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Committee report finds quality threatened

By Agnes Kruchio

The senate of York University should ask president Macdonald to make sure that academic programmes threatened by fiscal constraint do not go belly-up as a result of the looming cutbacks, according to a report to be debated today at 4:30.

The report, prepared by senate's academic policy and planning committee, (APPC) recommends that Glendon's programmes in the department of political science, sociology and french as a second language should be maintained.

The political science department at Glendon will lose a fifth of what the report calls its "teaching strength" and will have to reduce the number of courses it can offer students by a quarter if proposed cuts go through.

"Given the fact that a large proportion of Glendon's francophone population studies political science, the committee is

persuaded that the academic viability of the department and hence the college as a whole would be jeopardized if some relief is not given".

"In addition," the report continues, "the area of the understrength, international relations, is precisely where the main interest of francophone students lie".

In sociology two programme areas (social psychology and deviant behaviour) would have to be eliminated and the required course on methods of social research could not be given without eliminating some of the few courses offered in French.

"The latter circumstance would jeopardize Glendon's bilingual grant," the report cautions.

Senate should also request the president of the university to make sure that programmes in the faculty of arts devoted to linguistics, language studies, social science and humanities remain alive according to the report.

Under the proposed cuts, the faculty of arts would have to reduce its budget by about \$1,054,000 from a total of about \$16 million.

The faculty could not redesign course formats and transfer teachers into areas where they would be needed without "compromising the integrity of the programmes in the divisions" (such as social science and humanities), said the report.

Moreover many small departments, which are maintained by only one or two teaching staff, would have to be wiped out should the cuts go through as planned. The full cut would require departments such as political science, sociology, foreign literature, and the divisions of social science and humanities each to lose over a fifth of their teaching time, and other departments, such as English and anthropology up to one fifth of their teaching time.

The APPC further recommends that more administrative cuts be made, if possible. In its report the committee states,

"In some cases the cuts are so severe as to call their magnitude into question... The committee is convinced that the sheer size of the problem and the very potential for extensive damage to academic programmes requires that there be an examination of the administrative side of the university".

In making cuts to the administration budget, recruitment and admissions should have first priority, the committee recommends. The report briefly evaluates the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the faculties.

• Graduate studies

While at present there is a freeze on the amount of money the graduate faculty receives from the government, it needs more money to attract first class students. But while graduate programmes as a whole are "vulnerable", the report states, according to its dean, there will be no immediate academic consequence for the faculty.

• Environmental Studies

The cuts will prevent the faculty from developing the "design" area of its curriculum, the report states; they will make it difficult for the faculty to respond to the changing nature of its field. While academic programmes are not in immediate jeopardy APPC states, there is concern for the quality of the academic programmes, should further cuts be necessary in future years.

• Faculty of Administrative Studies

14 per cent of the courses offered by the administrative studies will be lost due to the cuts. Further, class sizes, which were large to begin with, will have to be expanded substantially "to the extent that increased enrolments would be virtually impossible without some sort of relief".

• Osgoode Hall Law School

Osgoode's faculty-student ratio has increased to the point that now it is the largest in the university and among leading law schools in the province as well. Cuts will further increase class sizes; while academic programmes are not seen to be threatened Osgoode's dean is worried about them should more cuts be made in the future.

• Atkinson College

Atkinson will eliminate 30 courses, even though the brunt of the cuts has fallen on the non-academic side of the college budget.

• Faculty of Fine Arts

The faculty will have to reduce its courses by 19 (7 per cent); increased classes (especially in visual arts) will reduce the quality of the programmes; Dance will have fewer teachers, hardest hit among them will be modern dance which will lose a third of its "strength" as well as some of the services of its pianist, 'The Performing Arts Series will be cancelled; the York Art Gallery will be closed (except for special events); support for York Winds will be "substantially reduced" (though private funds will be sought); and the McLaughlin

Orders are to cut \$1-million

Arts cuts: blow by blow

The cutbacks planned for York next year are obviously enormous. This report is to explain what they will mean for the choices facing individual students in the Faculty of Arts, and the quality of education we will receive.

To begin with:

- Student - Teacher ratios will skyrocket.
- Student - Teacher contact will be reduced.
- More lecture - only courses.
- Fewer seminar and tutorial courses.
- Some interdisciplinary programmes may be eliminated.
- Some language studies programmes will be crippled, if not wiped out.
- Enrolments may be restricted in high demand departments.
- Restrictions may be placed on the number of majors in some areas.
- Essay writing assistance at the Writing Workshop will be curtailed.
- The teaching of English as a second language will be eliminated.
- Directed reading courses will be difficult to get.
- 35 out of 180 college tutorials will be chopped.

mean the elimination of one-half of the 100 - level tutorials. Lecture sizes will swell to even larger numbers, and at least 10 upper level courses will no longer be offered. Considering the large contribution Humanities makes to the distinct character of academic life at York, such drastic cutbacks are extremely arbitrary and questionable.

Another area facing devastating reductions is Sociology. Large losses among part-timers and the release of three sessional faculty will decrease total teaching hours by 20%. The availability of fewer courses will be reflected by crowded tutorials. Popular 200 - level courses may have to limit enrolment to Sociology majors.

Similar effects will be felt in other Departments, especially Political Science, Foreign Literature and English.

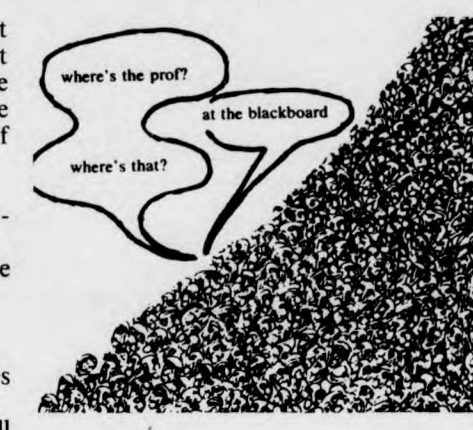
The York University calendar states: "York has striven to maintain the close faculty - student relationship and keen sense of academic excitement and excellence with which it was founded".

Teaching cutbacks now facing the Faculty of Arts, (and undoubtedly other Faculties as well) leave little question the Administration's budget policy is contrary to the goals set by York's founders. The enviable high standards of academic life at York must be protected. As students, we have the greatest stake in York University.

Let's begin by voicing our opposition to the proposed cutbacks - write President Macdonald. Demand that the President's budget reflect the interests of the York community as a whole.

If you would like to help fight the cutbacks, please contact Brad Valey, 667-6027, or leave a message at the Vanier Information Booth.

Stephen Durbin
Bess Jacob
Brad Valey
Students, Faculty of Arts



protected under YUFA contract will be insulated from the threat of lay-offs. Not so fortunate will be those departments which rely heavily on unprotected full-time and part - time faculty. Social Science, Humanities and Sociology are large Departments faced with the most severe cuts, and these areas will have serious problems.

Social Science would be forced to let go a large number of part-time faculty and possibly all its sessional lecturers. Fewer faculty translates into reductions in teaching hours. The teaching covered by the sessional lecturers alone represents 12 full-courses, or 10 per cent of the department's full-time teaching capability. A total of 450 teaching hours per week will be slashed by 135 hours per week, representing a disastrous 30 per cent decrease in total teaching hours. For the student, a 30 per cent cut in teaching time will mean fewer and therefore larger tutorials, less student - faculty contact, and significantly less choice in courses.

Cutbacks would hit hard in the Humanities Department. This area, surely a vital element in the makeup of academic life at York, will see its total teaching hours cut by 25 per cent. With part-time and sessional faculty being released, the lack of teaching staff will

President Macdonald has indicated the Faculty of Arts must implement a budget reduction for 78-79 of \$1.054 million. This figure represents 24 per cent of the total proposed academic budget cut of \$4.461 million. Resisting the President's proposal, the Faculty of Arts is prepared to consider a cut of \$750,000, protesting that even this lesser cut would seriously affect academic programs.

Three years of \$4-million deficits?

• continued from page one

The following facts and figures are drawn from the York Report Vol. 1, No. 3, Dec. 14, 1977 (yr) and a document dated the same day and entitled Budget Planning 1978-79 - Approach to Planning Targets (BP). Both are public documents available to the York community.

The major assumptions the administration makes are:

- 1) there will be an enrolment drop next year of only 2.5% or about 380 full-time equivalents (FTE's)
- 2) inflation will be 10.5%, or a decline of about \$1.3 million in purchasing dollars.
- 3) the salary settlements for all employees of York will average 4%.

My assumptions are:

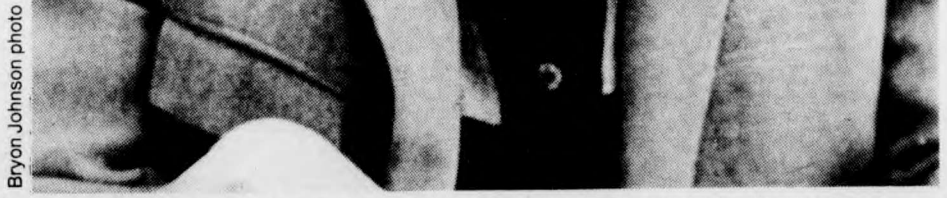
- 1) there will be a repeat next year of this year's enrolment pattern because according to YR p 2, in order to only drop 380 FTE's York would have to increase its first year undergraduate daytime enrolment by between 7.5% and 10%.
- 2) Inflation should also include \$162,000 to pay for increased telephone and utility costs which the university called "likely to occur", but failed to include.
- 3) and, finally, the unlikelihood that York's employees will settle for less than 8% while inflation is 9 or 10%.

Their figures for next year are as follows, (remember, all are estimates)

Ordinary Income	\$73,023,000	BP p2
Expenditure	\$77,243,000	YR p7 table 6
Shortfall	\$ 4,220,000	

My figures, subject to the assumptions I outlined, but drawn from their documents, are:

Ordinary Income	\$72,733,000	YR p7 table 7
Expenditure	\$79,465,000	YR p7 table 7, including inflation sum of assumption 2
Shortfall	\$ 6,732,000	



The facts and figures of this article have come from official publications of York, available to anyone. Due to the importance of the conclusions drawn Excalibur's Harvey Pinder spent one hour with David Atkinson (above), Executive Assistant to Dr. Bell, who is the Executive Vice-President of York University, verifying the figures and method of argument used. At the end of the discussion Atkinson said, "Based on the assumptions made in this article the conclusions drawn are entirely realistic."

"Crisis?" YUFA

What crisis?" - admin.

York University is in the throes of a serious crisis. The future of the university in an era of economic stagnation and sweeping cutbacks in public services is at stake.

The administration does not like the world 'crisis'. In a letter to YUFA several months ago, President Macdonald denied there was one, glibly commenting on "the need to adjust to new circumstances". More recently he has urged the desirability of maintaining "a balanced university which is capable of adjusting to the changing needs of society" in a period of continuing financial constraint.

The political context of the constraints was, of course, unspecified, and the goals advanced suitably platitudinous. This is the language of adaptation; the rhetoric of the planner who ultimately reduces issues to a matter of budgetary logistics while maintaining the illusion of reform.

It has long been clear that the parameters of the debate on York's plight have been narrowed. President Macdonald is not noted for his opposition to the province's economic or educational policy, so the restraints upon university funding appear as constants with which York has to contend. What is more, his obsession with balancing the books is as acute as D'Arcy McKeough's. In this situation, cutbacks become the 'rational' order of the day. While lip-service is paid to the "diversity of the decision-making process" and to fruitful co-operation within the York community, budgetary imperatives have already foreclosed any genuine debate.

The name of the game is meet budgetary targets and save what you can. Deans, divisions and departments are free to squabble over redeployment, and to salvage existing programmes, but the opportunity for a real discussion of university priorities has already passed by.

And what of the cutbacks themselves? To begin with they fall on the vulnerable. Article 24 of the YUFA contract protects its members; lay-offs among full-timers would force the administration to define the nature of the crisis.

So the part-timers get the boot, along with sessional appointments, in what is a flagrantly political operation. Many



700 plus used math centre in '77

• continued from page one

the university in that they replace expensive remedial math education courses.

The centre has also served as placement agency for students from the faculty of arts and Atkinson College who plan to take math courses at York. Over 700 students wrote the centre's math entrance exam last year.

According to Mayland, the success of the centre is difficult to assess. But in financial terms, if the Math Centre keeps

students from failing, it is earning the university money in terms of BIU's (basic income units or number of full-time course loads which are the basis of government funding).

One person pleased with the centre's performance is Dean of Atkinson College Margaret Knittel.

"I feel it's a valuable service. It's especially helpful for students who have been away from school for a number of years. It appears that a growing number of students are making use of the centre".