



EXCALIBUR

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Council irresponsibility costs students thousands

BRIAN HENRY

Jan Turner, Business Manager of the Canadian Federation of Students, says the Council of the York Student Federation is being charged interest at 24 per cent compounded monthly on its late fees. Turner says that the CYSF's irresponsibility is going to cost York students a few thousand dollars.

CYSF's fees were assessed at \$27,900 for 1982-83, CYSF paid the CFS-O \$5,000 on February 21 and has given CFS-O two additional cheques for \$10,000 each, but one is post-dated to March 15 and the other to June 1. Thus, CYSF still has to cover \$2,900 of the original principal.

Due October 30th

Turner says that a CFS-O bylaw states that member student councils must remit their fees within 30 days of the council receiving its funding from the University's administration. When only a certain per cent of the council's funds have been received, then that per cent of CFS-O fees are due. And, if fees are late, the bylaw stipulates that interest is to be charged.

For 1982-83, CYSF's projected operating grant is \$163,750. The University gave CYSF about 12 per cent (\$20,000) of this total on September 20 and about an additional 61 per cent (\$100,000) on November 18. This would mean that 12 per

cent (about \$3,300) of CFS-O's fees were due October 30 and that an additional 61 per cent (about \$17,000) was due December 18. The remaining \$7,600 would be due in April, 30 days after the CYSF receives the remaining \$43,750 of its operating grant in March.

Turner says that she has been unable to get any information from CYSF about its grant payments from York. She is assuming that CYSF received its grant in October and thus that the CFS-O should have received fee payment by December 1 at latest. But, Turner says that interest owed would be based on when CYSF actually received what proportion of its funding from York, not on assumptions.

Also, \$27,900 is only an estimate of CYSF's fees based on the 1981-82 enrollment figure of 9,300 students (\$3.00 each). The exact figure for this year's enrollment will not be known until March.

Tony Finn, CYSF's business manager, says that the balance owed on the principal will be sent to the CFS-O in April after the exact fee is determined. Preliminary estimates show that enrollments are up this year, so CYSF's fees will be more than the \$27,500 estimate.

Both Tony Finn and CYSF President Morris Bevilacqua doubt that the interest charges will be paid and Bevilacqua is writing a formal request to

the CFS-O asking that the charges be waived.

But Helena Mitchell, CFS-O's chairperson, says this is unlikely. She says that last year Brock asked that its interest charges be waived and was turned down. "It would be inconsistent to waive interest charges for York," said Mitchell.

Peculiar funding

Bevilacqua says CFS-O is really only interested in getting its fees. He also says that the bylaw cannot be applied generally, but that CYSF's peculiar funding arrangements will have to be taken into account. (Unlike most universities, York does not collect a special levy from each student for the student council and for the CFS-O. Instead, the University gives CYSF an operating grant based on total enrollment and CYSF pays the CFS-O fees out of this grant.)

Both Finn and Bevilacqua note that in the past the CFS-O has not charged CYSF for late payment. "And," said Bevilacqua, "law goes by precedent."

Finn also doubts that CYSF is liable for the interest charges. Finn argues that since CYSF did not sign any fees agreement with the CFS-O, it is not obligated to make its payments at any particular time. But, Turner says that as a CFS-O member, CYSF is subject to all its bylaws.

Bevilacqua says that part of the reason fees are late has to do with CYSF's finance problems. Specifically, last year's student council left about \$17,000 in fees to CFS-O and CFS unpaid. (\$7,000 of this was owed to the CFS-O and was paid in October and November.) Bevilacqua says that if his administration had not had to pay these debts, then this year the CFS-O would have been paid early.

Both Turner and Mitchell say that CYSF could have avoided interest charges had it submitted a schedule of

payment to the CFS-O membership. They say that any cash-flow problems CYSF is having would have been taken into account.

Turner says that the problem is not so much that CYSF's fees are late, but that no commitment was made to pay by any particular date. Moreover, says Turner, the CYSF still has not told the CFS-O when it plans to pay the interest charges and \$2,900 of the original fees.

Bevilacqua says that Mitchell has known since September that the CYSF would be

paying late. ("True," says Mitchell.) And Bevilacqua says that he told Mitchell in December that the CYSF would be paying its fees in February. "He said they would try to pay in February," says Mitchell.

Bevilacqua is aware that CFS-O wanted a formal agreement and he says that Finn should have filed one. Asked why an agreement was never signed, Finn replied that that was a question to ask the politicians. (Finn is not elected, but hired.)

See "York" page 3

Administration slightly in arrears

BRIAN HENRY

York University is in arrears in its payments to the CYSF. John Becker, Vice-President of Student Relations, said that York gives the CYSF 80 per cent of its operating grant around October and forwards the remainder in March. Becker said that so far, for 1982-83, the CYSF has been given \$120,000 and that its total grant will be around \$160,000. "So," said Becker, "I guess we're slightly in arrears."

CYSF's operating grant for this year is actually projected at \$163,750 and 80 per cent of that is \$131,000, which leaves York \$11,000 behind its payments to the CYSF.

As it happened, this year the CYSF received its largest

grant payment (\$10,000) in November rather than October. The Grant payments are contingent on the University receiving an audit of CYSF activities for the previous year and CYSF did not get its audit in until October 20.

But the rule, which stipulates that no grant payment will be made until an audit has been received, was not adhered to by the university. Becker said, "I'm not sure why I did it," but \$20,000 was forwarded to CYSF September 20.

According to Finn, the late payment of grant money has hurt CYSF finances in two ways. Until the grant is received, CYSF finances itself by borrowing from York, on a courtesy account. Interest

payments have to be paid on money received in this way. On Nov. 18, when CYSF received its \$100,000 payment, \$45,000 was paid back to York to cover CYSF's debt.

Also, says Finn, CYSF gets some revenues by investing money that is not immediately needed for general operating costs. Late grant payments mean less time to invest and less money with which to invest.

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...See Page 2