

Arthurs unhappy over new funding formula

By JAMES FLAGAL

A new funding formula for post-secondary institutions was announced last week by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Although York's total operating grant for 1987-88 has been increased by \$9.3-million, it is still close to \$11-million short of the overall university system average, and York President Harry Arthurs finds the new allocation scheme "intolerable."

The new funding system was introduced by Minister of Colleges and Universities Gregory Sorbara at a University of Toronto luncheon last Tuesday, March 10th. According to Sorbara, the primary objective of the funding change is to ensure continued accessibility and increased participation in the university system.

The new means for distributing operating grants was recommended by the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA). The system now consists of an integrated package of "funding envelopes" which according to Sorbara, will permit funds to be targeted towards institutional planning, enhanced accessibility, increased research activity, and program adjustment, in addition to meeting the special needs of Northern and Francophone Ontario residents and other traditionally under-represented groups.

The entire \$1.4-billion budget for 1987-88 basic operating grants (marking an 11.5 percent increase over last year's budget) will be split up into seven funding envelopes so that each above category is financially maintained.

The old formula discriminated against institutions which increased their total enrolment. Universities like York, whose enrolment has grown from 24,000 to 40,000 in the past decade, suffered from chronic underfunding because the formula did not keep pace with the increase in enrolment. This resulted in leaving York at an 80 percent funding level as compared to the average allocation per student each Ontario university was receiving.

The new funding formula is intended to address those institutions which fell behind in funding, because of the old allocation system. Arthurs, however, said the new formula "does not leave a penny in there for catch-up." Although York is now receiving 90 percent of the system's average (instead of 80 percent), Arthurs said the formula still "does not take into account the past (when York was chronically underfunded)."

Sheldon Levy, Associate Vice President (Management and Information Planning) said that "if OCUA defined what they set as a starting point, then we should have received \$16-million on top of the basic operating grant envelope, instead of only an additional \$9.3-million." According to Levy, the OCUA decided their starting point for funding would be the average grant each institution received between the fiscal years of 1982-85. After this basic grant envelope has been established, the other envelopes come into play in order to address the inequities which have been developing within the university system.

Within each envelope, York received a total of \$8.5-million to address accessibility, and \$800,000 for research. Yet "our present position is still 10 to 11 million dollars short in support compared to the rest

of the university system," Levy said.

Still, the OCUA contends in its report that any institution which stays within six to seven percent of the system's average is "appropriate," according to Levy. "If they think that York being underfunded by ten to eleven million dollars is 'appropriate,' they are wrong," he added.

According to Arthurs, the OCUA decided what the minimum was which York needed in funding, and then "concocted a formula around that figure." Arthurs believes that this inequitable allocation occurred because "some people don't like York in OCUA." Arthurs conceded, however, that "York's case is justified, but the magnitude of the claim would have left hardly any room for other institutions."

"They should have tried to solve the problem on its own," complained Levy, "instead of solving it within a system." Levy explained that the problem cannot be addressed in a funding formula within the short span of a year. "They could have been imaginative," said Levy. "They didn't have to try to solve (York's funding problems) in 1987-88."

According to Levy, the OCUA could have attempted to address York's unique underfunded condition through separate allocations from the rest of the envelope system during a five year period.

Both Levy and Arthurs emphasized that Sorbara and his ministry have been quite generous to universities, especially with the recent introduction of an 11.5 percent increase in funding this year. Yet both York administrators are disgusted with the new OCUA funding formula because it fails to recognize the current financial dilemmas York faces. "The accessibility envelope simply does not take into account our circumstances," said Arthurs.

Wayne Burnett, a York graduate student, is worried that universities might try to take advantage of the formula's enrolment conditions.

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Shots fired on campus last Friday leave Security and Metro Police puzzled

By ZENA MCBRIDE

An employee of Student Programs narrowly escaped injury last Friday afternoon when a shot was fired at a third floor window of the Ross Building.

"I was sitting on the radiator (next to S317 Ross) holding a cigarette," Darlene Sasseville told *Excalibur*. "I heard a bang and felt something on the back of my head at the same time. I looked up, and there was glass in my hair." Sasseville was quite shaken the occurrence.

"It could have been very serious," said Safety and Security Services Investigator Bob Stevens. According to Stevens, the shot, which created a small hole in the glass, was fired from the west at a fairly straight angle. He cited an air rifle or a .22 calibre rifle as possible sources.

Stevens noted that there are apartment buildings in the distance, directly west of the Ross building, and the shot could have been discharged from a .22 calibre rifle in



ON TO EDMONTON: The York Yeomen clinched their third straight Ontario hockey crown Sunday night in London. They beat the Western Mustangs 2-1 to earn a berth in the Nationals.

Travel agency up in arms over new American Express office

By LORNE MANLY

The imminent introduction of an American Express Travel Management office in Curtis Lecture Hall has Butterfield and Robinson (B&R), the only travel agency on campus for the past 15 years, up in arms.

B&R is worried that American Express' arrival will put their branch out of business, and is livid over the fact it was not consulted on the matter by the University.

York's travel program, unveiled last month, is an effort by the University to save money and tighten financial control, according to President Harry Arthurs. The program will allow travellers on University-paid business the use of both the American Express Corporate Credit Card and a travel management service to be located at 117A Curtis Lecture Hall. This office, slated to

open March 24, is the reason behind B&R's protests.

"Due to the nature of the travel business," said Jackie Hobson, the travel agency's manager, "about 60 percent of our business is York corporate travel. To lose a substantial amount of that percentage (about 50 percent) would leave us no alternative but to close the office."

The agency is also furious that no mention of the University's discussions with American Express was made to them last spring when they were renegotiating their lease. According to Hobson, B&R learned of York's plans "through the grapevine" only last month.

"We've worked very hard in the 15 years we've been on campus to service York's needs. We've been a great contributor to the University in fundraising and we've offered bursaries (in Fine Arts) and scholarships over the years. To go behind our backs and not invite us to propose for the service is unbelievable. At least we should have been invited to propose," Hobson added.

Bill Farr, assistant Vice-President (Finance and Administration), said that Butterfield and Robinson was never considered as a potential bidder. "They are a retail outlet (not a travel management service). They just aren't in the same game."

York Comptroller John Heber and Farr admit, however, that B&R should have been told about the American Express negotiations. Heber said that he asked Business Operations last year if B&R was made aware of the American Express negotiations, but he is not sure what the response was. "I raised it to Business Operations (which is responsible for the University's tenants)," Heber said, "but I don't know what was done there."

Becker said that he "quite frankly (doesn't) remember" if he spoke to B&R about it. "At the risk of sounding frightfully casual, at no time was there any suggestion from my colleagues that Butterfield and Robinson could quote on this package. It was a bit of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing in a big institution."

If I was doing it again," Becker said, "I would have picked up the phone and told them . . . that their

corporate travel could be touched upon and they should make contact with the Comptroller."

Farr said that he found it "embarrassing they weren't informed but we are prepared to undertake the renegotiation of the lease if B&R wants to get out or have a smaller office."

Heber, Arthurs, Farr, and Becker all admitted that B&R would be vulnerable to losing a large share of corporate travel, and said the agency may have to cut staff or space to remain in business. Because the University's intent is to direct all corporate travel through American Express to save the maximum amount of money, B&R will likely lose most, if not all, of its corporate bookings.

"They might have to reduce their staff by three," Heber said. Another way B&R may cope with a decrease in volume (business), according to Becker, is to reduce their square footage.

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INSIDE NEWS

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING: The newest cult figure, Dave Dollard, is back with that hilariously offbeat, wacky, once every three week feature—the *cvsf* Newsbeat. Look inside and treat yourself to a literary feast. Page 5

FEATURES

MOONLIGHTING IN QUEBEC: Atkinson professor John Harney commutes to Quebec every week to fulfill his duties as leader of the Quebec New Democratic Party (NDP). In la belle province, however, he is known as Jean-Paul Harney. Harney talked to *Excalibur* earlier this week just after this year's NDP convention. Pages 10-11

ARTS

TRIO FORMS OWN COMPANY: The York threesome of Kerri Weir, Lisa Hopkins, and Yvonne Ng forced their way through miles of red tape to start their own company, Dance Allegro. Page 12