

Modes (ugh) dropped next year

The Faculty Council has decided to drop Modes as a compulsory course next fall.

Last Friday, after one and a half hours of heated debate, the Faculty Council ratified a revised first year program.

Dr. Conway, Master of Founders College, spoke strongly in support of the new program. Students will be required to choose one course in Humanities, Social Science and Natural Science, a special tutorial and as a fifth course, a second course in one of the major avenues or modes.

He emphasized that special tutorials, to be taught by College Fellows and professors, would help to break the grade school psychology which students invariably bring with them when they transfer into university. Dr. Conway stressed, however, that it would be "fatal if this tutorial were viewed as being less than any of the other four courses."

In the tutorials, to quote one staff member, students and professors will be able to do "their own thing."

One professor said the special tutorial would help to prevent York from becoming a mediocre university. He said that it is necessary to make students feel related. As it is, students generally feel bored with university life by

the time that Christmas arrives, he said.

Professor Hooker, a Modes lecturer, said that the teaching of the course would be on an overload basis. "So far as I can see, it will be difficult to man this course." He suggested that the handling of special tutorials by regular staff be regulated to one year periods only.

Serious doubts about the new program were raised by a number of professors. One irate staffer brought up the fact that there

is presently a shortage of funds and space.

By instituting a special tutorial in the first year it would be necessary to recruit Fellows from the outside since the ones presently on hand are inadequate to cope with the expected surge in the number of tutorials.

John Saywell, Dean of Arts and Science, indicated that the special tutorials would be small enough to facilitate an informal atmosphere in staff offices in most cases.

Student as propagandist

The schools' Liaison Committee of the Faculty Council is initiating a new program for attracting high-school students to York.

In the past, the program has included participation in University information nights at secondary schools, conducting guided tours of the campus, and special departmental programs for students interested in the particular field of study.

The new program involves the students of the university. The York Student Council through its academic commission will inform Metro high-schools that, if they desire, a York student will go their school to discuss informally the university, and university life in general.

The student-student relationship discussion, and dialogue will give the high-school student a university student's perspective of university, as well as the opportunity to discuss questions not arising in the more formal university information program.

If you are interested in participating in this program and representing the University to prospective York students, then please leave your name and phone number at the YSCS office (A-11, Temp. Office Bldg.), or phone 635-2515.

Gunther Sieburth

The following was written by a student of Prof. Sieburth, Howard Halpern (M11).

Professor Gunther Sieburth's class was cancelled on Monday. He used to teach Philosophy; ancient philosophy. But he hasn't been teaching since November, when he became ill.

The course was designed to offer three lectures per week, and no tutorials. He gave three tutorials a week.

Then his students asked him if

he could break the class down into smaller groups. He agreed.

He offered to convert the Friday lecture into a discussion group. And he offered to set up two similar groups at times that were convenient for his students.

In November, Professor Sieburth suffered personal problems and was replaced by Professor Stratton.

Professor Sieburth died suddenly last Saturday in Toronto General Hospital.

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Cross Canada Campus

Staff suspensions start student stand

CORNWALL, Ont.

Students and civil servants are joining hands to protest faculty dismissals at the Cornwall campus of the St. Lawrence College of Applied Arts and Technology.

About one quarter of the 290 students here vowed Jan. 8 to boycott classes in support of demands for an investigation of dismissals from the teaching staff.

And the Ontario Civil Service Association helped them out by calling for the resignation of college president R.C. Short.

The aroused students here charge the recent dismissal of English department chief Peter Kingston makes him the ninth teacher in 15 months to be fired or asked to resign.

Short disputes that figure — he says there have been only two dismissals in two years — but Grenville Jones, an education representative with the Civil Service Association, replied that "Mr. Short no longer enjoys the confidence of the faculty or the students."

Short said teachers seem satisfied despite no written job contracts, but Kingston said his dismissal Dec. 31 followed academic differences with the applied arts head, who he says required "personal loyalty."

CUS copouts confer on changes

WATERLOO

Results of a Christmas conference of some 60 students unhappy with the present direction of the Canadian Union of Students indicate there will be a move to change the national union from within at next fall's CUS conference.

The delegates met at Waterloo Lutheran University from Dec. 28 — 30 to discuss national student unionism. They decided a decentralized national student union based on a regional or provincial structure would best accommodate all universities.

Delegates came from 25 universities across Canada. Most had student council backing or were council members.

The 60 representatives discussed questions such as areas of student interest, education, services a national union could provide, how federal-provincial government structures affect a student union, and the role of local student governments.

Reports on services (such as life insurance and travel) and on education were discussed by the group but no conclusion was reached.

The students also grappled with the question of whether the national union should be political or apolitical — bringing charges from some that they were politically naive "to think a national union could be apolitical."

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