

# York faculty closer to contract settlement

by **MARK WRIGHT**  
**Y**ork's professors are one step closer to a contract settlement with the university.

York University Faculty Association (YUFA) members decided at a June 12 general membership meeting to accept the university's contract proposals for a ratification vote if the university could clarify a number of areas of concern, said YUFA negotiation committee chairperson Kevin Jones.

"The membership was concerned about some of the language being used in the agreement and they wanted it cleared up before a ratification meeting would be called," Jones said.

The "clarification" meeting between YUFA and the university took place on June 16 and according to Jones, "Everything at the present moment has been approved. We expect that a ratification vote will take place later in the month."

Paula O'Reilly, co-chairperson for the administration's negotiation committee, chose not to speculate on whether or not YUFA's members would accept the agreement, but said, "I hope we have been successful."

YUFA's negotiation committee reached a tentative contract agreement with the university on May 9. The union has been without a contract since April 30.

# Prof shortage projected for '90s

by **ELAN KATTSIR**  
**T**he demand for university professors throughout North America will considerably exceed the supply, especially during the latter half of the 1990s, warns the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in a recent report.

Assuming a 25 to 30 per cent retirement rate and a 5 per cent mortality rate during the next decade, a third of current Canadian faculty members will need to be replaced, states the report. Only 7,500 new PhDs will be avail-

able to fill the 16,000 vacated positions.

The primary cause for the future shortage is the university professorate's skewed age structure.

"As a result of the dramatic increase in the number of university professors [hired] during the 1960s and early 1970s, the age structure of the Canadian professorate has assumed pronounced and unusual characteristics. The vast majority of full-time teachers is concentrated in a relatively narrow age cohort: in 1985-86... a total of some 55 per cent of full-time university teachers were in the 40-54 age group," states the report.

Approximately 60 per cent of York's full-time faculty was in this age group in 1986.

York will certainly be affected by the decrease in faculty supply, says Paula O'Reilly, director of York's Academic Staff Relations, but the exact impact is unknown.

The 1987 Flexible Retirement agreement between the administration and the York University Faculty Association, which allows faculty members to retire early as well as allowing them to continue until the age of 71, should ease and delay the "bump" older institutions, such as U of T, have already experienced, says O'Reilly.

# Provincial grant to help disabled students

by **NANCY PHILLIPS**  
**Y**ork University will receive \$407,000 from the provincial government to improve services for students with disabilities.

Minister of Colleges and Universities Lyn McLeod announced on June 6 that over \$4 million will be given to universities across the province because "Our post-secondary institutions must develop an environment which

welcomes all and provides the necessary support."

York's provost Tom Meininger said the money will be used to pay for equipment and technology — such as braille printers, tactile maps and voice synthesizers — as well as for staffing and overhead, orientation programs, professional development and periodic consultations with outside specialists.

Co-ordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities Ilanna Yuditsky said, "My hope is that York will utilize the money for both the main campus and Glendon." She said that her department, which helps about 100 students, is badly in need of clerical staff and spare wheelchairs. "We don't have a proper wheelchair on campus," she said.

"We need to be more progressive in terms of our project and

programming developments," she added.

Co-ordinator of the Learning Disabilities Program Mark Wilchesky explained that his department is "on a grant from the Counselling Foundation of Canada. All of our money comes from them. We get no operational funds from the university."

Wilchesky said that this grant runs out in 1991, and "We have to figure out ways of continuing this program." He hopes the provincial grant will help pay salaries, and help to continue the program.

The Learning Disabilities Program has five staff members and serves about 130 students.

# Prof to study feminist courses

by **BOB SHAIRULLA**  
**P**rofessor Linda Briskin of the Social Sciences department has been granted \$2,400 by the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning in order to conduct a study of feminist pedagogy in women's studies courses at York.

The research will "highlight classroom practices from a feminist perspective," explained Briskin. Considerations such as testing procedures, gender and race power relations, as well as general classroom interaction between professors and students, and among students themselves, will be examined.

The premise of the study is that men and women experience the classroom differently, women

sometimes being at a disadvantage. In women's studies courses, however, this problem appears to be corrected — or so Briskin wishes to ascertain.

"I want to look, not at the conventional teaching practices but at the teaching practices in women's studies courses that tend to work better for women, and to document those practices."

Once she has learned exactly what is special about women's studies courses, Briskin hopes to promote awareness of positive teaching practices by organizing meetings or conferences on campus "where professors and students can discuss what works for them in terms of teaching style and classroom interaction."

The results of the research will hopefully contribute to a beneficial dialogue on better approaches to teaching. By understanding the dynamics of classroom interaction in women's studies courses, "we can then share what's good about those courses with other courses."

Briskin's work, along with the efforts of the newly created Centre for the Support of Teaching, aims at improving the classroom experience for all York students.

# Stars after Dave

**T**he Minnesota North Stars has offered York men's athletic co-ordinator Dave Chambers a contract for the position of assistant coach.

Chambers has arranged for a two-year leave of absence from his position but "has not made a final decision on the offer."

He was the head coach of the 1988 world champion Canadian Junior Hockey Team. He will be replaced by Graham Wise, who was York's hockey coach.

Chambers will go to Minnesota on Wednesday June 21 to deliver his decision.

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