

Post-Secondary Education Forum debates university funding

By PAULETTE PEIROL

A National Forum on Post-secondary education to gain "the collective commitment of the people," will take place this fall, Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Colleges and Universities, announced at a York debate last Wednesday.

"We need to find models and raise issues (and) this can't be done with just programmatic activities. We need a national consensus," Sorbara said in the debate on post-secondary education held in the Senate Chambers with Conservative education critic David McFadden and NDP education critic Richard Allen.

The debate, sponsored by the Council of the York Student Federation, with Robert Castle, Executive Assistant of the Student Centre, moderating, was attended by close to 40 people. While the forum was loosely structured to provide York members an opportunity to question secondary education, the long-standing issue of financial stability was the focus of the debate.

All three politicians claimed that increased funding for universities is a priority of their respective parties. They disagreed, however, when asked where this funding should come from and what form it should take.

Sorbara opened the debate by out-

lining his government's recent initiatives to aid post-secondary education, citing capital support for new buildings, revitalization of the colleges, the Premier's Council for Research, and a stronger focus on educational needs in Northern Ontario, as examples. He is also pushing for a rapid transit route to connect York University with downtown Toronto, although "this is not a priority with the TTC," Sorbara admitted.

A proposal for a new post-secondary education funding formula has been drafted by the Ontario Council of University Affairs, Sorbara noted, but he refused to elaborate further when questioned. "We will announce the plan within four to six weeks."

McFadden agreed that there is a need for more university funding, but criticized the provincial government's present funding formula. He said that a revised formula should eliminate "targeted grants with strings attached," which he claims limit an institution's autonomy. "There is a real need for autonomy in our universities, to fully achieve independence and excellence," he said.

McFadden implied that post-secondary education needs not only a national consensus, but also a national commitment. "The funding

of post-secondary education should be a federal responsibility," he said. McFadden also called for standardization of academic programs across the country. "Canada's new information-based economy . . . would herald the golden age of universities," he added.

Dr. Allen was less optimistic than McFadden. "We need more provincial participation before blasting the federal government," he maintained. "Style is overtaking substance already in this government . . . the Minister has a proclivity for inflated (funding) proposals."

"The government's emphasis on specialization in universities is a threat to accessibility," Allen said, citing the recent cutbacks in funding for humanities and social science programs. "The premier does not fundamentally understand the university system."

Allen called Treasurer Robert Nixon a "rural Tory Conservative" and said that his recent bid to combine the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education with the University of Toronto was "ridiculous."

Allen accused the Liberal government of trying to combine the province's universities into "two monolithic institutions. Sorbara's commitment to synergism seems to stem from something from the sixth or seventh heavens. It's irrelevant."



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

GOING MY WAY?: Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities Gregory Sorbara is not sure whether he's in a Bing Crosby movie or at last Wednesday's debate on post-secondary education.

CYSF NEWSBEAT

David Dollard on the CYSF Newsbeat for February 10, 1987, just hangin' around waitin' for things to happen.

—and waitin', and waitin', and waitin'! There was no CYSF council meeting this week as CYSF President Gerard Blink forgot to notify the college councils within the 10 days that the CYSF constitution calls for. Given the break for reading week when classes resume on February 23, it will have been five weeks since the last council meeting.

University students to compete in model UN

By SUJATA BERRY

The second annual North American Model United Nations Assembly (NAMUN) will commence next Thursday at the Four Seasons Inn On The Park hotel. During the course of the four day assembly, participants will attempt to simulate the intricate workings of the United Nations in order to learn more about the International System.

To date, 350 participants have signed up to represent most of the UN member states. The delegations are arriving from universities all over Canada including the University of British Columbia, University of New

Brunswick, McGill, Western and Queen's. Nine delegations will attend from York University to represent the USSR, Canada, Peru, Cuba, East Germany, Libya, Sweden, Malaysia and Guatemala.

The model assembly is organized by students from University of Toronto and York. According to Matthew Rotenberg, the Under Secretary General, "This is the only model assembly run completely by students."

If you would like to volunteer your time to help officiate the assembly contact: Matthew Rotenberg at 736-5128 ext. 7108.

Winter/Summer 1987 Session Students

KEEP IN MIND

THE LAST DAY TO PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO REGISTER LATE FOR FIRST TERM AND WINTER/SUMMER COURSES IS:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1987

THIS NOTICE IS A FINAL REMINDER. Students who had not paid their academic fees and applicable late service charges by **Friday, February 13, 1987**, were notified that enrolment in First Term and Winter/Summer courses had been cancelled.

Any student wishing to be registered was advised of the need to petition for permission to register late. Petitions which demonstrate administrative default on the part of a University office or cover compassionate reasons are considered. The Registrar's decision is final.

Petitions must be submitted in writing. The appropriate form is available from the Registration Office, Suite C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155.

Office of the Registrar
February 12, 1987

START UP • START UP • START UP

Be Your Own Boss

Young people can get an interest free loan to start up their own summer or year round business.

Ask us how.

CALL FREE

1-800-387-0777

or visit your placement office.

IT COULD PUT YOU IN BUSINESS.

START UP is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Skills Development in co-operation with The Ontario Chamber of Commerce and The Royal Bank of Canada.

Ontario Ministry of Skills Development



Gregory Sorbara
Minister

Ontario