



CYSF pulls its student off court

By JOHN KING

The Council of the York Student Federation withdrew its student member from the university court last week because, CYSF president Paul Axelrod said, "it legitimizes the Laskin report."

The decision, at last Wednesday's council meeting, was taken after Axelrod received a letter from university president Murray Ross, saying that 15

recommendations of the report on student and faculty discipline have already been implemented.

"We don't want to commit ourselves to something we may not agree with," Axelrod said Tuesday. The council is now approaching the college councils to ask them to pull their representatives from the court.

Axelrod wrote to Ross Feb. 11 asking him not to implement the

report's 83 recommendations "before the council has expressed its views."

In a letter to EXCALIBUR

Editorial — Page 6

Tuesday, John Becker, the assistant vice-president in charge of student services, said 12 of the 15 recommendations Ross has already adopted "have been in

effect since the university began in 1960..."

"If any of these twelve recommendations, which have been enshrined in the practice of the university for a decade are unacceptable to any member of the new or old CYSF Executive, I have not been made aware of it," the letter states.

"Further, no student or faculty member has commented adversely on these points. In the light of these facts, the comments of the President of the CYSF are a little difficult to follow."

"The other three recommendations, Becker's letter says, refer to the university court system "which was first recom-

mended, in a somewhat modified form... eighteen months ago."

At the meeting Wednesday, Becker told the council that "the wheels of the Laskin report are continuing to turn... We're at stage four."

A York University Faculty Association sub-committee completed a 90-page critique of the report last week. One of the recommendations of the as yet unreleased report is reported to urge Ross to revise the report so that wherever student and faculty responsibilities are mentioned in the report they would include all members of the university community, including administrators, staff, the president and members of the board of governors.

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IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

Excalibur — Dave Cooper

After a winter like this one, a student has to think pretty hard about whether he really wants to stand in the cold waiting for the bus just to visit the Glendon Campus.

'Useless scientific data'

Nat. Sci. students protest

Students in the Natural Science 176B course on pollution are pressing their professors to give them a meaningful course that tells them more than a list of "useless scientific data".

And to make it easier on the profs, the students have drawn up a list of nine proposed topics to discuss in the nine remaining lectures in the year.

"We are tired of being sponges absorbing useless scientific data (e.g. measurements in 'ppm's' of a specific pollutant in an American city)," reads a handout distributed to the class at yesterday's lecture.

"We want to know what this means to the person whose children walk to school and who cannot afford to drive an air-conditioned car to work (as Prof.

McFarland can). Because our two professors refuse to deal with these questions we must obviously obtain our answers by some other means.

"Other menas' must simply be student control of the course for the next three weeks," the handout reads.

The students propose a series of lectures on the reasons for and effects of pollution, including one lecture on what the individual can do about the problem. The students would invite speakers representing big business as well as Marxist viewpoints and plan to invite a Pollution Probe spokesman for one lecture.

The students were to confront course director M. Katz with their proposal yesterday afternoon.

SASKATOON (CUP) -- The faculty council executive of the two-campus University of Saskatchewan senate decided last Monday to drop a proposed discipline code incorporating some of the strictest measures ever suggested for Canadian universities.

In a closed meeting the executive agreed that the Carter committee report on student discipline should be dropped in favor of a dual review of student discipline at the U of S.

The reasons given for the executive decision were the refusal by both the Saskatoon student council and the administration at the U of S Regina campus to endorse the report.

The Saskatoon student council objected to the lack of student parity on the Carter committee, composed of six faculty and administrators and three students; the Regina administration

declared it was not consulted at all in the process of formulating the report, which would have been binding on both campuses.

The report, released Jan. 29, drew a storm of protest from students at both Saskatchewan campuses for its harsh stance on student discipline.

At a meeting Feb. 17 at the Regina campus, more than 1,000 students termed the report "an insufferable infringement" of student rights and Regina campus autonomy, and demanded the report be withdrawn.

The students also said the Regina student union would not support any discipline report which did not apply to the whole academic community.

The Regina students forbade their student council to prepare a counter-proposal to the Carter report, declaring that "such an act of compromise would still allow students to be repressed."

Students withdrawn by Alberta council

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Student councillors at the University of Alberta adopted the position of "parity or nothing" last week concerning student representation on the university's general faculty council (academic senate).

By a 20-10 margin, the council agreed to recall its two representatives on the GFC and all other representatives on administrative bodies until students received parity on the university-wide governing body.

According to student council vice-president Liz Law, the student decision would affect 39 students now sitting on a variety of administrative committees.

Acceptance of student parity would require the seating of 10 graduate and 38 undergraduate

students on the general faculty council.

The student move came in the wake of GFC refusal last Monday to discuss the case of philosophy professor Ted Kemp, refused tenure at U of A despite widespread student acclaim for his teaching ability.

Philosophy department officials say Kemp has not fulfilled his PhD requirements, and that Kemp is not a good "professional" philosopher.

Last Monday the GFC refused to put the Kemp case on the agenda despite strong urging from student GFC representatives.

Student council president David Leadbeater said the GFC decision showed "the uselessness of token representation" on administration bodies at the university.

CYSF to look into York's Americanization

By ROSS HOWARD

A \$3,500 task force has been commissioned by the Council of the York Student Federation to study the extent and effect of Americanization at York.

The task force, which is to begin research immediately, was approved overwhelmingly by the members of the council at their meeting last Wednesday.

The organizers of the task force say they will make a full report including recommendations to the council by September.

The task force will begin with as accurate an examination as possible of the country of origin and academic training of all York teaching staff, organizer Bob Roth said.

Once the numbers of U.S. trained professors is known the task force will look into the content of courses taught at York, and the effect of U.S. professors on these and on proposed new courses.

The task force is also to consider the relationship between the number of U.S. professors and curriculum development,

decisions on hiring and firing and tenure of professors, research and methodology, and graduate training at York.

One full-time researcher is to begin work immediately for the task force interviewing undergraduate students on their reaction to U.S. and Canadian professors teaching them, and examining the Canadian content of certain critical courses.

For three months in the summer two full-time researchers and additional volunteers will interview faculty members, examine research projects being carried out, analyze the Canadian versus foreign content of assigned textbooks, and examine course descriptions as submitted by professors.

The York task force was likened to the Watkins Report on foreign ownership, which was commissioned by the federal government and left free to reach its own conclusions.

CYSF agreed to give the Task Force free reign to examine any area it felt relevant

to the issue.

"We want to look at the pattern of courses taught at York now, the university policy about them, the direction this is taking the university, and those who determine these patterns," graduate student Terry Sulyma, an organizer of the force, said.

He said he hoped the report's findings would shift campus debate away from simple unsubstantiated "numbers games" about Americans, into areas like effect on the content of the York education.

"Is scholarship really international, does it contribute to particular Canadian studies, how does it affect recruitment of native scholars," are some of the theme areas of the task force Sulyma said.

Because York has a particularly high percentage of U.S. students in its graduate schools, Sulyma said the task force would be examining the quality and style of graduate training at York.

"We also hope to develop a better term than Americanization for these issues,"

Sulyma said, "because that word has acquired almost cliché status, and is too general."

CYSF president Paul Axelrod called the task force "a very serious study, the first of its kind at York." He said he was concerned to see complete support and rapid implementation of the investigations of the task force.

The council agreed to assume financial responsibility for the task force but expects to solicit funds from other campus organizations. A member of the task force said they may appeal to the Ontario Commission on Post-Secondary Education for some research funds.

He also said the investigators would analyze the alternatives York faced when it decided to expand from a few hundred students to 10,000 students over 10 years, and the effect other alternatives would have had on the quality of teaching.

The report is expected to be published for campus discussion and possible action by mid-September.