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Arthurs argues for tuition hikes

by Joseph Macchiusi and Peter Stathis

ntario universities such as York are in crisis, according to York President Harry Arthurs.

Considering the province's desperate financial straits and multi-billion dollar debt and the necessity of improving the quality of education, Arthurs said he reluctantly supports a \$550 tuition increase for post-secondary students.

The Jan. 23 debate between Arthurs and York Federation of Students (YFS) President Jean Ghomeshi focussed on the controversial Council of Ontario Universities (COU) recovery plan on post-secondary funding. The speakers used the forum to reiterate stances already taken in previously published reports.

Arthurs, last year's COU chair, argued that a tuition increase was necessary because the NDP government would be unwilling to pay for the entire \$40 million shot in the arm that Ontario universities require. The key issue, he said, is not simply the tuition hike, but the entire COU plan and whether the government is willing to accept it.

Although Ghomeshi agreed with Arthurs about Ontario universities having been grossly underfunded, he blamed past provincial governments for creating the crisis.

Ghomeshi insisted it was ridiculous to make current students responsible for paying back money into a system that had been jeopardized by over a decade of financial negligence.

In his initial address, Arthurs went to great lengths to explain that he and Ghomeshi agreed on many aspects of university recovery. What they disagreed on, however, was where the funds should come from.

According to Arthurs, after six years of lobbying the government to address underfunding without any success, he and the COU had been left without any options.



York president Harry Arthurs and YFS president Jean Ghomeshi go head to head over tuition fees. A large crowd turned out to hear the two speak. Arthurs reluctantly sees

The recovery plan would have students pay one third of the \$410 million boost, with the provincial government paying the difference

In concrete terms, this would mean a tuition increase of \$550 passed on to each new student annually. This would be in addition to any regular increases due to inflation.

According to the COU plan, through OSAP refunds, students from lower income backgrounds would still be ensured equal access to university.

A contingency plan has also been proposed based on models in Australia and Sweden, where students could defer the pay-



no other options. Ghomeshi is asking that York withdraw its support from the proposal.

ment of their fees until they had acquired jobs and their postuniversity incomes were high enough.

Ghomeshi began by listing a number of students he knew who had succumbed to the economic pressures of university and were forced to drop out. Students were not at fault for creating the present crisis, Ghomeshi said, and should not be expected to help pay the bill. Tuition hikes had always been higher than the rate of inflation, he argued, while government funding had consistently dropped.

Contrary to Arthurs' claims, Ghomeshi claimed that a rise in

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Student centre corporation accepts gender parity

by Jeannine Amber

n a move to increase representation of women in important administrative positions at the university, the Student Centre Corporation (SCC) has voted in favor of. accepting gender parity.

Under the new legislation, it is hoped that women will hold five of the 14 board memberships and at least two of the five executive positions.

The SCC oversees the management and finances of the Student Centre which is scheduled for completion sometime this spring.

Currently, five of the 14 members of the board are women. The executive is composed entirely of men.

According to SCC chair Chia-Yi Chua, the corporation welcomes and encourages women to participate in the operation of "the single most important project for students at York."

"It's not just legislative quotas that we're interested in, it's the bigger issues of equality," Chua said.

Chua cited the preconceived notion that business and facilities management are traditionally maledominated interests as being responsible for the lack of equal representation to date.

We have a terrible track record for an institution where 56 per cent of the student body is female," Chua

Caroline Winship, one of the four women currently sitting on the board said that if instituting gender parity was merely a counting exercise, then it wouldn't address the real issue of power control. Winship, however, stressed that "the board seems committed to going further than counting heads."

Atkinson representative Anna Segal voted against the parity issue calling it tokenism.

"I find it insulting," Segal said, "If women feel they should do it (run for positions on the board), then they should do it."

The legislation, which is pending the approval of various constituencies, would include the following

- From the YFS at least two of four representatives must be women.
- At least one of the two college
- representatives must be a woman. At least one of the university reps must be a woman.
- And of the student-at-large positions at least one must be filled by a

During last year's General Elections, all seven students vying for the three student-at-large positions were

Class schedule found vandalized

by Leslie Barrell

nti-feminist and antiwomen slander has left some students on York campus bewildered and disgusted.

On Ian 7 a condulation schedule was found posted outside a classroom in North Ross, during an Atkinson College social work class.

The class schedule had been changed either by someone typing over the schedule or with access to the York computer system.

"Something like this a physical assault on all people, not just women," said Snatol Schlosser, a York theatre professor. "Whoever wrote this is out there and if I was a woman on this campus I would be really scared."

"These are not just isolated cases of guys fooling around. There are many of them," said Fiona MacCool of the Women's Centre. "We still have to let the people at York know that we are fighting a legitimate problem, the symptoms of a disease.'

Tom Meininger, acting dean of Atkinson College, admitted that there was a serious problem at York, "It is high time for this [graffiti] to stop. It's not a perfect world, but we must keep trying to work out the imperfections."

Some students expressed concern that whoever tampered with the room schedule had done it

with forethought. There are fears that this incident is only an indication of the tremendous anger and resentment being harbored by some students.

In the past year, anti-feminist graffiti has been on the rise," said Dale Hall of the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre (SHEACC), "People are not ignoring it and since Montreal, we are certainly not taking it

Mark Louie, a fourth-year student at Vanier College, said that he was shocked to find that programs like the Security Service were necessary here.

"I spent two years at university in Calgary and it wasn't nearly as bad," Louie said. "I personally find what this person has done offensive, but I think a lot of males are still like that.'

All students are urged to report material which they find offensive or discriminatory immediately to York Security at 736-5333 (ext. 33333) or to SHEACC at 736-5500.

