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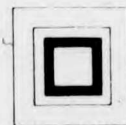
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# YUFA ratifies proposals

By MARK WRIGHT

York University Faculty Association (YUFA) members ratified their negotiating proposals for their upcoming contract talks at Tuesday's general membership meeting.

YUFA's contract with the University expires April 30.

YUFA Negotiating Committee Chairperson Kevin Jones said they are after a one-year contract, and that all the proposals cover the areas where the present contract is deficient.

The proposals were based on recommendations of a number of YUFA committees, discussions at membership meetings, and answers collected from a questionnaire handed out to all members.

"Our main interest is the salary package and improving the faculty/student ratio," Jones said.

Jones points to the cost of living in Toronto, the highest in all of Canada, as a major factor in adjusting salaries.

In a study done by an OCUFA Salary Committee it was discovered that York professors' salaries over the past 15 years have eroded by 25 per cent relative to the consumer price index, and other professional salaries. In other words, a professor today earns 25 per cent less than a professor in the same situation in relative terms 15 years ago.

Also, at present the faculty/student ratio at York is over 1:17. The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) puts the acceptable amount at 1:15.

Other proposals include improving the retirement package. It would allow retiring faculty members the

opportunity to teach part-time. At present York loses 10-20 faculty members a year to retirement.

"We want a fair settlement and we'd like to complete negotiations as early as possible. In the past we've settled well into our teaching year, often as late as December," Jones said.

"All we're asking for are minimum teaching standards and improvement in the quality of education and our working conditions," he said.

Vice-President of Finance and Administration Bill Farr said he hasn't seen the proposals yet. However, he said, "Things went very well the last time we negotiated, and we hope they will again."

Negotiations should begin in February.

## Co-op housing gets approval

By MARK WRIGHT

Over four acres of York's land will be leased for the purpose of building a 157-unit co-operative housing project, the York University Faculty Association announced Tuesday.

The Harry Crowe Housing Co-operative was approved by the University's Board of Governors this Monday. The decision will allow for the construction of 38 townhouses and 119 apartments, according to the York University Faculty Association's (YUFA) newsletter.

The letter further states that the residents of the co-operative will be primarily people who work at the

university, such as faculty, staff, and other workers.

Michael Copeland, member of the Board of Directors of the HCHC, was pleased with the decision.

"There has been no faculty housing up to this point, and given the housing crunch in Toronto it is greatly needed," he said.

Copeland further explained that funds for the co-op will come from the Ontario Ministry of Housing on the condition that 25 per cent of the co-op's units be subsidized.

York employees will make up 70 per cent of the membership.

The project is part of a special

provincial government initiative in which 3,600 non-profit housing units will be built across Ontario. In addition, the province is offering mortgage guarantees and some start-up funding.

The original proposal for the co-op was made by YUFA, the York University Staff Association, the Canadian Union of Educational Workers, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees 1356.

The co-op was named in honour of the former Atkinson College dean.

Construction should begin in the spring of 1990, with occupancy in 1991.

## York's Visa card a "success"

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER

The York Visa card, introduced in late November, is a success, according to the project's coordinator.

Don Butcher of Alumni Affairs reports that over 1,800 cards have been sent out to alumni and students and that about 400 applications are waiting to be processed. Each card brings in \$5 to the University from the Toronto Dominion Bank, which issues the cards.

Half of all money received will go to the Alumni Association and half will go to the Alumni Annual Fund, which has in the past funded library acquisitions, scholarships, building funds, and other campus causes.

He estimates the total amount accumulated from issuing the cards is "probably close to \$10,000 by now," although no money has been collected yet from the bank. He said that the money will come in a quarterly payment at the end of March.

In addition to the payment per cardholder, the University will also receive a "small percentage" on every transaction made using a York Visa card. Butcher would not reveal the percentage, saying it was "between the University and the bank," but he estimated that the cards will bring \$20,000 annually into the University.

Butcher said it's too early to evaluate how much money has been collected from the Visa Card transactions because "the cards are just getting into people's hands and until people start using them and charges get back to the bank, all we can do is evaluate the response rate [to the applications]."

He said that the current number of

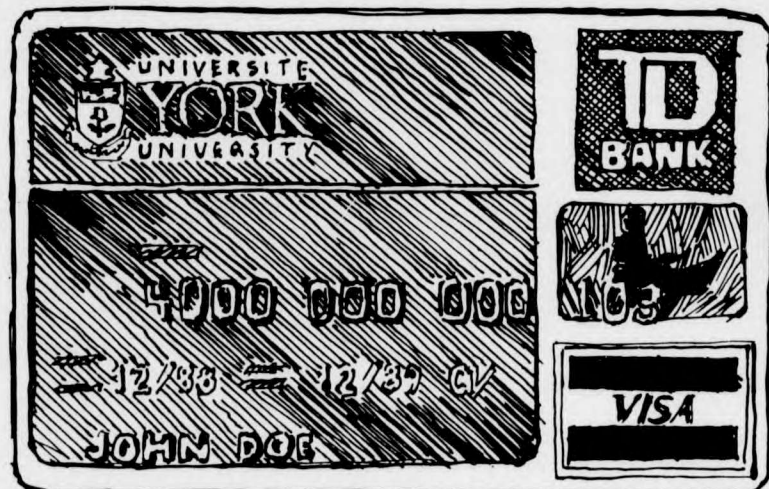


ILLUSTRATION BRIAN KRIG

**WILL THAT BE CASH OR YORK VISA?** Alumni Affairs reports that over 1,800 cards have been set out and 400 applications are waiting to be processed.

cardholders (1,800) "is actually a very good start, but you have to understand that it's a long term project."

With 51,000 applications sent out, the response rate has been about 4 per cent, which "in the first eight weeks is very good," said Butcher. He explained that affinity card applications in the United States traditionally have response rates between one and eight per cent.

"We think the key market for this will be the graduating students because they probably don't have credit cards," Butcher said. "If we get one-quarter of the spring graduates [4,000] then we'll have another 1,000 cardholders."

"We hope it will be their first credit card," he said.

Butcher said he would like to see continual growth of the number of cardholders but said "the 5,000

mark [for cardholders] is a real benchmark. If we can hit that we will be pleased, and so will the bank."

Butcher said that all students and faculty are eligible, but TD will not likely give cards to first- and second-year students because "they just don't have the credit."

The card is also being heavily pitched to alumni.

According to Butcher, there are many attractions to holding a York Visa Card. There are no transaction fees, there is no annual fee for the first year, and the subsequent yearly fees are \$6, which is half the yearly fee of a Classic (regular) Visa card.

In addition, the interest rate on payments is .5 per cent lower than Classic Visa card rates and cardholders also get travel accident insurance and reduced bank service charges among other benefits.

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