

College councils feel finance officer is redundant

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the proposal indicates, the funding will be paid on a "pro-rata" (ratio) basis.

Each year all student-funded governments (College Councils) and student-financed university activities (*Excalibur*, Radio York, and the Community Legal Aid Services Programme—CLASP) receive grants from the University. The grants which originate from student fees assist these groups in their yearly endeavours.

Based on the "pro-rata" funding for the centre, the groups that receive the most in grants and have the greatest amount of college affiliates will have to pay a larger amount for the service.

But according to one college council president, Jill Shibou, of Stong College, "Stong does not need the Liaison Office. We realize that

we've had problems in the past but we've straightened them out. Also, if the centre will be funded on a pro-rata base and Stong has the largest group of affiliates, then we'll be paying a lot more than the other colleges."

Under the present system each College government and other university-funded groups have employed private chartered accountants as well as yearly elected treasurers and Presidents are accountable for financial management.

Though Meininger acknowledges that the present system works for most of the affected groups, there have been the exceptions and the Financial Liaison Office will be beneficial to all groups.

Meininger said in a recently released memorandum that "with a number of heads of student government and treasurers, we have expe-

rienced the frustration of corrective action gone astray as a result of the annual turnover in elected positions."

Mistakes that are corrected in one year sometimes repeat themselves in a "starting all over again phenomenon. It's no one's fault, of course; but it is a fact and a problem that needs to be addressed," said Meininger.

In other words, "there has been a recognition that it is costing the University budget too much to work with student government in checking to see that they meet all requirements," said Meininger.

Vanier College treasurer Andy McRae believes that Meininger "is being overly ambitious in thinking that one man—the financial Liaison Officer—can do all these things. In fact he'll need a superman."

Since the proposed office is still in

its embryonic stage, Merle Menzies, Business Manager of *Excalibur*, believes that it is difficult to comment because she does not know to what extent the office will affect the York University newspaper.

"Since our major income is from advertising, the amount of money we receive from the University is less than 10 percent. Therefore, we have to make it or break it on our own. My concern is that if there is a fee for this new service it means that a portion of our budget will be allocated to a service we don't really need," said Menzies.

Radio York Station Manager Mel Broitman concurs with Menzies. He is not sure how the office will affect the York University Radio Station but believes that overall, the Liaison Office would be beneficial for groups that have had financial book-keeping problems.

"I'm the first to admit there have been misgivings and doubts on the proposal but I'm willing to spend as much time discussing with students and representatives and will accept contrary points of view," said Meininger.

The Provost emphasized that "there is the strong possibility for cost saving, earning more interest on cash flow and other business transactions. We won't be monitoring. It is assumed that these groups will continue to have their own book-keepers. But I believe that there is every likelihood that the office will be beneficial for all in the long run."

In the meantime, there continues to be opposition to the Liaison Office and if instituted, which Meininger said is likely, there will be those who feel that "it will be like Big Brother watching over you," according to Shibou.

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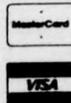
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Office of the Registrar
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