

## Allocation of \$50-million has yet to be announced

By JAMES FLAGAL

A grant of \$50 million, labeled the University Excellence Fund, will be allocated to Ontario universities for the fiscal year of 1986-87.

Greg Sorbara, Minister of Colleges and Universities, made the announcement last Thursday. He said the grant was part of the government's commitment "to pursue excellence in our universities, enabling their revitalization."

According to the minister, "this amount is in addition to the basic increase in operating and capital funds for universities." Full details of university budget allocations will be made by Robert F. Nixon, in his forthcoming budget statement on Thursday, October 24.

The grant will be broken into three major funding areas: faculty renewal, research and leadership, and library enhancement and instructional equipment.

\$10 million was allocated to faculty renewal, to ensure that there is "a consistent flow of talented new faculty into the system." Although Sorbara said that opportunities for young scholars and teachers is bleak, he stressed the importance of faculty renewal to ensure high quality instruction in universities.

Another \$15 million went to the field of research leadership "to enhance the research resources of the universities of Ontario." He said the research is "increasingly important for the province's economic transformations and growth."

The final \$25 million was allocated to library enhancement and instructional equipment.

Sorbara said the condition of library collections and instructional equipment is so poor that it has damaged the quality of education in universities. The fund will attempt to bring library collections and laboratory, computing and instructional equipment up to date.

On Friday, in a meeting with the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), Sorbara did not elaborate on fund allocations.

According to Don Maller of the OFS, the announcement was a very pleasant surprise, because Ontario ranked ninth out of 10 across Canada in per student operating grants. But Maller also warned that this proposal could have "hidden dangers." After talking with the minister, Maller said that Sorbara had very little idea exactly how much each university would get.

Maller explained that the university system is at a pivotal stage where a two tier system could emerge. A system made up of "no name generic universities" and "elite high quality educational institutions" could result if government does not distribute funds evenly to universities.

Sorbara added though that he would consult with the Ontario Council on University Affairs for recommendations in allocations of the grant.

Last year \$1.1 billion was allocated to universities for capital and operation budgets by the Conservative provincial government. According to Sorbara, the University Excellence Fund will begin the end of a "decade of chronic underfunding."



MICHELE DAWSON

**SURFS UPI** The apple-bobbing contest is widely considered to be one of the few true challenges left to humankind. Here, Christine Bird (head submerged) was the winner at York's Carnival festivities last Saturday.

## OSAP delays caused by student errors and computer breakdowns: Ministry

By LAURA LUSH

Temporary breakdowns in new computer systems and student errors in application forms have resulted in a delay of processing OSAP forms after the July 1st deadline, said W. Clarkson, Director of Student Awards for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Clarkson sent a memo to all Financial Aid Administrators in the last week of September to explain that the "one to two week delay in the turnaround of OSAP applications" was chiefly the result of a new computer system that "bombed" at least once "on several weekly production runs. The new system improvement introduced by the Queen's Park Computing Centre, which serves all government departments, was implemented in July at the peak time for processing applications. Although Clarkson said that the Ministry is currently "pretty well caught up with the OSAP processing, he said there were still "some difficulties with the new computer system." Clarkson said the most recent computer difficulty affected 3,800 applications last week. "Things are not nearly as bad as everyone thinks," he said adding that 96,380 of the 107,877 OSAP forms

from the 17 institutions received to date have been processed.

During the peak period of OSAP processing in July and August, Clarkson said the Ministry processes anywhere from 4,000 to 9,000 applications weekly. OSAP applications are first sent to the Financial Aid office of each institution for editing purposes, then forwarded to the Ministry for assessment, and returned to the Financial Aid office for their final release to students.

Director of Financial Aid, Elizabeth Rudyk, said that it takes about six to eight weeks to process applications if the office receives the OSAP forms by the July 1st deadline. After July 1st, the process could take up to 10 weeks.

Although Clarkson said the number of OSAP applications in the province "is about the same as last year," the Ministry received the bulk of the applications in the first week of August, after the July 1st deadline of many of the institutions in the province. Adding to the large volume of applications which amounted at some weeks to almost 9,000 forms, Clarkson said the Ministry also had to deal with errors in student forms that the Financial Aid offices missed in the editing process. "Sometimes the Financial Aid offices miss these errors, so the whole process gets held up longer," Clarkson said.

Rudyk said that the Financial Aid Office received the majority of OSAP forms before the July 1 deadline because "students were aware of this date" from frequent notices from their office. Rudyk said that the main problem with delayed OSAP processing this year has to do with the "Ministry trying to accommodate all the late application forms at one time from all the universities in the provinces." Rudyk said that applications received by the July 1 deadline were processed in the usual six to eight week time period. "There were some unreasonable delays in late August where the Ministry delayed batches we sent out by about two weeks," she said.

While Rudyk agreed that the Ministry's difficulty with their new system delayed the processing "by a small amount," she said that the increase in OSAP applications this year added to the slow-down of some forms. Rudyk also added that Financial Aid Office's new on-line OSAP enquiry computer system installed in July will "increase efficiency of processing in the long-run."

Provost Tom Meininger said he has advised

the Office of Student Affairs to "stay on top of the Ministry to monitor the situation to urge as prompt an action as possible." He said provisions have been made for students who haven't received their assessments and are in urgent need of funds. "Students won't be unduly penalized for not paying academic fees by the deadline if the fault is with the Ministry," he added.

Meininger said that although the increased number of OSAP applications this year has put an extra strain on the Financial Aid Office they are still "in pretty good shape" because of their new on-line computer system. "To the best of my knowledge, there's no editing backlog here at York," he said. However, Meininger said there were still some delays at the Ministry with OSAP processing as of two weeks ago. He said only one student has come to him to complain about a delayed OSAP assessment.

Sandra Antoniani, Director of External Affairs, said that over half of the students who came to her OSAP Appeal Clinic between Sep-

tember 16 and October 1, complained of late OSAP assessments. All of these students handed in their OSAP forms after the July 1 deadline. She said she received about 35 people a day. "I am still getting telephone messages from students with problems in delayed assessments," she said. "Although students can defer tuition fees, they can't defer their rent or cost of living expenses," she added. Antoniani advises these students to go to the Financial Aid Office for emergency loans, and to seek other sources of funds, such as bursaries, although she said she spoke to a few students in an emergency situation. Antoniani is planning another clinic in a couple of weeks and in January.

Clarkson said that the Ministry hopes to review the OSAP processing system with the universities and colleges this Fall, adding that "all the bugs in the computer systems should be worked out shortly." Clarkson also said that students could help the system run smoother, by ensuring their forms are in before the deadline date, and that there are no errors.

## York administration backs woman's right to play on men's water polo team

By EDO VAN BELKOM

In recent years York University has become a leader in athletic competition and philosophy. Now it is inadvertently becoming a leader in the field of athletic human rights.

Kim Schweitzer, a fourth-year English major and member of the men's water polo team is making waves in the administrative structure of York University as well as the Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA). Her participation in several league games goes directly against an eligibility ruling handed down by the league's judiciary committee.

On Friday, October 18 the issue fell into the hands of Provost Tom Meininger. His office, along with the full support of the President of the university, decided that Schweitzer should

be able to play, for a number of reasons. She had made the team on her own merits, there is no women's water polo team at York, and she has the support of the Charter of Rights.

"We (the university) decided that this woman is eligible because of merit and we don't want to discriminate because of her sex," Meininger said.

On the very same morning the OUAA judiciary committee ruled that she was ineligible because of her sex. According to Jack Kennedy, the Secretary Treasurer of the OUAA, Schweitzer is ineligible because, "according to the rules and regulations, our competition (OUAA) is for male students and OWIAA represents competition for women's students." The

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