

Health plan referendum successful

by Daniel Wolgeleenter

York undergraduates will have a health plan by next fall which will cover the cost of all prescription drugs, including oral contraceptives.

The plan will cost each student \$52.08 and will cover 100 per cent of the cost of all prescription drugs over a twelve month period.

According to unofficial results released Saturday by the board of referendum's chief returning officer Garry Choo, 2,583 of the 3,577 people who voted in last week's referendum voted in favour of a health plan which would include oral contraceptives. An additional 586 people voted for a health plan without oral contraceptives.

Choo reported that 301 voters opposed the plan while 107 ballots were spoiled.

He said that about 370 people voted at Glendon with about 300 voting for a plan with oral contraceptives.

The 3,577 voter turnout was the highest ever for a referendum or CYSF election at York, surpassing the approximately 2,900 vote turnout received in a one-day referendum for the Student Centre in March of 1987.

The administration and board of referendum required that at least 2,500 people vote in order to make the referendum valid.

The official results as well as the results of the Graduate Student Federation referendum were not available at press time.

CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship, in charge of organizing the health plan project, was very happy with the result of the referendum.

"[The turnout and support] is an excellent mandate for the plan,"

she said, "because with such a high turnout and 88 per cent of students voting in favour, we've shown the administration that this is what students want."

"I'm also extremely happy about the high support for oral contraceptives." Winship added, "It shows a high level of maturity and understanding on the part of York students."

She said that she will be going to Ottawa this week to consult with representatives from other universities with similar plans for advice on smooth implementation of the plan.

"The Voice Response Enrollment System was a big mess and I don't want the health plan to be a big mess and that's why I'm putting a personal hand in the implementation," Winship said. "I kept my promise for a health plan but I want to go further to make sure it works."

She said the plan "really showed that the CYSF wants to reach to students and give them something beneficial."

She said that a full time administrator will be hired by CYSF to help run the plan next year. She said applicants will be subject to "an intense screening process" and will earn between \$20,000-\$30,000. The money to pay the administrator will come from the 18 cent per student per month administrative fee that is part of the levy.

Winship expects about 17,000 undergraduates to make use of the plan. She also said that condoms will be given out by the administrator from the CYSF office.

Winship attributed the high turnout to CYSF's saturating the campus with information on the plan, which included ads in *Excalibur*, *Lexicon*, spots on CHRY,

poster, pamphlets and lollipops. She said that Blue Cross covered most of the expenses for promotion. "We didn't have to spend a fortune at all. I think we spent under \$300 on the whole thing."

She said that last week's protest against table privileges in Central Square being removed by the fire marshal helped "in that students saw a way to make a difference" and that "it brought people out of their apathetic shells."

CYSF president Peter Donato was disappointed with the turnout despite saying the vote gave the plan "a clear mandate."

"At Queen's, they're up at around 70 per cent [student turnout for elections and referenda] and a lot of schools are around 30 to 40 per cent," Donato said. "York is brutal."

He said the CYSF hopes to get 5,000 people to vote in the March CYSF elections.

Union and admin settle

by Susan Vanstone

A two-year collective agreement has been reached between the university and the 1,800 York TAs and part-time faculty members belonging to the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) Local 3.

The agreement, supported by 86 per cent of Unit I (TAs) and 96 per cent of Unit II (part-time

faculty) will improve working conditions for its members.

Wages will increase by 8.25 per cent this year and a further 7.5 per cent next year. Also, a partial allowance will be given for any sharp increase in the cost of living.

College tutorial teacher salaries will increase by 22.7 per cent this year and 16.2 per cent next year.

The agreement includes improvements in grievance procedures, sick leave, compassion leave, bereavement leave, and

adoption leave as well as better clarification of class size.

It also includes provisions for employer contributions of \$60,000 for new child care facilities at York.

Local 3 states in its press release that it agreed to no concessions of its members rights and has agreed to continue to campaign for other improvements in work conditions and the quality of education not achieved in this agreement.

VP agrees to meet students

by Heather Sangster

An agreement to meet "one-on-one" with students was made by vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr Wednesday at a student protest in the waiting room of President Harry Arthurs' office.

About 40 students who rallied in Central Square noisily

gathered on the ninth floor of the Ross Building to voice their concerns about the lack of student consultation in administration decision making.

After answering questions on space allocation, scrip and underfunding, Farr agreed to "work out a roster" with the CYSF for an "open forum" meeting next Wednesday at noon in the East Bear Pit.



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