

The York University Newspaper Act

Whereas the freedom of expression and debate by means of a vigorous and free press is essential to the effectiveness of an educational community in a democratic society; and

Whereas the student union has a special responsibility to persevere, protect and encourage a vigorous and free press; and

Whereas the independence and editorial freedom of the student press is a right in accordance with the principles of an academic community and must be safeguarded against the pressures of university administrations, members of faculty, governmental and economic interests; and

Whereas the members of any organization, for their full and free development must have democratic control of that organization; and

Whereas a free and democratic institution must be responsible to the community it serves,

We, the students of York University enact as follows:

ARTICLE I

NAME AND FUNCTION

1. This organization shall be known as Excalibur Publications whose primary function is to produce a student newspaper at least once per week during the academic year from the first of September to the first of April.

2. Excalibur Publications shall also produce — with the aid of the communications commissioner of Council of the York Student Federation — other periodic publications (such as the phone book and student handbook) deemed necessary by CYSF.

3. The student newspaper shall be known as EXCALIBUR.

4. The York University Newspaper Act of 1972 shall hereon be referred to as the Act.

ARTICLE II

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The board of directors (hereon referred to as the board) shall be financially and legally responsible for the entire operation of Excalibur Publications and shall handle all queries from the York community and the public at large.

2. The board shall hire and fire any business personnel upon the recommendation of the business manager and any editorial personnel upon the recommendation of the editor-in-chief.

3. The board shall hire and fire a business manager upon the staff's recommendation and hire and fire the editor-in-chief in accordance to the procedures outlined in Articles III and IV.

4. The board shall convene at least once every two months in the academic year (September 1 to April 1) and at least once during the summer months.

5. The board shall be convened at any time upon request from three members whose demand shall be carried out by the chairman.

6. Quorum shall consist of one half of the board members. Summer quorum shall consist of one quarter the board members.

7. The business manager of Excalibur Publications shall send notice of meetings to all board members, shall chair the meetings and shall remain as an ex-officio member of the board.

8. The chairman shall be responsible for maintaining the membership of the board, printing board minutes and supplying a copy of the Act to each new member.

9. The board shall be comprised of the following voting members, each for a one year term from March 1 to the following February 28:

i) one appointee from the college councils of College Complex One with rotating membership from Founders, McLaughlin, Vanier and Winters Colleges (respectively);

ii) one appointee from the college councils of College Complex Two, with rotating membership from Calumet, College 'G' and Stong Colleges (respectively);

iii) one appointee from post graduate students with rotating membership from

photography within two months to the decision being made.

3. The editor-in-chief chosen under Section 1 shall not duly exercise the powers of his office until his nomination has been approved by a majority of the board for Excalibur Publications.

4. The editor-in-chief once approved by the board shall hold office from April 15 of the year he is approved until March 30 of the following year, unless he resigns sooner or is impeached by the board.

5. The editor-in-chief shall be ultimately responsible for Excalibur's editorial policy.

ARTICLE IV

REMOVAL OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1. The newspaper staff may initiate

ARTICLE V

NEWSPAPER FINANCES

1. Excalibur Publications shall be financially independent from any student council.

2. The newspaper shall be financed by a fee collected from every student at registration by the York administration.

3. The administration shall forward the collected fees to the Excalibur Publications' business manager as soon as they are available.

4. The business manager for Excalibur Publications shall produce a budget which shall be approved by the board between March 1 and April 30 for the following academic year and reapproved before October 31 of that year and published in Excalibur before October 31 of that year.

5. The business manager shall produce an audit prepared by a reputable firm of chartered accountants which shall be approved by the board and which shall be published in Excalibur.

ARTICLE VI

EDITORIAL POLICY

1. Editorial policy shall be determined by an editorial board consisting of the editor-in-chief and any staff member interested in editorial policy.

2. Staff and editorial board meetings shall be open to members of the York community. Only board members can vote.

ARTICLE VII

FEEES

1. The fee for 1972-1973 and each year hereafter until such a time when the act is amended, shall be \$4.00

2. For the purposes of this Act, the \$4.00 fee shall be composed of \$2.00 forfeited by Council of the York Student Federation from the present \$10.00 fees paid by:

Founders College Vanier College
Winters College McLaughlin College
Stong College Calumet College
College 'G' Graduate Business Council

Graduate Students' Association and another \$2.00 given by the students of these colleges as a fee increase.

3. In the case of Atkinson, should the college council decide to pay full student fees of \$2.00 per course, then Excalibur shall receive 40 cents per course registration.

4. These fees are to come directly to Excalibur Publications and not via Council of the York Student Federation or the college councils.

5. Should any new college enter York, then they too shall become a part of this Act.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Act must be approved by fifty-one percent of the Excalibur staff, fifty-one percent of the board and fifty-one percent of the York students voting in a referendum.

2. In the case of new colleges, whose fee-paying students need a board representative, a two thirds majority of the board may make appropriate changes to the membership section of this Act.

The Act in brief

- a \$2 fee increase going directly to Excalibur;

- another \$2 from the present \$10 going to Council of the York Student Federation goes to Excalibur automatically;

- Excalibur Publications will have its own elected board — politically and financially independent from CYSF and the college councils;

- the board will have representatives from the college councils, CYSF, graduate students, Atkinson and professional journalism;

- the board will hire and fire paid personnel on the recommendation of the staff.

the Graduate Business Council, Graduate Students Association and Osgoode Hall (respectively);

iv) one appointee from Council of the York Student Federation;

v) one appointee from Atkinson College Council;

vi) the Excalibur editor-in-chief for that year;

vii) the former Excalibur editor-in-chief;

viii) three board appointees, one of whom must be a professional journalist.

ARTICLE III

THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1. The editor-in-chief of the Excalibur shall be nominated by the members of the newspaper staff.

2. The newspaper staff, for the purpose of this Act, shall be defined as all members of the York community who have contributed to the production of the newspaper in the capacity of writing, editing, layout, business or advertising or

impeachment procedures by producing a petition signed by a majority of the newspaper staff giving reasons for the impeachment.

2. The board may initiate impeachment procedures by producing a petition signed by a majority of the board's full membership giving reasons for the impeachment.

3. With any initiation of impeachment procedures, the board shall request a Canadian University Press investigation commission which shall investigate the reasons for the impeachment.

4. The editor-in-chief shall remain at his post until the CUP investigation commission reports its findings which shall be within thirty days of receipt of the impeachment petition.

5. Should CUP investigation commission find the editor-in-chief negligent in his duties, then and only then can the editor-in-chief be fired by the board.

STUDIO LAB THEATRE

Centre for Creative Learning offers workshops in Drama, Dance, Music, Art beginning week of January 22nd.

For information call 366-6451

DEBATING

Students interested in debating are invited to attend organizational meeting of the Winters College Debating Union, Thursday, January 20, 2:00 p.m. in room 264 Winters.

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