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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Gilmor report gets mixed reaction from student governments

By ZENA McBRIDE

The interim report on student government at York has met with mixed reactions from various sectors of the student community.

Highlights of the report include proposals to strengthen the Council of York's Student Federation (CYSF), and to allow undergraduates to choose between affiliation with a college government or with that of their faculty.

The report, prepared by Paul Gilmor, Provost of the University of Guelph, was commissioned by the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of York's Board of Governors (BOG) in February 1986 to study the goals, funding, and organization of student governments at York. This is the second draft of the paper; a preliminary draft was released in July 1986, to gauge the initial response of the York community to Gilmor's tentative proposals.

If Gilmor's recommendations are implemented by the University, the CYSF will become the representative body of all undergraduate students. At present, only 46 percent of the student population is represented by CYSF. Under Gilmor's proposal, affiliation with the CYSF would be mandatory, giving the Council full power as the central undergraduate government.

In addition, the Graduate Students Association (GSA) would continue to operate independently of the CYSF, to represent the concerns of Graduate students. Both the Environmental Studies Student Association (ESSA) and the Graduate Business Council (GBC would unite with the GSA, as associate organizations.

The Gilmor report also advocates that undergraduate students be granted three choices with regard to affiliation. Students could join either the College government of their preference, or the government of the Faculty they are registered with (providing it has a government). Their third option would be to coaffiliate with both a College and a Faculty government. This recommendation has prompted a great deal of protest from both the Colleges and the CYSF.

According to Arthur Haberman, Master of Founders College, "(There is a) tremendous dilemma in the issue of students choosing between the Colleges and the Faculties." His main concern is whether or not students will understand the complexities involved in choosing one form of representation over the other.

Gerard Blink, President of the CYSF agrees. "It will be insane," he said. "I don't know how it can work for a first-year student who doesn't know the structure of the University."

On the other hand, Tom Meininger, Provost of York, said that students entering York are already asked to make more complex choices, such as choosing courses and majors. In addition, he feels that the decision need not necessarily be forced upon first-year students; "variations are possible," he said, "(but) much depends on the respondents (to the report)."

While Haberman approves of Gilmor's proposals for a strong central undergraduate government and the independence of the GSA, he feels that an adversarial situation would be created between the Colleges and Faculties should students be permitted the choice of affiliation. As an alternative, Haberman proposes "there should be universal college membership with students transferring some of their fees to their faculty."

The Atkinson Council of Students Association (ACSA) is unimpressed with Gilmor's recommendations, which would render the college directly accountable to the CYSF. "The thesis to centralize means that 40 percent of York students would not have any form of representation," said Winston Charles, President of ACSA, explaining that the CYSF does all of its business, and holds all of its elections during the day, when most Atkinson students are at work and unable to participate. "Clearly, it is going to present a problem for us in terms of ability to maintain services offered to students," he added.

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York Provost's proposal garners few supporters

By LIZ REYES

Provost Tom Meininger's proposal of a Financial Liaison Office to serve as an advisory centre for student governments, has recieved opposition from the College Councils and other affected groups.

"The process which has been underway for three years will bring about an improvement in the financial accountability of student bodies," said Meininger.

However most of the College presidents are unanimous in their belief that they do not need additional financial advice and should not have to pay for a service which they believe is already provided by their private Chartered Accountants.

According to Meininger, in a Memorandum dated October 21, 1986 to Excalibur Business Manager Merle Menzies, "the office will have a Liaison Officer for financial affairs who will be based in the Office of Student Affairs. The Officer will oversee the design, implementation and maintenance of the financial systems and record-keeping of student governments and funded student-based services. The instituting of a Liaison Office will assure that the operation of all funded groups will meet the requirements of the University governing financial reporting and accountability."

The cost of the service, estimated to be \$15,000 a year, will be paid for primarily by the 17 student governments. Clubs and other campus groups will also contribute to the

Meininger said that the funding of the proposed service is subject to negotiation, but if implemented as



THE SNOWMAN COMETH: During the second major snowstorm of the season, three York students saw the perfect opportunity to present their own version of the literary classic. Shown here, left to right, Tod Reybrock, Lisa Rydyewski, Frosty Schwartz, and Mike Belvedere.

Committees formed at McLaughlin and Calumet

Search begins for new Masters

By GEORGE MATHEWSON

The search is on to find new Masters for two of York's Colleges.

George Doxey of McLaughlin and Eric Winter of Calumet finish their terms in June, and it is expected their successors will begin July 1.

Ruth Grogan, Chair of the Mc-Laughlin Search Committee, says her group will be "out beating the bushes" in the next few weeks looking for a new Master. So far no formal applications have been submitted, but several "suggestion/ nominations" have reached her desk. The deadline for applications is January 30, 1987.

Grogan said her committee is looking for someone with skill as an administrator, a good academic record, and the ability to "put ideas into action." Qualified applicants must be full-time tenured faculty members of York.

Besides being the spokesperson for the College, Grogan said, a Master should be able to pull together and focus the energies of students, the faculty and Fellows of the College. "But the job," she added, "is defined by the person."

Traditionally, Masters organize special activities that help define each College's own character. Professor Doxey, for example, facilitated discussions, lectures and conferences on Public Policy issues. Calumet, during the tenure of Winter, applied itself to the issues of

microcomputers and small business. Kathryn Koenig, Chair of the

Search Committee for Calumet, said that finding a new Master is "basically a question of the person and the College making a good fit." The Calumet Committee is in its early stages of organization. "We're only just beginning the search," she said.

One issue the new Master will inevitably face, Koenig added, "is whether Calumet will be a residential College or a non-residential College." Calumet is currently the only York College without its own building.

College Masters receive a stipend and a reduction in their academic workload. A set of guidelines entitled *The Role of a Master at York University* (which has yet to be approved by the President) suggests that the stipend be "on a par with that of the Dean of a Faculty." In addition, it suggests that a Master's teaching load be reduced by

Grogan said that one problem in finding a new Master for McLaughlin will be timing. She notes that many suitable candidates may be either unavailable at this time, or unwilling to commit themselves to a five year term.

Both the Calumet and McLaughlin Search Committees are comprised of a Chair, and one other person selected by the President of the University. In addition, two College Fellows, one student, one staff member and one member of the Council of Masters sit on the Committee. Once the Search Committees compile short lists of candidates they will be presented to the President who makes the final selections.

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David Parnas, a professor of computer science at Queen's, spoke at York last Friday about the impossibility of creating error-free software for the proposed Strategic Defence Initiative. Page 5

OPINION

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