OFS protests tuition hikes

TORONTO (CUP) -- Ontario student leaders have called a province wide half day moratorium on classes for Feb. 10 to protest against recently-increased tuition fees.

The moratorium will culminate a four-part publicity campaign aimed at students, the public, politicians and the media.

The action was approved Jan. 15 at an emergency meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) at the University of Toronto.

Student presidents from 13 of Ontario's 15 universities and from six community colleges voted in favor of fighting tuition hikes, announced by the provincial government in November, which would increase university fees by \$100 and those a community colleges by \$75.

"We have to act and we have to act not," said Gary Wells representing the University of Windsor where students voted 67 per cent in favor of a full day moratorium Jan. 11.

Wells' call was echoed by U of T Students Administrative Council (SAC) delegate and National Union of Students representative John Doherty who said, "The students across Ontario are against these tuition increases and they're waiting for us to provide leadership."

The emergency plenary was called after a Dec. 10 meeting with minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott, who told the student representatives the government's stand was inflexible despite the presentation of a 25,000 signature petition against the hikes.

Some of the delegates were reluctant to endorse the campaign which includes mass student meetings, soliciting support from labor, community and church groups plus letter-writing campaigns to politicians and newspapers.

Peter Corcoran, vice-president of the St. Michael's College student council, told the meeting working people out on the assembly lines think students go to college for two reasons: marijuana and sex.

"Let's show some financial responsibility and accept the \$100 increase but say 'That's it. It goes no further, we won't accept any additional increases."

While supportive of the campaign, U of T SAC commissioner Phil Ryan urged caution.

"I'm not sure we can afford to fail," he said reminding delegates that success depends on gaining support from the public.

Others were more adamnant calling on each institution to initiate referenda on the question.

"Why the hell should we accept the increase? Why should students in Ontario have the highest tuition fees in Canada?," questioned Rick Hoffman, Laurentian University student president.

Several delegates said a campaign concentrating solely on the fee hike could be misinterpreted by the public. But Hugh Christy, Queen's student vice-president and OFS executive member said the community campaign would succeed.

"It's blatantly obvious -- the poor support the universities with their tax dollars and they're not allowed in," he said.

If the campaign is successful student leaders hope to lobby the provincial legislature and have an effect on the next provincial election.

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Sodales debates

by Sheitagh Beal

Sodales will host its third annual tournament this upcoming weekend. Teams from all over the Atlantic provinces will be at Dal-

housie. On Saturday the debates are open to the public and are tentatively scheduled to be held at the SUB. All are welcome and invited to attend.

continued from page 5

matter. It should be noted that only one council member came forth and openly stated that, "We are the representatives of the students and that we are here to serve them." However the Evans-Evans combination quickly shunted him aside.

If this is with which council members occupy their minds during their tenure on the Student Council, we as the students should examine the candidates for office very

carefully in the upcoming elections. Are these the people we put in office to represent us and if so we should examine our values very carefully on the matter of elected representatives.

A Concerned Student.

Complaint

To the Gazette:

I would like to bring to attention the mismanagement of the Rebecca continued on page 7

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