

YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTRE UPDATE

As an ongoing service, the Student Centre Corporation presents these updates to keep the York community abreast of progress on the building.

CONSTRUCTION COST

At its meeting of 13 December, the Student Centre Project Committee was informed by the project manager that the current forecast budget had increased to \$19.141 million. This represents a 20% increase over the control budget of 1988 which had been set at \$16 million. Since the design of the building is complex and highly detailed and since the current construction market is so busy, contractors' bids have not been as competitive as was originally projected. This situation is not unique on campus — most construction projects at York are suffering from similar budgetary pressures.

SCHEDULE

Also at its 13 December meeting, the Project Committee was notified that it no longer was possible to have the food court completed for business in March or April of this year as previously scheduled. Since we could not meet the opening for this academic session, the Project Committee could no longer justify spending extra sums to complete the food court early and out of logical sequence. The project manager was authorised to complete the construction of the building in the most efficient and cost-effective fashion possible. Substantial occupancy is now scheduled for 31 July 1990, with the pub — restaurant and food court opening for business in August.

STUDENT CENTRE LEVY

Both construction costs and the schedule have potential impact on the Student Centre levy. Further examination of our business revenues and the amortization period of the Student Centre loan suggest that the project at its revised budget remains affordable without impacting the level of the levy.

However, the referendum which established the Student Centre levy stated that the levy would not commence until the year the building is operational. The Management Agreement between the University and the Student Centre Corporation refined that condition to the fiscal year in which the building became operational. With a projected completion of March 1990, the levy commenced in May of last year. In a strict sense, this condition of the referendum has not been met. However, when the University and Student Centre Corporation authorised the commencement of the levy, they exercised sound and reasonable judgement based on the professional advice of the project manager and architect. Had the levy not commenced last year, it would mean an extra \$1.25 million would have to be borrowed on the Student Centre loan. The long term effects of this would have been dramatic. The SCC is hopeful that current York students will understand our decision and the impact of the current situation.

DISPUTE OVER YORK LANES

Many members of the community will be aware of an ongoing dispute between the SCC and the University over the inclusion of competing food outlets in York Lanes. York Lanes is the recently approved commercial-academic building which is to be constructed immediately east of the Student Centre. The SCC has contended for some time that the inclusion of such outlets, which it believes compete directly with the Student Centre food court, contravenes both the Management Agreement between the SCC and York University Development Corporation. On 1 December 1989, the SCC filed a formal dispute with the provost of the University. However, the SCC has agreed to a final round of negotiations with the Administration to avoid more formal proceedings.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON SCC COMMITTEES

In an effort to open up its deliberations to the wider student community, the SCC is expanding membership on its Programming Committee to include students-at-large. The Programming Committee is investigating policies and uses for all the different spaces in the building including the pub-restaurant, art gallery, club offices, food court, public lounges, etc. We are looking for 10 enthusiastic students who want to spend some time helping us shape the future programming of the Student Centre. If you are interested, please send a short letter of interest and a resume (if available) to the address below.

NEW SCC CHAIRPERSON

The SCC Board of Directors has elected Ms. Lee Wiggins as its new chairperson as of 1 November 1989. Ms. Wiggins has been involved with the project since she proposed the inclusion in the Student Centre of a flexible student oriented childcare facility over two and a half years ago. As president of the Graduate Students Association, she has sat on the SCC Board since its inception in April 1988. As chairperson, Ms. Wiggins will oversee the activities of the SCC Board and its committees. She replaced Mr. Mourad Mardikian who resigned as chairperson for personal reasons in October.

STUDENT CENTRE CHILDCARE FACILITY

The Student Centre Childcare facility will provide flexible care for children of students and part-time educational workers. With space for 27 children, the facility represents a new direction for childcare in the province. In October the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced a minor capital grant to the Student Centre Childcare of \$55,000 — the largest possible grant in that category. This money will be used to purchase furniture and equipment for both the indoor space and rooftop terrace playground.

FUNDRAISING

The SCC, in cooperation with York University, has launched a fundraising campaign. To date, the SCC has approached various contractors and suppliers working on the project. Currently, the SCC is also seeking the support of the York community through donations to our plaque and pub chair programmes. In return for a tax deductible donation toward our fundraising campaign, the individual will be recognized within the building on a donor's wall. If you are interested in contributing to the Student Centre Campaign, please contact Marc Trumphour at the SCC office.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Student Centre project, please feel free to contact us:

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