocation ceremony.

## OFS demands gov't study

cont'd from p. 1

would have an opportunity to look at it," he said. "It's hard to debate something when you can't see it."

Richardson said the ministry was "not hiding the report from anyone," adding that "as an internal policy document, it is not normal practice to make a report public until policy is formulated."

Drainville said it is necessary to make the report public in case there are incorrect facts or issues subject to interpretation.

However, Richardson said he doubts the reports will "be riddled with inaccuracies," because "if the input from the OFS and other student groups is accurate, then so will OCUA's."

Richardson said that the OCUA met with various post-secondary student groups the province to receive their input on the incidental fees question. "We don't want to further delay the process by opening up the report and having another round of public consultation," Richardson said. "We've already met with OFS at least a half a dozen times." The OFS had their public hearing with the OCUA last October.

"We're not asking for another round of consultation," Drainville said, "we're just asking for the report to be made public."

Drainville said that OFS has been waiting for the release of the report for two months. "Mr. Sorbara said the report was going to be finished in December, but it was postponed until the end of January, and then to February," Drainville said. "We can't afford to wait until the end of the year to see the report when most of the students are gone. The longer he (Sorbara) waits to release the report, the more difficult it is for us to gather input from different student constituencies."

Incidental fees at York range from a \$4.00 fee per course in the Faculty of Arts to as much as a \$200.00 fee for some courses in the film department. All new proposed incidental fees have been postponed by Sorbara until a new policy is set.

By the time you give this paper an in-depth reading, there will be a new editor-elect. So, get on his/her good side now. Come in and offer your services at 111 Central Sq.

## GSA exec cliquish, charges Moore

By DAVID BYRNES

Whether or not the present Graduate Students' Association (GSA) executive is too cliquish or "power broking" in nature became the central issue in a bitter debate between this year's two presidential hopefuls at an "All Candidate's Meeting" held in the Senate Chamber on Monday.

The criticism came from Ron Moore, an eleventh hour contestant for the president's position (all nine other executive positions were acclaimed). Moore started by pointing to the fact that only six people showed up for the debate as evidence that the GSA is presently "an association that tends to be closed in

character."

"It's a sorry state of affairs when we have a meeting like this when so few people attend," Moore said.

Moore's opponent, GSA Senator Bill Mantin, replied that "all this hogwash about cliques and elites is just a subtle form of slander." Mantin said that since the present executive, under President Terry Conlin began three years ago, on the contrary much has been done to improve the organization's scope and effectiveness. "Over the course of these three years the executive has been transformed from an ineffectual organization characterized by timidity and neglect to one of the most significant voices for students

both on and off campus," Mantin said.

Mantin said that an increase of the GSA operating budget from \$24,000 to \$70,000 over the past three years, as well as the establishment of a graduate students' newsletter and "equipment fund" are evidence of the present GSA's service to its constituency.

Moore, however, maintained that the GSA has not been concerning itself enough with academic and financial issues of "universal" concern to all its members. Moore said he would push for the establishment of an "Employment Co-ordinator" seat on the executive, an academic ombudsperson for graduate students with programme regulation complaints, and would lobby for rent subsidies.

Mantin said he would make a priority of giving GSA an effective provincial lobby, particularly on the issue of affordable tuition fees. Mantin also said he wants to see the present "operating grant" system of student government funding at York abolished, and would put more emphasis on GSA Senate representation.

The final poll for the GSA presidential election will be held outside the Graduate Student Lounge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow.

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