

Where the student council's money goes

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN

Each year at this time, critics like to point out (with disapproval) that much of the student federation's budget is devoted to "administrative" costs such as salaries and office expenses. The 1973-74 budget totals \$95,000, of which about one-third (\$36,000) is allocated for what might be termed "administration"; over a third (\$40,000) for "services"; \$10,000 for repayment of a debt to the university, and \$10,000 for summer (1974) operations.

I would like to spend most of this column discussing the "administrative section of the budget, so I will comment briefly on the others.

The debt to the university was incurred two years ago and now stands at \$27,000, to be repaid on the basis of at least \$9,000 each year. This is obviously a fixed item. The federation receives its annual operating grant from the university in three instalments (in October, January and February). Since the new council takes office (and the fiscal year begins) in April, \$10,000 has been allocated to ensure that next year's council has sufficient operating funds until it receives the first instalment from the university in October.

The council subsidizes various central stu-

dent services: Excalibur (\$13,500), Radio York (\$5,000), Harbinger student clinic (\$5,000), Daycare centre (\$2,000), and student clubs (\$2,500). Departmental student associations have been allocated \$1,800, and a course evaluation programme is being planned (\$4,000). Finally, \$3,000 has been budgeted for social affairs (specifically a winter carnival). Under the federal system which operates at York, of course, responsibility for social events rests with the college councils.

Salaries clearly fall into the "administrative" section, and account for \$20,700 (including university and government-required fringe benefits). The president receives an annual salary of \$5,000. The business administrator receives \$8,350 and the secretary, \$5,275. A figure of \$875 has been budgeted for part-time salaries, to cover an honorarium for the chairman of council (who is not an elected member), and remuneration for councillors who undertake specific projects for the council (e.g., the member of the executive responsible for the course evaluation programme.)

The business administrator is the chief budget officer of the council, and is responsible for day-to-day business matters. He maintains the financial records of the coun-

cil, supervises the council's coffee shop, manages the charter flight service, issues international student cards, co-ordinates the car pool service, and operates the temporary employment service. He also provides the council with the stability of a continuing civil service.

The president, as chief executive officer, is responsible for overall council operations. He schedules business for council and committee meetings, and is responsible for following up and executing council decisions. He maintains a liaison between the council and the university, college councils, other student groups on campus, and other university student councils.

The president is a member of the university Senate, two faculty councils and their committees, as well as numerous university committees. As at most universities, the president is a full-time officer, which enables him to devote the necessary time to prepare for meetings, and to participate effectively in planning policy for the university.

Thus, the president receives a salary not just for being chief executive officer of the council (which is not, in itself, a full-time position), but also as the senior student "representative". His participation in un-

iversity decision-making is a vital and time-consuming aspect of his job.

Office expenses (at \$8,200) cannot be classified as clearly as salaries: stationery and supplies (\$1,200), duplicating (\$2,800), telephone (\$2,500), and postage (\$1,500) are administrative costs which are fixed to a certain extent. It must be remembered, however, that the council provides free duplicating in lieu of cash grants for some clubs, and offers free telephones in the "George" coffee shop, the council office, and the club rooms. These "service" expenses have not been isolated from the council's own "administrative" expenses.

Elections (\$1,000), and legal and audit (\$1,200) are other fixed administrative costs. An allocation of \$2,000 will cover renovation and expansion of the coffee shop (required by the over-crowded central square facilities) as well as expenses incurred in the possible move of the council's offices to a more central location.

This leaves the \$3,000 which has been allocated to External Affairs (membership fees to the Ontario Federation of Students and conference expenses). I will consider this item next week in a broader discussion of the council's external policy as a whole.

Winnie the Pooh not mentioned

Professor refuses to discuss council salaries

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Realizing that Excalibur readers are tired of articles about the salaries of student politicians, we decided this week to invite Professor Ivor E. Tauer of the English department to our office for an informal chat.

Prof. Tauer chose as his topic the salaries of student politicians, and began the discussion innocuously enough by arguing that the position of president of the York Student Federation should be unpaid.

"Why," we asked, "would you suggest such a radical and obviously controversial move?"

Prof. Tauer, obviously prepared for such a devious line of questioning, drew from his vest a sheaf of yellowed documents.

"Last year, the president received a salary of \$4,000 for the year," he said. "This year, he has increased the salary to \$5,000. Since less than 10 per cent of the student population voted for him, and since he receives roughly 50 cents from each of 10,000 undergraduates, it would be interesting to see why he deserves it."

"Ah," said we, leaping to president Mike Mouritsen's defence. "He participates on various committees, is a member of Senate, and sits in on numerous councils."

"Yes, but he did all that last year for free, because he is a Born Student Politician," mumbled Prof. Tauer through his pipe. "But what is he doing now to earn his \$5,000?"

"He is handling the council business, and attending council meetings," we countered. "He has an eye on student affairs."

"Agreed," said the professor. "But the college council presidents do that and they do not receive a cent."

"Mouritsen and others would run for presidential office even if it offered no financial reward. Why should we pay him more than, say, a \$600 honorarium to cover his tuition?"

"He is a Good Man," we replied, "and sits in the office to receive callers and handle administrative affairs."

"But he has a highly competent secretary to handle this, who is working full-time and receives only \$275 more than the president. Why should this be? He is a student interested in politics, not a Corporate Executive."

"Are you out to get Mouritsen?" we asked, recoiling in horror.

"Not at all," said the learned gentleman. "This is not a personal attack. I simply question the nature of the position itself."

We ushered Prof. Tauer to his ninth floor office, and returned to check our back files. We discovered that the original CYSF was intended as an informal association where college council presidents could meet to discuss common problems.

The federation was later formed to look after Radio York and Excalibur. Nobody quite remembers how the federation evolved into a central body with a paid president.

"Without wishing to cause a stir," said Professor Tauer, sticking his head in through a ventilation screen, "may I humbly suggest that for \$5,000, you try to remember?"



Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request.

Try converting Uncle Ben's rice not students

To begin with, I am quite tired of all the good souls walking around here spending their waking hours trying to convert everyone to their respective religions.

If they really want to convert something, why don't they try Uncle Ben's rice? Now then, about the display of these charming posters, "You don't have to be Jewish to know Jesus but it couldn't hurt." First off I've never met the man. I've been invited to his place many times for aperitifs, but I couldn't afford the bus fare. His father and I get along splendidly, but then again he's hard to talk to as he's usually out for lunch. Why, the last time I dropped in on the heavenly host, they were all playing "Let's Make A Deal". I might add that the grand prize (behind curtain #3) was a one week, all expense paid trip to Florida and the winner gets to be G-O-D-for-a-day.

However, back to the main issue: do you see us walking around trying to circumcise everybody? I can see it now, next week we'll put up posters reading, "You don't need OHIP to be Jewish, but by God it may smart."

Ominus Sanctum Ectum Spiri,
FRANK REX BOWES

Inconsiderate people rip off posted bulletins

This is to notify all lazy, inconsiderate people who rip off Daily Bulletins from the Bulletin and Information Boards, that this is a paid service for the York community by the York community.

If you would like to have bulletins, they can be obtained at the college offices, the C.Y.S.F. office, the York Information booth in Central Square near the post office, Osgoode Hall library, Steacie Science Library and Scott Library. Furthermore, Excalibur publishes the main events that take place during the week

ahead.

Hoping that your cooperation in this matter will be one of good faith. It would be greatly appreciated.

A. OMAR,
Bethune College

No approval of blanket veto says Walter B. Carter

In the October 4 edition of Excalibur Mr. Mouritsen says that I nodded in approval when Prof. Polka made his comments in the Senate. I did not at that time, nor do I now, approve of a blanket veto of the people on the Presidential list. Such action is open to each person to take, but it would mean that if the voter knows people on the list could do the job and still vetoed them, then that voter would be doing the equivalent of lying. That I refuse to do on this, or any other occasion. I will consider each person on his, or her, merits and vote accordingly.

WALTER B. CARTER

Superintendents thank grads for consideration

Now that we have become established in the new Atkinson Residence and are once again facing all the problems that the Superintendent of a new building runs into, Mary and I would like to express our appreciation to the residents of Graduate Residence #4 for your kindness and cooperation over the past year that we looked after your building.

Without your patience and understanding throughout the many problems that plagued the building during its first months of operation, that original chaos might still exist. For those of you who have moved with us into the Atkinson Residence, we trust that you can help develop the same kind of good feeling that now exists throughout Grad. Res. #4.

Once again, thank you everyone for a fine year.

LES and MARY TARRANT