

New complex to unite Faculty of Fine Arts

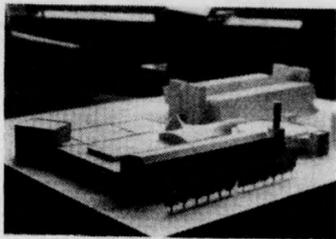
By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

Ground-breaking for the new Fine Arts Centre in the fall will eventually house four of the five Fine Arts departments in the same complex. This will allow students to participate in more "inter-disciplinary work," says Brian Forsythe, a representative for the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The Film/Video and Theatre Departments will benefit most from the Centre. The Film Department will receive 19,500 square feet of space which will house classrooms, screening areas, offices, and a variety of production facilities.

The Theatre Department will receive an equivalent amount of space to be allotted for performance and teaching areas, design studios, costume storage, painting and prop workshops, and a costume shop. For the first time in its history, the entire department will be housed in one building.

Two years ago, the government announced its intention to allocate \$6.5 million towards the project, leaving York to raise the additional \$3.5 million required to complete the complex. The project has taken so



FINE ARTS PHASE III: The new complex will house four out of five Fine Arts disciplines, and will be a lot larger than this photograph, which looks like a model for new commemorative stamp.

long to get off the ground because the university was awaiting confirmation of the grant. Recently the grant was approved by the province, giving the project the go-ahead. To fulfill its financial obligations, York has set up "Bravo York," a fundraising campaign targeted at corporations, foundations, arts patrons, alumni, staff and students.

According to Forsythe, the construction and set-up time is approximately 14 months with gradual takeover beginning in January, 1990.

Administration backs down from demands in Student Centre talks

By LENNIE LONG

The administration has backed down from demands which created divisions between it and the Student Centre Committee (SCC) during their negotiations to come to a final agreement.

The negotiations are basically an attempt to articulate the formal wording for the Draft Management Agreement signed by both parties last September. Conflict arose over certain demands which the administration's law firm, McCarthy and McCarthy, wanted to be included in the final agreement.

First, the university's lawyers had proposed a head-lease to be placed over the Student Centre's commercial space. The proposal, which was tabled by the administration at a meeting over three weeks ago, created a major impasse in negotiations. After a meeting last Friday, Provost Tom Meininger contacted the university's lawyers and a decision was made to withdraw the proposal for a head lease. Meininger says that the university withdrew its proposal because "they want to try to find the best way to establish a

Student Centre, making the university's head-lease redundant. Yet the administration contended that the head-lease would attract better tenants to the Student Centre, because the subsequent sub-leases offered by the SCMB would give tenants more protection.

But the SCC did not perceive the proposal in the same way. Instead they "were concerned for the potential power which the university could exercise over the SCMB if they had such a lease," Castle explains. For instance, Castle notes, with the lease the university could possibly have power to limit the internal configurations of the commercial space, something which is clearly against the draft agreement.

What Castle intends to propose in order to fully resolve the matter is that the draft agreement simply be proper legal context for the Student Centre Management Board (SCMB) to enter into formal agreements with a third party; vendors and operators."

According to SCC Chairperson Robert Castle, the draft agreement is supposed to empower the SCMB to make all leases and contracts for the

made into a formal license which would in essence be a building lease. The licence would enable the SCMB to offer sub-licenses to commercial tenants. But the tenants could still get the same protection they would receive from a lease, says Castle, if the agreement includes a provision which makes the commercial sub-licenses subject to the province's Landlord and Tenants Act.

The second demand which the administration dropped was the provision that the SCMB should not commence any legal proceedings against any third party without first obtaining the university's written consent. Castle insisted that the SCMB retain the right to file a lawsuit without the university's permission. At the meeting on Friday, both parties agreed to a compromise which forces the SCMB to give the university a two-week notice before proceeding with any lawsuits. As Castle points out, "Now all the SCMB is obligated to do is show a willingness to discuss such legal actions with the administration, but we are not forced to get their permission to proceed."

Another provision which the university has decided to withdraw is their demand that the Agreement be terminated if the SCMB breaches any term in the agreement. Now, the university can only attempt to dissolve the agreement if the SCMB has performed a "material" breach. The basic difference is that the former would allow the university to demand the termination of the agreement through either Joint Committee, arbitration, or trial if the Agreement is breached in any way by the SCMB. With a material breach, Castle says, the university must show that the SCMB has broken a provision "that cuts to the fundamentals of the Agreement."

Finally, on the issue of trusteeship, the university wanted to assume power over the Student Centre after a period of specified time that the SCMB fails to fulfill certain contractual obligations, for example show all financial records to the administration. But now, both parties have agreed that during such time when the SCC and the Administration will be seeking dispute resolution, an independent trustee will assume control over the Student Centre. That trustee will be one of two accounting firms which will be decided upon by both parties and specified in the agreement.

Both parties are scheduled to meet again to continue negotiations on the final wording tomorrow at noon.

Centre to address discrimination

By LIDIA CABRAL

Victims of ethnic and racial discrimination on campus will now have a way of effectively dealing with these incidents and preventing them in the future, says York Provost Tom Meininger. York will be setting up a Race and Ethnic Relations Centre to be located in South Ross 101. The Centre will provide a complete staff, library and services to develop preventive methods against systematic discrimination on campus.

In the past, students who experienced discrimination at York, had to approach either their college master, provost, or the president. But many students found this form of assistance intimidating and often inaccessible.

The Centre, the first of its kind in Canada, is to be phased into operation over the next six months. It was established due to the recommendations of a report by the Race/Ethnic Committee in 1986.

As part of assessing racism issues at York, the Committee commissioned a survey of students to determine the nature and perceptions of

racism on campus. The Committee found that 78% of the students surveyed felt that racism exists at York. The report included suggestions from students on how to reduce the amount of racism on campus. These include the development of a human rights centre, better screening before staff is hired, and a university wide sensitization and education programme.

Meininger, by establishing the Centre, has addressed these concerns in four main areas. First, the Centre will be autonomous from any other centre on campus, including the Sexual Harrasment Education and Complaint Centre. The investigation and disciplinary power used in assessing an individual's case will be centralized, rather than delegated and diffused as in the past. This new process will ensure an expeditious and efficient process in handling discrimination cases, explains Meininger. Clearer guidelines and specific standards on assessing discrimination cases have been incorporated into the Centre's mandate. This revised procedure, the Committee

reported, would reduce confusion and ambiguity that have often led to inconsistencies in examining a discrimination case.

In the past, one person was responsible for the investigation and assessment of alleged discrimination cases. The Centre has changed this by separating the investigative and decision-making functions. This will eliminate whatever biases a particular person may carry into the decision of a student's case, and remove any perceptions of potential arbitrariness.

A more representative body has also been established in the new guidelines of the centre, adding professional staff, personnel and a new director in addressing racial problems. Previously, the disciplinary tribunal rested solely on the Provost. The Centre will also offer professional advice to victims of discrimination, a service not available to the York community in the past. Also, the Centre will provide more outreach programmes to the community. These programmes are established to "foster relations between York and the large numbers of eth-

nocultural and advocacy groups which have been formed so that the University can better serve the needs of the changing population of the city."

York's External Affairs representative Jackie Rankins sees the Centre as a significant step towards ensuring practices of equal employment on campus for racial groups. The Centre, Rankin noted, should be representative of the surrounding community, providing a similar demographic make-up so as to better accommodate people in the area.

In assessing the Centre's contribution to the community, Peggy Edwards, a representative for the Jane/Finch Community Family Centre finds it a potential leader in promoting awareness on racial discrimination in the academic realm. This awareness will add positive energy into the community, Edwards says.

York's provost has appointed Professor David Trotman as the Centre's Coordinator, who, after returning from his sabbatical leave at the end of the month, will oversee the Centre's operations.

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