

Board Rep Report

Since the end of the year is fast approaching and the last Board meeting that most of you will be around for is over I consider this the best time to provide you with my year end report.

University Money

Budgets and their effects on the University are probably the most important activity of the Board. Last May the Governors passed the '79-'80 Budget with about 45 minutes discussion. I was glad to see that they spent two whole meetings on the budget this year.

Extensive consultation was carried on within the University including a submission to the Board from the Faculty Association (YUFA) and two from the Student Federation. The President also held an open meeting of his policy committee where numerous student and union representatives pressed for lower tuition.

The result was a 13 per cent increase in tuition for next year which is not great, but is better than the possible 18 per cent. The Board also enacted a "no-cut" budget for 1980-81, from existing campaign funds and allowed for a 1.2 million dollar deficit. Altogether this is a considerable improvement over the recent series of massive cuts in the University's budget. Let's hope they keep it up.

President Macdonald also took a strong stand against the Government calling on them to freeze tuition until an accessibility study is completed, improve OSAP and to have a public debate on the direction of education. This position was endorsed by the Board and while it is not as strong a position as I would like to see, it is nonetheless a stronger and more public position than any other university has taken this spring. If it is backed up by some strong lobbying by Macdonald and the Board members it will be a great assistance in getting better funding for the Ontario Education System.

On the bleak side, the Board has still not begun its long heralded fundraising campaign. There seem to be an endless stream of reasons for not doing this and the earliest it is likely to happen now is next fall.

Student Money

At my first meeting last May the Finance Committee of the Board attempted to take \$30,000 off the increase in student government grants. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee which after some discussion allowed observers from student governments. This was the first time the Executive allowed observers and eventually we were able to keep the thirty thousand dollars for student governments.

The issue of who should control student money is an ongoing one however. I have received unanimous support from student governments for amendments to the Board of Governors' policies which would give us (students) control over our own money. The matter is currently before the Board Student Relations Committee and will probably be resolved sometime over the next few months.

Board Membership

Currently the Board has an Acting Chairman, John Proctor, and apparently will continue to do so until the end of his term on the Board which is in June of this year. Mr. Proctor took the position when Mr. Gerstein resigned rather unexpectedly last June. The reason for such a long delay in appointing a permanent Chairman is unclear. Perhaps nobody is interested or perhaps it is because the Chairman of the Nominating Committee Mr. Bennett is, as Mr. Proctor reported at one meeting, "very busy running Ford Motor Company."

Similarly there are about six vacancies for external membership on the Board (people from outside the University). Some current members of the Board don't seem to be too enthusiastic either. Mel Lastman, Mayor of North York seldom comes and I have never seen John Turner at a meeting.

The By-Laws Committee of the Board has effectively quashed our attempt to get wider student representation by having student members from Glendon and Atkinson. The same committee also rejected any special provision for student and Faculty membership on the Executive Committee.

Proper Conduct of Board Members

I have received considerable pressure for an alleged breach of confidentiality this year. As you may remember the Faculty Association (YUFA) took the Board for improperly appointing a Professor, earlier this year. The qualifications of the Professor were never in question but only the method by which the appointment was made.

An affidavit concerning the conduct of the meeting at which the appointment was made was used in the court case by the Faculty Association. I swore that affidavit because in my opinion the matters were open information. Other members of the Board differed with my opinion and hence the controversy. The matter is too complex to explain clearly here but I am always available to discuss it with anyone who is interested. One good result of the matter was that the Board enacted a more rigorous set of rules of order which it badly needed.

Unions and Settlements

You may have noticed that there were no strikes this year. In part at least this has been due to a lot of very effective lobbying by various groups on campus. The Board has heard submissions from both YUFA and the Graduate Assistants (GAA) this year which may have helped avert strikes. There is talk of creating some sort of labour or union relations committee of the Board to help facilitate these discussions in the future.

New Student Rep

Malcolm Montgomery has been elected as the new student rep on the Board. Malcolm has been a very effective Chairperson of the Student Senate Caucus over the last year and I'm looking forward to working with him on the Board.

The BOG Reps and Student Senators hope to have an office in Bethune next year so that you will be able to reach us directly.

See You in September

Good luck with the last minute crush of essays and your exams. For those of you who will be graduating — congratulations. And for those of you who'll be back next year you can continue to contact me in the Student Federation office Room 105 Central Square (phone 667-2515). I'll be around this summer watching out for strikes and such.

Peter Brickwood

Editorial

There is much doom and gloom in the air concerning post-secondary education in Ontario. While many fear that the provincial government's policies will have harmful effects on universities, we shouldn't let this overshadow the fact that students can influence policy determining the future of our schools.

Take a look at what's happened at York recently. Student politicians showed that they are capable of articulating thoughtful and persuasive arguments on behalf of their constituents. CYSF President Keith Smockum and Vice-President for External Affairs Barb Taylor have spoken at length with members of the administration and before the Board of Governors on what they perceive will be the negative impact of higher tuition on next year's enrolment. Both demonstrated real concern and preparedness to discuss the issue.

In response, the administration appeared more open and receptive to their arguments and invited students to participate in the March policy meeting. The students' presentations certainly played some part in the final decision not to increase tuition by the full amount—which has been done at many other schools in the province.



On another front, students made headway recently by opening up the debate over how much the administration should charge student-run pubs and coffee shops to operate on campus. The Food Services Committee—the handmaiden of Food and Beverage Manager Norman Crandles—looked like it was quietly pushing through a recommendation to increase the surcharge without adequately consulting all parties concerned. But students Tom Legge and Brad Vary pushed for more community access into the discussion and presented an intelligent analysis of the major budgetary figures surrounding the issue (see page 7). A significant step

when you consider how cynical the attitude toward dealing with Food Services Committee is.

Finally, last December, President Macdonald announced that the university would purchase a new \$400,000 computing system to double the computing capacity available for teaching and research. This followed urgent requests by students and professors for improved facilities in the Computer Science Department. Wayne Shannon, a computer science student, set up the York Computer Users Group, which prepared a formal report and issued it to the President.

Not all news is bad news, after all.

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