

BOG Rep Report

A mere seven or so, depending on when you counted, members showed up for the last board meeting on March 16. Quorum for the Board is currently 12, I believe. John Proctor, Chairman, assured us that at least three of the absentees were "out on definite York business", others however were getting their teeth fixed.

Nonetheless we plowed ahead with regular business, of which there wasn't much but we spun it out until six o'clock anyway so everybody could go home feeling they had done their duty. President Macdonald brought forward a number of significant policy issues for discussion by the meagre group present.

He dealt with visa students. Questioning the differential (i.e. double or triple normal) tuition fees they pay and the apparent move toward setting quotas by some universities in some

programs (i.e. Chinese students in Canadian Medical Schools). Rising tuition costs (i.e. 25 per cent in two years and no end in sight), underfunding which has been slightly better in recent years (i.e. university funding that never matched inflation and will have the bottom drop out of it now that the Tories have a majority) and Rationalization (i.e. the plan to cut York's Fine Arts Faculty and do similar damage to other Ontario universities), were all discussed.

It became apparent that the Board was being sounded out on the prospect of a serious recruiting drive to bring more visa students to York. I'll believe it when I see it.

However it would seem that the administration has assessed the situation and is going to use increased visa student enrolment as one of the means of getting through the lean, post baby boom years, that are ahead for the

University system. Personally I'm all for it.

The more visa students the better but what irks me is the callousness with which the administration swings back and forth on the issue of the personal well being of the students involved. One of the first fights I ever had as a student representative was to retain funding for the international student centre that used to be in Bethune College. I lost. Now someone upstairs has seen the light, not the human need of help for strangers in our country but the financial benefits of keeping as many visa students at York as possible. So this year money was put back into the university budget so that a new version of the international student centre could be built.

The rest of the Board meeting consisted of breezing through the agenda. Questions of substance

were raised about the report of the Appointments Tenure and Promotions Committee which made it look as if the Board were ceding its power to review appointments on research contracts to the administration. That would allow the administration to appoint all kinds of people involved in almost anything (i.e. genetic engineering). All the moral and ethical implications of such appointments would never get a public debate under the committee's proposal. Since the Chairman of the committee was not present the matter was put over to the next meeting.

Strike!

What column of mine is ever complete without the latest in labour news? York University Faculty Association (YUFA), that's your profs folks, is taking a very tough bargaining stance this year.

Since they are amongst the poorest paid university professors in Ontario, you, or I at least, can hardly blame them. According to Vice-President Farr there is not much of significance on the table except money. YUFA is asking 21 per cent and the administration is offering 9 per cent.

They have already gone to conciliation at YUFA's request and that means they could be in a strike or work stoppage position by early May. You got it, just in time for exams.

I don't like it either, I want to graduate this spring but I believe in equal pay for equal work and on that basis York's profs are getting shortchanged. So good luck to them and as usual you can help by telling the administration to reach a just settlement before the strike deadline.

Peter Brickwood

AGYU Art Gallery of
York University

Connections: Krizan, McAulay & Wright

Constructions and Paintings
which explore three artists
reactions to the dynamics
of space.

March 16 - April 3, 1981

Ross N145
Mondays - Fridays 10-4:30

David Wilcox

Benefit Concert for Amnesty International

Vanier
Dining
Hall
April 7
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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