

Development of unused campus land for cash flow and academics pondered by president and dean of science

By JOHN HARRAS and GRAHAM THOMPSON

Current construction of the Life Sciences and Environmental Studies Building provides tangible evidence that York's Faculty of Science is expanding. However, new buildings and more professors alone cannot improve the quality of a particular faculty, said Dean of Science Ken Davey.

Davey dismisses suggestions that faculty quality can be enhanced with the simple addition of new programs of study, particularly a Faculty of Engineering. This possibility was raised at a November, 1984 meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee.

York's new president, Harry Arthurs, also recently discounted the possibility of a Faculty of Engineering for York in the near future.

"However attractive that might be from a corporate policy or University point of view," Arthurs said, "I don't see any immediate prospect for that."

Davey suggested instead that growth and quality within the Faculty of Science could best be achieved through "close association with industry, which might locate its research activities on campus."

Arthurs was warm to this idea but cautious nevertheless. "Our capacity to generate corporate participation," Arthurs said, "is limited by the things we are involved in. We have an outstandingly good science faculty, but it's a small science faculty."

"We don't have a faculty of medicine such as Western does, and we are not a technical and scientific university as Waterloo is and those are things that are very high profile as far as business is concerned," Arthurs continued.

Davey admits that York's Faculty of Science is small, relative to other universities. However, he says commercial research has been successful in developing the applied side of the faculty.

Davey points to the need for what he calls a "critical mass" of research activities within the faculty before a desirable level of academic quality can be achieved.

"In order to undertake serious research in an area," said Davey, "it is important to have a sufficiently large group of people so that the necessary intellectual stimulation goes on. This

is one of the things we've done. We've had groups of like-minded faculty concentrating on a relatively small number of areas, and that is why we have had such a considerable impact in the scientific community."

"In not all of the areas where we are really good do I consider that that mass is large enough," Davey said. "I would like to see it expanded."

strongly R&D (research and development) intensive."

Research companies are selected according to their ability to match the faculty's own academic objectives. Currently Davey is looking to expand in the areas of biotechnology, molecular genetics, and pollution chemistry.

One effective method of research expansion for a university is the development of research

people may quarrel with me—then what we should do is make sure that those organizations that we attract on to our valuable land fortify our own academic objectives."

Arthurs also wants to use the University lands to York's financial betterment, but says the administration has not yet decided how to proceed with their development.

"As far as I can see," Arthurs said, "there's only one way (to proceed) and that's to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps by using the University lands as a way of generating what we need. But that's at a very conceptual level. I can't be more specific than that. There are a whole range of possibilities, and even to talk about them in an illustrative way requires very careful study. It will not be completed during my term as president, but it's past time we began the exercise," Arthurs said.

Before any of his objectives can be realized, Davey says, the science faculty must first overcome its problem of space. Davey says the Faculty of Science is "the most cramped faculty in the entire university."

The original concept for the new Life Sciences and Environmental Studies Building had space assigned for the Ecology department, with additional space on two floors for rental labs and commercial development. However, as a condition for providing \$3.5-million of funding towards the new structure the provincial government said it would not permit any of the new space to be rented.

Total cost of the new building is projected to be \$6-million. The university's development fund is providing \$1.5-million, leaving the Faculty of Science with a \$1-million deficit after the provincial contribution.

A new arrangement allows the faculty to service this deficit by moving elementary teaching laboratories from the Farquharson Building into the new structure, freeing 12,000 square feet of space in Farquharson which will be rented. Money from this area will permit the Faculty of Environmental Studies to locate in the new building.

"It is income which the Faculty of Science is generating from its space which permits the freeing-up of the fifth floor of the library," said Davey. "I think that is pretty generous of us. It would be nice if we had some recognition of that fact some day."



DEAN WONG

ON THE WAY UP: Construction of the Life Sciences and Environmental Studies Building, part of the modest expansion of York's science facilities.

Arthurs said, "It's very difficult just to say we are going to enlarge the Faculty of Science. It's not only terrifically expensive because it involves buildings and equipment, but it's very difficult to recruit people and to get them in place. It's also difficult to get the necessary approval for the establishment of new programmes."

One of the ways of expanding the critical mass at York is not simply to appoint more professors, Davey says, "but to attract to the campus commercial operations which are

designed to house a variety of entrepreneurial companies that would enhance the university's link with government, business and industry. While Davey concedes that a research park would be an effective way to utilize York's vacant land, he rejects the notion that it would be financially profitable for the university.

"I think people have an exaggerated notion of how much money comes in," said Davey. "Given that money is not going to be important—I do not believe it is, and other

CYSF president and directors cautious about new council

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CCOY is not radical but was established "merely to help the system work more efficiently."

Since CYSF does not represent all York students—Osgoode, Bethune, Calumet, Atkinson, and Glendon's student councils are independent of CYSF—Fruitman said there is a need for CCOY to deal with such issues as the recent CUEW strike and the administration of the York Student Fund.

"CCOY is not a legitimate student government," says CYSF Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Reya Ali, (but) it is a good forum for communication for discussion with non-member colleges which cannot be done in CYSF."

It's good for issues that do not concern CYSF itself, but it should not have a campus mandate because it can become an elite body," Ali said in reference to the fact that its members, mainly council presidents, are not directly elected for their posts on CCOY but only to head their student councils.

university community." CYSF is the only elected body representing most of the campus constituents, Summerhayes said, and "it might be dangerous to have two separate bodies."

CYSF Director of Finance Valance Ellies calls the emergence of CCOY "the most important issue facing CYSF."

Fruitman said she sees no conflict of interest emerging between CYSF and CCOY. "After one and a half years we have had no problems with conflict of interest," she said.

Summerhayes said, however, "Sooner or later the issue of club funding will come up," and he added that this might be a future source of conflict between the two bodies.

Summerhayes said he would like to see CCOY become a communications arm of CYSF stating "We're all working toward the same end."

"There is no jurisdictional dispute between CCOY and CYSF said York Provost Tom Meininger.

"There is no danger to CYSF," Meininger said, "or to strong central government. . . . The record shows that CYSF has been closely involved. I spoke to the leader of CYSF, Chris Summerhayes, about this and he felt there were no dangers."

Yet, it was because of legal limitations to CYSF's political activities that CCOY was created Meininger said.

"CCOY started," said Meininger, "in a way to help CYSF solve a structural problem. It's issues that constitutionally can't always be addressed by CYSF."

Meininger stresses that this is not a condemnation of CYSF incumbents.

"CCOY is the only real forum we have," Meininger said. "I'd rather there would be collective response than through 14 student governments."

Meininger also predicts CCOY will need to become an established student council on campus.

"If things continue as they have been developing," Meininger said, "CCOY will have to become more formal, that's clear."

When asked why non-CYSF members would join CCOY Fruitman replied "CYSF meetings take three hours and you never get to the end of the agenda. CCOY meetings come right to the point and in two hours we come to decisions or at least discuss matters that need discussing."

Fruitman stressed that CCOY is not in competition with CYSF. "Its purpose is to give a unified voice to the Senate and BOG on issues that affect all students, not only on this campus."

Fruitman said that the CCOY is efficient due to the fact that it is not dealing with financial issues which she said "take more time." The CCOY evolved from a decision by all the College Presidents to set up a York Fund in 1982. Three dollars was set aside from each student's tuition for two years and a council was needed to administer the funds. CYSF was not equipped to do this as they do not represent all of the York community, Fruitman said. The idea of CCOY was presented to the administration as a forum for "the opinion of all colleges on campus," Fruitman said.

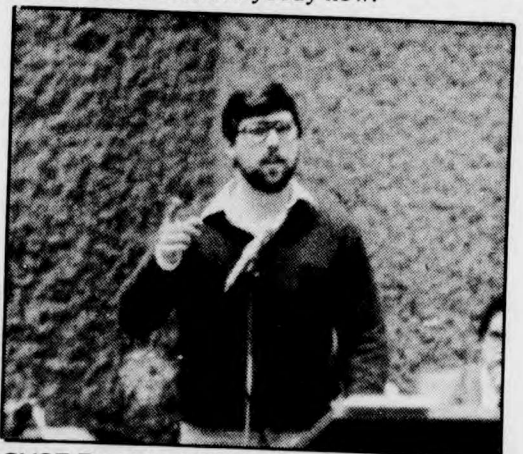
Fruitman described CCOY as still in its planning stages however she ultimately sees CCOY and CYSF as "two equal but separate bodies." "I do not foresee CCOY eating CYSF," Fruitman added.

As a redefined council Fruitman sees CYSF as handling the financial and funding issues it handles now as well as additional duties such as the proposed student union building.

"CYSF will have more than enough to do in terms of administration and management," Fruitman said.

Fruitman said that CCOY does not deal with funding issues and only discusses those issues that CYSF cannot address. As for the possibility of non-CYSF member colleges joining CYSF if CCOY expands, Fruitman is encouraging.

"We hope to have every college belonging to CYSF," Fruitman said. "Whether or not that happens we still need a body to deal with all the issues that affect everybody now."

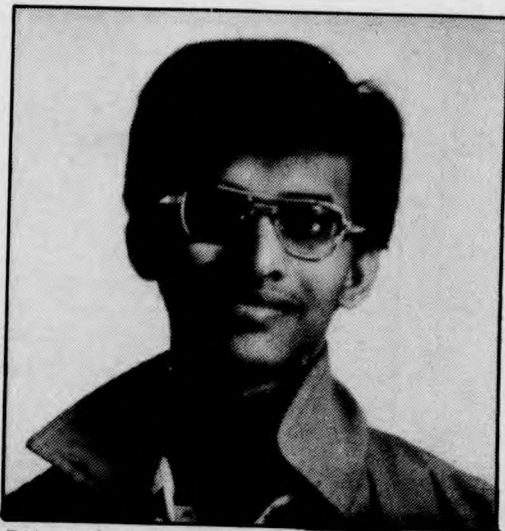


CYSF President Chris Summerhayes

Ellies said that more attention must be given to the task of getting non-member colleges to join CYSF rather than focusing on CCOY. When asked why this is not being done Ellies said "the problem is CYSF. A lack of a leader. The lack of a president who knows exactly what to do. To take initiative. In such a decentralized organization a president is never more important because he's got to carry the gauntlet."

"CYSF is in a rough time right now," Ellies said. "It has a leader, who for the last two years has done absolutely nothing. He and the people he's had have added financial stability but there is no unified voice speaking on campus."

"Different people work different ways," Summerhayes said in response to Ellies' charges. "I like to do things through informal conversation. This method works for me." Summerhayes pointed out that he has recently had extensive talks with Calumet and Osgoode in an attempt to rejoin CYSF.



Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Reya Ali

"CYSF has to reassert itself and become the campus brain," Ali said.

CYSF President Chris Summerhayes said he would prefer to see CCOY become part of CYSF because "it would be more beneficial to the



CCOY Chairperson Pamela Fruitman

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