

York debates future role in Star Wars

cont'd from p. 1

sons behind the formulation of the motion. Even though York already has regulations, approved by the Senate in 1971, which restricts the University from entering into agreements which will formally involve it in conducting academic work which cannot be published, the proposers of the motion are worried that some SDI research could slip through cracks in the legislation.

Most of the SDI research is classified for reasons of the United States' national security, but the SDIO is awarding contracts that allow for post-hoc classification. In these cases the research is deemed restricted after it is completed and publication is forbidden.

"The publishability clause (which was reviewed in 1981-1982 with no changes made) doesn't necessarily cover it (post-hoc classification)," Hutchinson remarked, "as one may feel (he or she) can publish research but when it's finished, it becomes classified. As well, some people may feel that even if SDI research can be published, it is not appropriate."

Lanphier said that he wants the University to make a statement to show that York will not become involved in what he feels is a destabilizing escalation of the arms race as well as a threat to academic freedom.

However, questions regarding the motion's clarity and consequences for academic freedom arose before the February 27 Senate meeting which led to the matter being referred to the Faculty Councils.

Professor Rod Byers, the director of the Research Programme in Strategic Studies, is one individual who believes banning any SDI research would be an unwise move on the part of the University. Despite the fact Byers is personally opposed to the SDI Research and Development (R&D) programme he is concerned with the awkward phrasing of the motion and its intent and, as a result, sent a memorandum to the Senate

outlining his misgivings.

Byers has trouble with the first clause of the motion which asks Senate to express its opposition to the "assumptions underlying the SDI" R&D programme. According to Byers, one may not accept the view that the purpose of the SDI is defensive. According to Byers, to pass a motion using this phrase would have the unfortunate result of implying support of the nuclear arms race which is clearly not the intention of the movers of the motion.

Byers is also concerned with the wide swath the motion, as it stands now, would cut. The motion can be understood to include "all US Department of Defense funded research which can be both directly and indirectly linked to possible SDI related applications," Byers' memorandum states, as the term Department of Defense is used instead of SDI.

"In this case, the implementation would be problematic," Byers wrote, "since it would be debatable whether

the research of a number of York scholars—primarily in the Faculty of Science, but also in Computer Science, and possibly in Psychology—could at some point, be linked to the SDI." To avoid these problems Byers has recommended that the wording of the motion be amended if the motion is to be approved by Senate.

Byers also feels that the current Senate legislation on publishability of research covers the problem of post-hoc classification, believing it would be more appropriate "for Senate to re-affirm this legislation with specific reference to the SDI R&D programme."

These issues caused the Senate to refer the SDI motion to the Faculty Councils. The Senate has not been given any indication that Arthurs will not grant its request for a moratorium on accepting SDI research, until the May 22 Senate meeting where a decision about the moratorium's permanence will be made.

Course evaluation handbook due by end of week: Castle

By PAULA ZARNETT

CYSF's 1986-87 course evaluation handbook will be available by the end of this week, says Rob Castle, CYSF director of Academic Affairs.

As well as containing assessments of Political Science, History and Economics courses, the handbook has been expanded to include the departments of Anthropology, Urban Studies and Geography.

"The course evaluation handbook is designed to give students the opportunity to voice their opinions and to see in a published form the opinions that other students have of courses and professors" Castle explained. "The main thrust is to

give students a balance between the often idealistic view of courses presented in the calendar versus the reality as seen by the students.

"Because of our efforts this year, we've laid the strongest groundwork for this project ever, and next year I see the potential of surveying 10 departments in Arts and most departments in Fine Arts and Science" Castle said.

Castle said that depending on budget constraints, he expects between 7,000-10,000 copies of this year's handbook to be printed. The handbooks will be distributed from the participating departments, the Office of Student Programmes, and from the CYSF office.



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