

Admin holds up health plan

CYSF disappointed, cancels March referendum

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER

York students will likely have to wait until at least September 1990 for the health plan originally proposed for this fall by the CYSF.

"A lot of other universities have health plans," said CYSF President Tammy Hassfeldt. "We're really behind on this issue."

In a joint statement issued Tuesday, the CYSF and Graduate Students Association (GSA) announced that a referendum on the issue — originally planned for March 14 and 15 — has been postponed "due to serious concerns over the inability of the administration to establish a concrete date for implementation."

Both Hassfeldt and GSA President Lee Wiggins felt that the referendum must be postponed because students would be asked to approve a plan without knowing the implementation date or cost of the plan.

"We will do the best we can to ensure a September referendum," Wiggins said. Both Wiggins and Hassfeldt said that the postponement was necessary because the Board of Governors would never consider any referendum results where the cost and implementation date are not stated explicitly on the ballot.

The CYSF was going to give undergraduate students the option in the referendum of choosing between a 12-month Blue Cross plan that

would cover the cost of all prescription drugs — including oral contraceptives — for \$48 per year per student, and another Blue Cross plan that excluded contraceptives and cost \$38.80. Students would also have the option of choosing no plan at all.

The GSA — who became involved with the plan in January — is only considering the plan that includes contraceptives.

Provost Tom Meininger said he was "very disappointed" that the plan had to be delayed, but said that it is the result of administrative problems.

"There are problems in getting a decision coming out of a referendum and subsequent board consideration announced in time for students wishing to register for September '89," Meininger said. "It's a time-issue."

"Implementing a new levy requires really major changes in how the University goes through this [fee collecting] kind of activity," he said. "All fees are per course. This is the first fee that has been proposed that is on a per capita basis."

"There just wasn't enough time to resolve — and I think they can be resolved — complicated administrative problems," said Meininger.

Hassfeldt said that when she and Wiggins met with Vice President of Finance Bill Farr and Vice-President of Institutions Affairs on February 22, they "got a sense [from Farr and

Levy] of concern about the plan itself" as well as concerns over fees collection and time-frame.

Levy could not be reached for comment, and Farr's office said he has no comments to make about the health plan.

Meininger said he thinks there have been some fundamental questions raised about certain aspects of the plan, but he is "absolutely confident" that it will be implemented. He added that he is glad that York's central student governments are working on such a plan.

Wiggins said that the Administration suggested they work for a January implementation date.

Hassfeldt added, "It would be very difficult for them [the Administration] to collect fees so late," and that a January implementation date would change the cost, because the plan would only cover eight months in the first year.

Both Wiggins and Hassfeldt were disappointed that despite President Arthurs' recent changes to student government, they were unable to initiate a programme that they feel is in the spirit of the reforms.

On Tuesday, the CYSF passed a motion reiterating support for holding a referendum in fall 1989 and encouraging incoming councils to support their decision. Wiggins said the GSA will pass a similar motion at their upcoming Tuesday meeting.



Burning African drumbeat

The Flaming Doro Drummers inspired over 200 spectators with its energetic West-African style music and dance.

'Barred' student back in class

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Ron Kelley's AIDS discrimination dispute with the University is continuing, despite his return to music performance class on Tuesday.

Although the University denies it, Kelly, who has tested HIV positive, claims he has been discriminated against because of his illness. He said, "At this point, in my opinion, there is no question that the music department and fine arts are discriminating against me because I have AIDS and for no other reason."

Kelly claims that he received notification from the music department

in January that he was barred from classes, which he believes is a result of his illness.

On Monday, Kelly received a letter from the Administration which he said informed him that he would be allowed to return to class. Kelly claims that this action was proof that the University had, in fact, discriminated against him.

But the University denies the AIDS discrimination charge. Provost Tom Meininger said that Monday's letter was merely clarification that the music department "was asking Kelly to voluntarily remove" himself from his ensemble as his repeated absences were impeding the progress of his fellow students.

Kelly said, however, that other members of the Administration clearly stated that he was barred from class. Kelly alleges that the acting dean of fine arts, Alan Lessem, told him that if he did attend class, it would be cancelled.

According to the Administration the dispute is centred on whether or not Kelly has too many unexcused absences. The music department's regulations state that more than three unexcused absences in certain courses will result in an automatic failure. The music department claims that Kelly has not provided documentation of his illness, and that he has missed at least two classes for non-medical reasons.

Kelly claims, however, that his course director, Patricia Wait, initially excused his absences, and "retroactively unexcused" him after students complained he was receiving special treatment.

Kelly said that in November, Wait told him he would fail first term due to his many unexcused absences. He

then filed a discrimination complaint with Student Affairs. In exchange for dropping the complaint, the music department said Kelly could remain in the course and be graded on the basis of two jury exams.

Kelly is pleased that he is returning to class, and feels he has won a partial victory. Even so, he is still threatening to take his case to the Human Rights Board. He said, "I will pursue both emotional and financial redress." Kelly would like the University to admit that discrimination actually has taken place.

The Administration is adamant,

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York exam schedule changes 'unlikely'

By GARRY MARR

York's undergraduate final exam schedule is now over a month long — from April 10 to May 11 — which has many students upset because of the inconvenience it causes them in organizing their summer. But Vice-President of Academic Affairs, K.G. Davey, said that the present system "cannot be shortened from where it is now."

York University's final exam schedule has traditionally been published in *Excalibur* immediately after reading week. A number of other

universities give notification of exam time at the beginning of the academic year.

Students at Concordia University in Montreal and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, for example, register for courses and exams at the same time.

"If a student registers for a course which runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., his exam will be on December 13," said Hugh King, associate registrar at The University of Alberta.

King said that an exam conflict is impossible because a student can only register for one class during the above time period. In fact, for an exam to be changed, everybody in the class must agree to it and then it has to be approved by the Dean.

"If you want to deviate from the published schedule, it almost takes an act of God," said King.

With over 23,000 undergraduates, U of A usually finishes its December exam schedule in eight days, and its April schedule in five days. King says that students prefer it that way.

"People like to get their life in order," said King. "It allows them to book flights home. It's been a blessing for staff and students."

But York University is in a somewhat different situation, according to Davey.

"[U of A] has more space to write their exam schedule," said Davey. "I agree that faculties would be better advised to produce an exam schedule at the same time as you sign up for the course."

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HOT ON ICE: The Yeomen hockey team have just beat Waterloo, and are now on their way to the OUAA finals with Laurier. Page 10

SASKATOON BOUND? The volleyball Yeomen defeated Ryerson in straight sets last weekend and could go to the CIAUs. Page 10

LIVE! The York New Music Festival is bringing some talented artists to York this week. Page 13

Tuition increases 7½%

By MARK WRIGHT

York's tuition fees will increase by 7.5 per cent next year, to approximately \$1,500 for a full course load.

The increase will put York's tuition at just over \$1,516, which is about \$105 more than last year.

Tuition plus ancillary fees — non-tuition-related fees such as student government, health services, and recreational activities — will increase from \$1,665 to \$1,837.50 for a full five-course load at the main campus.

Joanne Sibley, of the office of the vice-president (Institutional Affairs) said the tuition increase is a result of a 7.5 per cent provincial-wide increase approved by the

government based on the regulations set by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. She explained that the added student fees were voted in by referendum concerning additional funding for Radio York, the Student Centre, and *Excalibur*.

Sibley stressed that the 7.5 per cent increase is on tuition alone and not ancillary fees.

The increase is comparable to other universities such as U of T, whose tuition will increase to approximately \$1,500, and Queen's University whose tuition will increase to approximately \$1,520.

Further details about the tuition increase next week.