

Bureaucratic boondoggle: tempest in a tent

By DAVID BYRNES

York's bureaucratic "system," grounded The York University Act of 1965, employs about 1,400 people and is run by 'able' individuals who enjoy some power and prestige. According to the Act, the system exists to facilitate the University in attaining its ultimate, altruistic goals—"the advancement of learning" and "the intellectual, spiritual, social, moral and physical development of its members and the betterment of society."

Admirable sentiments, we're sure, but what of the students who sweat it out, elbow to elbow, in the University's hallways every September. When 28,000 Fall/Winter students show up at the same time to enrol and pay fees, "bureaucracy" becomes synonymous with line-ups, "red tape" and frustration.

To ease the confusion Provost Tom Meininger has had an information tent set up north of the Ross Building, which at least is adding a

little colour to the September "crunch." Meininger foresaw that the confusion would be worse this year because of all the office and room re-locations.

CYSF President Chris Summerhayes, however, has lambasted Meininger's "experimental" information tent, calling it "the most useless expense of money that this University has ever come up with." He believes that the

tent will only aggravate enrolment problems—"It's a place to line up in order to find out where you have to go to line up," he said.

Summerhayes claims that line-ups have been more of a problem at York over the years than at some Ontario universities. He told *Excalibur* that U of T is ideally organized. There the student service offices are located in one building, thus a lot of running around is eliminated,

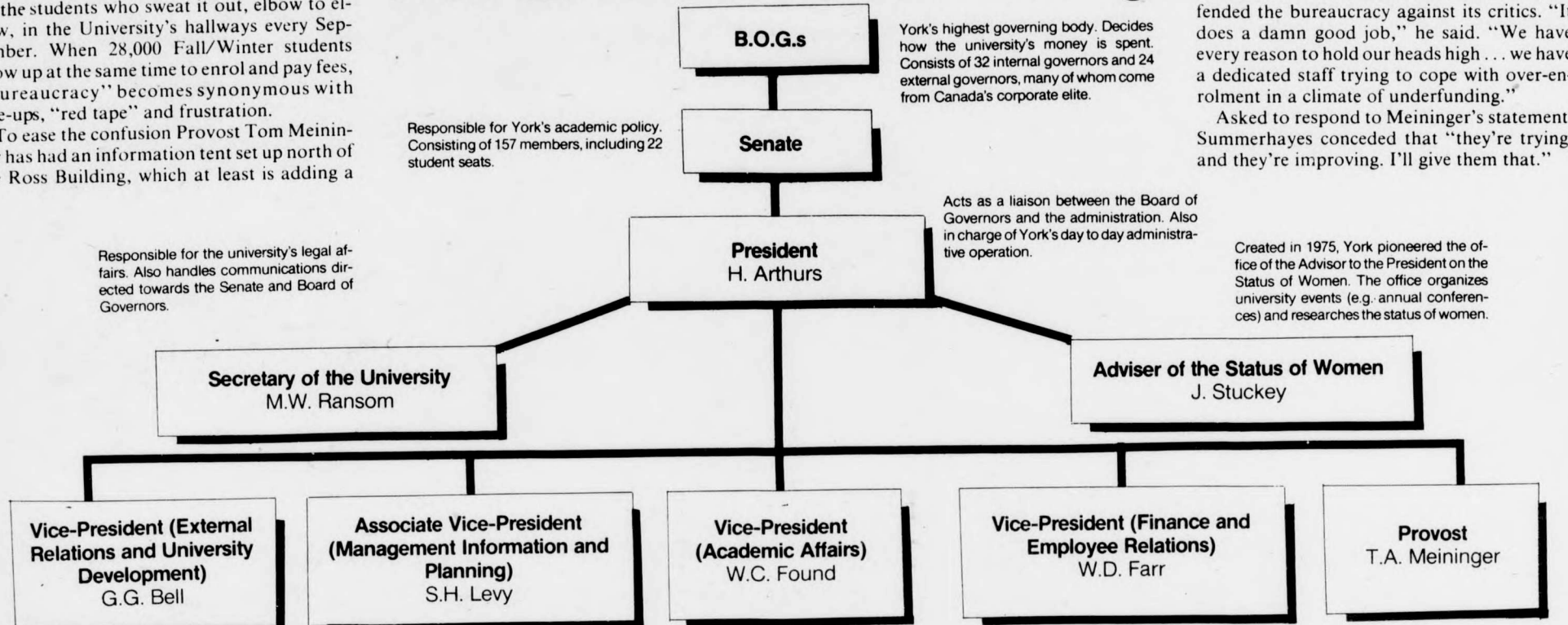
said Summerhayes, who wanted to have three temporary student service centres set up this year (one in each of the two college complexes and one in the Ross building) to alleviate the long line-up problem.

Some student service offices actually have been centralized this year, into the West Office Building. Student services are also being upgraded, according to Student Affairs head Cora Dusk, who feels her role is "to cut all the red tape we can for people."

Meininger, whose job is to act as a liaison between students and the administration, defended the bureaucracy against its critics. "It does a damn good job," he said. "We have every reason to hold our heads high... we have a dedicated staff trying to cope with over-enrolment in a climate of underfunding."

Asked to respond to Meininger's statement, Summerhayes conceded that "they're trying, and they're improving. I'll give them that."

The Great Chain of Being



York's highest governing body. Decides how the university's money is spent. Consists of 32 internal governors and 24 external governors, many of whom come from Canada's corporate elite.

Responsible for York's academic policy. Consisting of 157 members, including 22 student seats.

Acts as a liaison between the Board of Governors and the administration. Also in charge of York's day to day administrative operation.

Responsible for the university's legal affairs. Also handles communications directed towards the Senate and Board of Governors.

Created in 1975, York pioneered the office of the Advisor to the President on the Status of Women. The office organizes university events (e.g. annual conferences) and researches the status of women.

Responsible for the external relations of the university with the four levels of government (federal, provincial, regional, local); university organizations; business and industry; York alumni and other community groups. Also responsible for the planning, development and maintenance of York's facilities and lands, safety and security, and the conduct of university business operations.

Responsible for disseminating pertinent information to the Vice-Presidents and President. Also produces incomes and enrolment predictions, as well as financial reporting done for government bodies.




Responsible to the President for the coordination and allocation of all academic resources and funding proposals. Also modifies exist-ins programmes, develops new programmes and recommends the overall priorities for academic appointments.

William (Bill) Farr is responsible for managing the university's budget. He is also the chief negotiator for the administration in labour disputes with the unions. Right now, he's a busy man, negotiating—not to mention arm-twisting—with YUFA, YUSA, and CUEW.

Office established last year to promote student interests. Student services report to the Provost, who represents student interests before the various governing bodies of the university.

Running Free



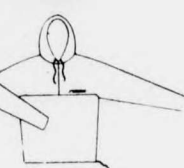


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