

Higher and higher

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rise from \$817.50 to as high as \$949.50, according to figures from an Ontario Federation of Students news release.

But there's no indication yet whether York will raise the tuition fee the full 10 per cent. President Ian Macdonald says this will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of Ontario university presidents.

The OFS plans to discuss strategy for protesting the increase at a January 15 meeting. An information leaflet urging better federal funding has already been prepared by the CYSF. The leaflet is to be distributed during Prime Minister Joe Clark's campaign visit to Osgoode Hall Law School today.

"The Ontario Legislature wasn't even in session when the ministry announced this plan," Barb Taylor, York's OFS and NUS representative, said, wondering aloud whether the government deliberately did it that way to avoid debate. "Both opposition parties are opposed to this decision," she said.

Also opposed is the National Union of Students (NUS).

"This is very much going to affect the students—especially those on lower incomes," warned Morna Ballantyne, an executive officer with NUS in Ottawa. "The average student's income is somewhere around \$2,000. So this increase will take a large chunk of their income."

But the province hopes to offset some of the effect this increase will have on students on lower incomes "by adding \$3.3 million to OSAP to help offset fee increases on a proportional basis", Bruner explained.

"Under the new OSAP, you get the grant first, then the loan," he said. "For example, someone getting the grant will automatically receive the \$55 increase in tuition fees."

Ms. Taylor, however, says she's skeptical about this plan.

"The ministry has given us no indication how this \$3.3 million will be used," she said. "There is no way we can be assured that the money will be used to cover the increase."

She also wondered if the \$3.3 million would be adequate.

Both Taylor and Ballantyne say the increase will result in a

decline in enrollment.

"All kinds of studies have shown that when there's a tuition increase there's a decline in the participation rate among young people," Ballantyne said.

"This means that fewer students will be able to afford a higher education."

Taylor agreed and produced OFS research based on Statistics Canada and ministry reports

which showed a slight decrease in the participation rate in 1973 and again in 1978 after \$100 increases took effect in the years prior to the decline. The participation rate has continued its decline in 1979, and Taylor says she believes there is a direct correlation between the rate of enrolment decline and the increase in fees.

But "the government has tried to be fair about these increases," Bruner said. "Nobody expects students to pay \$900 or \$1000 fees, because that would definitely

have an effect on enrolment, even with increased OSAP."

"Don't forget that 10 years ago students were paying about 22 per cent of the university's operations (through their tuition fees)," he added. "Now fees make up 15 per cent."

He said "there's no perfect way of doing it so that everyone will be happy." In addition to considering the problems facing the student, the ministry also has an obligation to the taxpayer, who foots a large percentage of the overall educational bill.

Remote vote

Frank McGee

Away from home? Worried about how to vote? Here's what to do.

If you live on campus but you voted at home in the last election, you have three options: you can vote in your home riding, in the advance or regular poll; you can vote by proxy; or you can be transferred to the York Centre voters list and cast your ballot here.

If you want to vote by proxy, ask your parents to pick up proxy forms from the returning officer in your home district. Fill

out the forms and send them back along with a letter of authorization showing that you are a student.

The registrar's office, C017 Steacie, will give you a letter of authorization; just bring along your sessional validation card.

To vote here on campus you must have your name placed on the voters list. No door-to-door enumeration will be done this year. The preliminary list of voters will be based on the revised official list used in the last election. Cards will be mailed to everyone on the list by January 11.

If you don't receive a card, speak to the revising agents who will be in the common rooms or lobbies of the residences on Jan. 14 and 15, from 5 to 10 pm.

You may then vote on Feb. 18 or in any advance poll on Feb. 9, 10, or 12.

Remember, no one will come to you. Betty Boyne, returning officer for York Centre riding stresses that students must "make it their business" to get on the enumeration list.

For more information call Betty Boyce at 630-6651.

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