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Library hours reduced due to lack of funds



LIBRARY BLUES: Lack of funding for sufficient staff has resulted in York's libraries shortening their hours.

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

Students will be forced to alter their on-campus study schedule as the York University Libraries' hours have been reduced.

Director of Libraries Ellen Hoffman said the cut-backs are primarily due to lack of funding for sufficient staff. "In order to have staff here when the building is heavily used between five and seven p.m. Monday to Thursday, we had to cut back hours of operation on Friday and Sunday." There is no money for staff increases, but the "staff budget is stable," says Hoffman.

CYSF President Tammy Hasselfeldt said, "It is incredible that the University has created enough funds to pay for the new development on campus, but yet it doesn't have enough money to keep its libraries open." She also feels the library is the main resource on campus, and limiting access to it would go against the purpose of the university.

Scott Library hours from Monday to Thursday will remain the same,

from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Saturday's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. will also be unchanged.

On Fridays all branch libraries, such as Frost and Steacie, will be closing at 5 p.m. instead of midnight. Other hours remain the same. Archives and Special Collections is the only library that has had its hours increased. On Mondays and Wednesdays their reading room will be operational from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and it will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Hasselfeldt said she will have Vice-President in charge of Internal Affairs Paul Dutka, look into the matter. She said she is prepared to send "quite a few strongly written letters" to the Administration. She would also like to start a letter writing campaign to encourage clubs and councils to express their opposition to the new hours.

"Strong student opposition would help the issue a great deal," says Hasselfeldt.

30K remains unpaid

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

Even after the Council of York Students' Federation (CYSF) offered the \$30,000 in outstanding dues owing from last year, Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) will not let York officially pull out of the lobby group, says CYSF President Tammy Hasselfeldt.

Last spring, after research and a council vote, the CYSF unofficially pulled out of the Federation, a lobby group which represents Ontario's post-secondary students. Hasselfeldt feels "bound by (this) decision," and therefore will uphold it. There were many reasons for cancelling its membership, but in general, council felt that the OFS was not adequately serving them.

According to Duncan Ivison, campaign researcher for the OFS, "you get out of the OFS what you put into it." But he does not think that this is the problem with York. "They got that and more out of the Federation," because they attended council meetings, events, and programmes.

Since April there has been a major conflict over whether or not York is still a member. The OFS says York will remain a member until they follow the proper procedures for withdrawal. One of these procedures is to hold a school-wide referendum.

After a couple of meetings between the CYSF executive and officers of the Federation in the early spring, the problem was still unresolved.

In the OFS's June meeting, a letter writing campaign was initiated against York. Other Ontario universities were urged to write in their disapproval of what CYSF was doing. Hasselfeldt was also threatened that if the campaign was unsuccessful, legal steps would be taken. Since then only two universities have responded, and the CYSF have not been informed of any legal action pending. Says Ivison, "we will try to solve the problem using all possible tactics with legal action as a last resort."

When asked whether the Federation is concerned about bad publicity, he replied that "publicity is not the important issue here, what is important is the fact that (we) do not want to sue a founding member that represents what CYSF is fighting for."

The new chairperson of the Federation has threatened to take the issue to court in September or October, says Hasselfeldt, but according to CYSF's lawyer this is highly unlikely. It is quite possible, though, that court proceedings will begin in the new year. In the meantime, Hasselfeldt is prepared to "wait it out and see what happens."

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