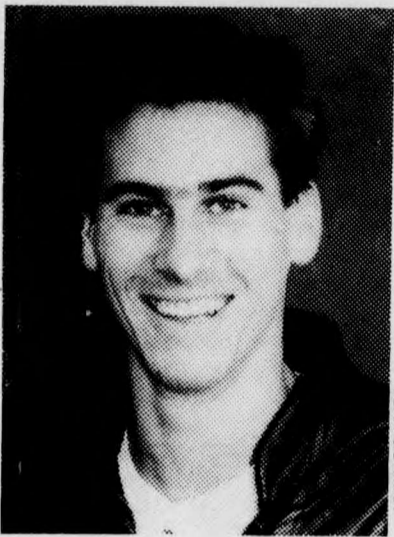


Grilling the CYSF candidates

CYSF President

Peter Donato



SEAN GORNAK

What are the three biggest issues on campus?

I would say vandalism, and security might be related to that. School spirit is unquestionably very bad at York, and thirdly I would say financial. I mean York and the word underfunding just go hand in hand, so to me these are the three biggest. *As CYSF president next year, what would be your number one priority?*

I think to increase the CYSF profile amongst students.

By doing that maybe we can get more money from the administration which is desperately needed. At the same time [increasing the CYSF profile will] increase the spirit at York because a lot of people who go to York make jokes and laugh about it. If you're going to go here, make the most of it. So if you increase the CYSF profile you can help those other two areas and make it a better place.

What are some ways in which you would increase the central student government profile?

Well, the first thing is to get the colleges more involved. I was the president and vice-president of Bethune and I saw that a lot of times it is hard to get the colleges together and in on things. One thing I would do is make sure CYSF meetings are on a day that no other councils are having meetings. As president of Bethune I couldn't go to CYSF meetings because they were at the same time . . . so I didn't know what was going on a lot of times. There should be no excuse for a president or a rep not to go out to a CYSF meeting.

Should the CYSF fund college newspapers — specifically the Lexicon, which approached council this year for financial assistance?

As far as the colleges' newspapers are concerned, a lot of them are rags. But the Lexicon is at a point where it's setting itself up to be a good paper. I think that college papers are necessary because it's a college thing, and it should stay that way.

What I would like to see is all the papers working together and helping themselves out to get more money. The CYSF should not directly fund the Lexicon but — at least if they do — it would have to be all of the papers at a minor level.

At Bethune, we have the lowest grant of any other college and if we can manage to support our paper and if they can get advertising revenue and survive, the other ones can survive too.

Which central student services would you introduce as CYSF president?

I am very pro-athletic. Sporting teams promote a university above all else and I think that there should be more encouragement for students, not only to support their varsity teams and participate in intra-mural athletics but become more aware of

them because they are a very positive link.

In general, what is your opinion of the changes made to the student government?

I agree with some of it. A lot of people think that student government is a joke and that it's ineffective, but it can be [effective] if it's used the right way.

What role should central student government play at York?

They should become a more effective lobbying force. The administration laughs at student council because there's not much money, but student council has to use their student body size as a support mechanism, you know: strength in numbers.

Students have to be more aware of the administrative issues at York. I mean, the idea with the pubs closing was ridiculous and the administration went right over top of student governments and decided to make a decision without consulting us. Even the Marriot Food thing was a bit of a mess.

Elaborate on which reforms to student government you feel were wrong.

I think what's wrong is the Administration's perception of how much money we had and the money that was raised by the pubs. The university thinks that student council is sitting on a lot of money and that they're wasting it . . . In general, the administration isn't putting enough faith in student governments.

Stephanie Infurnari



BABAK AMIRFEZ

What are the three biggest issues on campus?

I'm concentrating on security, and improving the quality of security and making the campus a safer place for all people on campus. Another issue is lighting, which is directly related to security. A new issue that people have been coming to me about is residences: they're building new residences, why don't they take care of the old ones first? If you've ever walked into a residence and walked across the hallway, the floor is now being protected by electrical tape. There's no need for that when they're building new residences around.

As CYSF president, what would be your number one priority?

It would be trying to put pressure on various people to make improvements and to show that there is student involvement. The issues I would concentrate on are those that people would tell me about. I don't have any specific issues that I would push directly. If students come to me I'll look into their issue — I won't ignore it and that will be my main priority for next year.

Are there any central student services that you are planning to introduce?

A new service that was mentioned to CYSF this year but wasn't directly investigated would be a discount card for students. Getting discounts with our current student card in several instances is very difficult. Having this discount book or card might be beneficial to the students.

What is your opinion of the changes made to central student government and what role should student government play on campus?

To be honest, I have to look into the White Paper more. I wasn't very involved with it this year, but I have read most of it.

I am aware of what happened, but as for making a direct statement as to what the central student government should be involved with or how it should be involved with the students — I think the students, in general, have to become more aware of the central student government.

What role do you think CYSF should play with respect to college reforms?

As a member of Winters College and the current constituency member for them, I feel it would be beneficial for the colleges to have people on CYSF that would be voting members of both their CYSF council and their college council. In general, though, if the colleges need CYSF support with respect to the reforms, I will be all-willing.

What are your feelings about the Health Plan?

It is a good idea. I thought it was brought on rather quickly. Now that it has been postponed it gives the new government a year to prepare for it before the next major student election and hopefully that will give it enough time and people will be dedicated enough to pursue it and contact the necessary people that would be involved with it. I'd like to see it go through.

How do you feel your experiences with security and equality will help you as a CYSF president?

I'm glad I've gotten a taste of the CYSF office. I'm not a complete newcomer but I'm a new face. I stand up for issues that people are shocked that I stand up for. I speak my mind. I'm willing to work.

Nick Nitsis



BABAK AMIRFEZ

With no student government experience, how will you be able to function as an effective CYSF President?

Well, I've been involved in many, many student clubs on campus, and on the executives and so forth, and over the last year. People have come up to me and told me that it would be advisable to run again to raise the issue about student apathy at York. It's a very serious issue. Students come to York and they feel sort of left out of the situation. They join student clubs and they join student groups, but still there's no cohesive thing to bring York students together. We have a vision that the candidate for Vice President external, Peter Merrick, Andy Chow,

Vice-President Internal candidate, Lafranco Frano, Finance Vice-President candidate, and myself, we all have this feeling whereby if we increase the communication between students and the student government, people will realize what's going on. Most of them don't even know what CYSF stands for.

A way of bringing interaction between students and government and making students more aware of what is available to them, is to have a student "hotline" to the CYSF. There will be a phone number whereby a student can dial in and have recorded messages on what's happening in the student government and events and so on. I proposed that last year. And maybe bilateral conferences between certain groups and the CYSF to bring issues about more communication, more openness.

And another way of trying to end this apathy is to try to bring student clubs, student groups, into the CYSF. More communication, more support, not just financial support, but more interaction, more co-sponsored events.

What are the three biggest issues on campus today?

First is the apathy, and the other two stem from that. One being the lack of support the student clubs get and the way they're treated by the student government and student groups. And the other is the lack of belonging that a student should feel when he goes to university; that he belongs to a certain group of people, that he should be proud that he goes to university.

What is your opinion of student government reforms?

Well, I feel that the reforms being put in place are almost inevitable. We just have to try and represent student interests in trying to achieve our goal of raising the school spirit amongst students, so that students feel good about coming here.

What are your feelings regarding some specific changes to student government that have been introduced by President Arthurs?

I don't have any strong feelings about anything he says.

In general, what role do you feel the CYSF should play?

Well, I feel that the student government is responsible for making the student feel proud that he belongs to an institution like York University and to offer social, cultural, religious events to the student body. CYSF should keep students informed of university activities and represent the student, making him feel better at York.

What role do you feel the CYSF should play with respect to college reforms?

I feel the college reforms proposed on a whole, are not a bad idea as long as we keep in mind my goal — and the goal of other candidates that I mentioned before — that we try to make the student feel like he belongs to an institution that cares for him and makes him feel good to come to school.

Are there any particular aspects of the college reforms you have strong feelings about?

I think giving colleges certain disciplines to concentrate on will bring students with similar interests together. I just hope it doesn't backfire and separate and cause students to get into small closed groups. CYSF has to strive to maintain a united identity among all students — they all are York University students.

What's your opinion with respect to the health plan and the problems it has recently encountered?

I support it. I agree with the proposal of the health plan, as long as it doesn't get too bureaucratic, and leave students out in terms of getting too big to control.

Bernie Polster



BABAK AMIRFEZ

What are the three biggest issues on campus?

The health plan referendum, problems and remedies for security and depending on how things turn out, OFS.

The health plan referendum is almost obvious; I mean, we were shunted. Administration it would seem, has dropped a bomb on us and said, "can't do it this time." The time span from the when the referendum would be to when the implementation date would be was too short for them to act on, so it seems that they're not moving along with us in terms of what the White Paper has stated.

Security has some problems. The whole issue of the constable status is something that has to be looked into from all angles. I think when looked at properly it can be a positive thing to have some security officers having constable status. And then there's of course the problem with number of officers on a shift at a time. The visibility of security officers is low.

The OFS issue would be an issue depending on whether or not they decide to come after us legally. I see it as a problem because a lot of students may be misinformed about what OFS does and doesn't do. *As CYSF president, what would be your number one priority?*

Initially, it would be to see the health plan go through. I've been working on that since my term started in early November and I have worked with the people involved with the health plan.

Do you have any ideas of student services you'd like to introduce as CYSF president?

One item that I would like to look into is the possibility of a Student Co-op Building. That would take a lot of time and research though.

What is your opinion of the student government reforms?

There are pros and cons. From one end of things you can see that what President Arthurs is trying to do is unify the student voice and see to it that CYSF is that voice.

The problems I see, though, is that you're going to have competing student governments, at the college level and at the faculty level, same resources.

It's something I believe colleges can overcome by promoting themselves properly and seeing to it when new students come in that they're made aware of the services and events that are put out by the colleges. My heart lies with the college-based system, and I would like to see that grow and flourish without competition to the faculty-based governments. But I would never try to stop a faculty government from forming.

What aspects of the student government reforms do you have strong feelings toward?

I like the idea of a direct student levy.