

# Ontario report calls for \$1,000-plus tuitions

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

A report of the Special Program Review committee told the Ontario government last week to increase tuition fees for entrance to Ontario universities by 65 per cent, while at the same time substantially reduce student loans.

The alternative to the tuition increase, which the committee envisions taking place within the next three years, would be to reduce the universities' and colleges' teaching staff by 4,000.

In all, the 402 page report makes 184 recommendations for cutbacks, cancellations and postponements in various areas of public expenditure, including universities and colleges, health care and the civil service.

The report was presented to the

Treasury Board last Thursday by the six-member committee which included former Auditor-General Maxwell Henderson and was chaired by Darcy McKeough, the current Ontario treasurer.

If all the recommendations were followed, Ontario would stand to save \$1.6 billion dollars within the next two years.

The move to increase tuition fees is in response to the frozen government ceilings on education spending. The report recommends that the level of university funds for operating costs be reduced by 12 per cent and that provincial funds for community colleges be increased by 18 per cent.

An increase of 65 per cent for tuition fees is the minimum level needed to maintain current

operating costs for universities.

The tuition hike, if implemented by the government, means York students will be paying \$990 in three years for tuition fees. This projected amount does not include student service fees or any interim fee structure changes.

The report envisions the increase saving the provincial government upwards of \$80 million by the end of three years.

"If some of the colleges or universities are reluctant to increase tuition fees", the report suggests a 24 per cent cutback in teaching staff for all universities and colleges in Ontario. This would increase the full-time student: staff ratio from approximately 13:1 to 16:1.

Another notable recommendation of the report is the reduction in student grants from the present \$3,200 to \$2,200 and an increase in the loan portion from \$800 to \$1,800. This measure would reduce the provincial budget by approximately \$40 million in 1976-77, the report claims.

Among some of the other recommendations concerning post-secondary education brought forth by the committee, were:

- cancellation of all proposed graduate programmes for all universities
- the right for universities either collectively or independently to determine fee structures
- dissolution of all general interest courses at community colleges
- to discourage the practice of using

academic achievement as a job screening mechanism

• the establishment of a bursary programme to remove barriers for outstanding students from low-income families

• to encourage the community colleges to consider shortening certain courses and programmes of study

• the assimilation of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities into the Ministry of Education.

The far-reaching report drew favourable comments from the press in Toronto, but some unfavourable ones from university educators. See page two for York comments and page nine for more on the report of the Special Program Review.

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## Four colleges begin their secession study

By PAUL STUART

Four college council heads met last Wednesday, to examine the pros and cons of an alternative student government structure to CYSF.

The four, Kelly Allen, president of the Winter's College council, MacLaughlin council chairman Paul Bushell, Kevin Smith, chairman of the Vanier council and Izidore Mussallam, Founder's council president, all claimed to have no desire to stage an immediate secession from CYSF and that they were conducting a purely exploratory examination.

Last week Mussallam told Excalibur that he was prepared to "carry this thing through to the end" and that "all of us have the same opinion".

The council heads met Wednesday, to allocate responsibilities in their examination of CYSF which was quickly done; they then spent the better part of an hour arguing with CYSF president Dale Ritch about the feasibility of their examination, and the formation of a possible alternative council to CYSF.

Ritch viewed the move as openly secessionary and said he regarded it as "a serious enough threat to throw everything I've got into the struggle to stop it."

The four council heads denied that they had decided in favour of secession.

"We're not four reactionary jerks sitting here," said Smith. "We're going to do this logically and methodically. We're aware that you can't take 10 years under a student government structure and just rip it apart."

The four council heads said there was no significant secessionary sentiment among rank and file college council members, but that their councils supported an examination of alternatives to the present CYSF structure.

"I don't see why anyone would object to an evaluation of the pros and cons of the CYSF," said Allen.

Allen claimed that the council heads were conducting their examination in response to widespread "dissatisfaction with CYSF."

He said he did not believe that this dissatisfaction with CYSF was directed exclusively at this year's left-wing council. "There's been dissatisfaction with CYSF since I

came to York two years ago," he remarked.

The breakdown of responsibilities in the joint college effort, was split four ways. Allen and Winter's council, will be examining the feasibility of the four councils pulling out of CYSF and attempting to construct a new central student government. If Allen decides this joint move is not feasible, then it will be dropped.

"But individual councils may continue the examination on their own," said Bushell.

The substance of the sometimes heated discussion with Ritch, concerned the ability of the colleges to co-operate as a viable alternative to CYSF. Ritch claimed that the colleges were too competitive to work together over a long period.

Allen took a different view. "There is competition between the colleges but it isn't cut-throat

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Approximately 800 demonstrators gathered in a parking lot near the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls on Sunday to protest the U.N. resolution classifying Zionism as racism. Story on page 11.

## Council battles York over \$5,000

By JULIAN BELTRAME

Assistant vice-president for student services John Becker came under fire last week from Glendon

council president Michael Drache for withholding \$5,000 in student fees traditionally earmarked for the council.

Drache, in an opinion piece published in Pro Tem, the Glendon college paper, accused Becker of "stealing" council funds for university use and chastised the assistant vice-president for offering to give the council \$2,000 of the money to offset any "severe" budgetary problems.

"This is equivalent to a burglar coming into your house, stealing all your possessions and then offering to give you back less than half of your things, provided you keep quiet," wrote Drache.

The \$5,000 entered a state of limbo this year when a 1972 referendum, increasing Glendon tuition fees by \$4 per student, expired for the 1975-76 year. Although the referendum was no longer in force, Glendon tuition fees were not lowered.

Becker told Excalibur, Tuesday, that while he could not explain why tuition fees were not lowered at Glendon this year, neither could he see that the student union had any right to the money.

In a letter to Drache, dated November 21, Becker explained: "No referendum ever established that 'fee' to apply in 1975-76. The fact that the Council never requested it and the fact that the Board of Governors never approved it are two very good reasons for the Council to not expect getting it."

Becker said that he had written to

the council and the principal of Glendon informing them of the termination of the referendum fee beginning January 25, 1974 but had not received a reply from the council until after its November 11, 1975 meeting.

Becker confirmed Tuesday that he had offered to give the student union \$2,000 because of the problems the union faced.

"I haven't yet heard any arguments as to why the Glendon student union fee should be any higher than that of this campus," said Becker. (Students at the main campus pay \$27 in student fees, and for the past three years the fee for Glendon students has been \$30.)

CYSF president Dale Ritch agreed with Drache that the money should either be returned to the students or given to the student union.

"The fact that Becker decided to share the money indicates that he isn't too sure of his position," said Ritch. "He is making a blatant attempt to steal the money away."

Ritch added that the Drache-Becker dispute proved that none of the councils could trust the university to hand over the council fees every year.

"I would like to see the CYSF sign a legally binding contract with the university as a way of guaranteeing a yearly transfer of funds," said Ritch.

Becker maintained that, while no final decision had been made regarding the \$5,000, nevertheless, "all moneys charged for tuition belong to the corporation of the university."

## Student mugged at York

By OAKLAND ROSS

A York student was attacked and beaten by five youths armed with clubs near the physical plant complex last Wednesday evening.

Robin Eaglesham, a Winters history student, was out jogging when the incident occurred. He managed to escape his assailants and was later taken to the York-Finch hospital where stitches were required to close a cut to his forehead.

Three of the five attackers were subsequently captured by Metro police in the Black Creek ravine west of the university. The eldest was 17. Charges have been laid.

Eaglesham told Excalibur a blue van pulled up beside him as he was jogging home to Winters College. The driver rolled down his window and asked him the time.

"Before I knew it," Eaglesham said, "the door of the van slid open and I was being clubbed across the neck and on the head. They knocked me down and started kicking me. They were a bunch of drunk kids."

York security was notified of the incident and a call went out to campus pub managers to be on the look-out for the five youths.

Later Wednesday evening, a Winters student noticed five youths, who answered the

description Eaglesham had given, hanging about in College Complex I.

"I asked them for I.D.," said the student. "They didn't have any, so I asked them to leave."

The student along with a Cock and Bull employee, followed the youths around the campus to the Black Creek ravine and then flagged down a police cruiser on Shoreham Dr. Additional police were called and three of the youths were subsequently cornered and captured.

This week, York security services director George Dunn commended the action of the two students. He cautioned, however, that incidents of assault and vandalism are on the upswing at York this year.

"There has to be a lot more co-operation from York residents to solve these problems," he said.

The student along with several others, is currently arranging a meeting with assistant vice-president for student services John Becker to discuss tightening up security at York. He is also calling for the university to impose academic penalties on students involved in criminal behaviour on campus.