

Double Cohort to hardly affect PSE enrolment

By LIDIA CABRAL

According to surveys conducted by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU), post-secondary institutions will not experience a dramatic increase in enrolment next year as a result of students "fast-tracking" through the high school system.

"Fast-tracking" is the term MCU gives to those students who complete their high school education in four years instead of five. Over the past few years, the Ministry of Education and MCU have been preparing high school students for the elimination of grade 13 diplomas which will come into effect in 1989. As a result, students will be able to enter university after obtaining a grade 12 diploma.

But as Heleena Moncrieff, press secretary for MCU pointed out, the new system will not bring about the total elimination of the five-year high school system. Instead, students will be given the opportunity to complete their high school education in four years.

University relations branch officer Allison Hagarty is presently chairing a steering committee which is surveying students to see what their intentions are under the new system. "Double Cohort," as the new system is labeled, is basically the merging of grades 12 and 13 into one year.

The first cohort, said Hagarty, consists of those students now in grade 12. According to Hagarty, 11.5% of current grade 12 students surveyed, said they plan to complete their diploma in four years. The second cohort is those students now in grade 11, and 7.9% of those surveyed said they would finish high school in four years as well.

From these results, Hagarty noted, "the increase in demand for university space in September of 1988 (over and above the normal levels of applications in a given year) would be somewhere in the region of about 600 bodies, which is about 1.8% increase in demand."

Hagarty explained that even

though the Ministry of Education will stop issuing grade 13 diplomas next year, students still find it difficult to complete their required 30 Ontario Academic Credits in the span of four years. Consequently, Hagarty said, students will slowly filter into the post-secondary education system over the next few years, because students "are tending to take a little more time in completing high school."

To meet this increase in demand, Moncrieff said, MCU initiated an accessibility fund in last year's post-secondary education budget. The fund will essentially meet an increase in enrolment in any institution, so long as it surpasses a 3% increase.

Winters prez to stress unity

By PIERRE IMLAY

Wendy Dingman became President of the Winters College Council following a landslide victory in elections held on November 6.

The former Commuter Students Representative for Winters Council won 63 of the 84 ballots cast as she coasted to an easy victory over runner-up Phillip Watkinson. Watkinson, a newcomer on the political scene at Winters College, later accepted a position on the college's Social and Cultural Committee. Dingman and Watkinson were the only people running for presidency.

"My mandate is pulling everybody together and create a stronger leadership," said Dingman over the telephone. That kind of leadership is what Dingman will need to battle the proposed plan by the university

administration to create Faculty governments under the guidelines of the Hare and Gilmor reports. If the administration accepts the proposal, the existence of college governments would be in jeopardy, she added.

One of Dingman's first tasks will be to talk to other college council Presidents in order to organize opposition to the plan. "We hope we can convince the administration that college government is where it's at," she said.

According to Dingman, abolishing college governments would alienate students by destroying the feeling of belonging to a smaller and more personal group of people. She feels that the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) should be made stronger, but not at the expense of the colleges. She added

that both the CYSF and college governments should supplement each other.

Dingman, the first mature student to win the college's presidency, takes over from Kelly Ramsay. Ramsay, now treasurer, temporarily occupied the seat after the resignation of President Gary Tarquini on October 22. Tarquini's resignation occurred after he dropped out of the university due to financial problems.

In other election results, Steve Trotter was elected as the new Commuter Students' Representative for Winters Council and Debbie Lacey was elected as the Chief Returning Officer for the CYSF.

Approximately 3,000 York University students belong to Winters College and were eligible to vote in the election.

Founders supports faculty-based student gov't

By NANCY PHILLIPS

In the fourth of a series of articles focusing on the restructuring of student government, Excalibur examines the reaction of Founders College student representatives and administrators towards the SRC policy recommendations.

The Student Relations Committee of the Board of Governors has drafted a report containing recommendations for changes in student government, and has passed it on to President Harry Arthurs for consideration.

The SRC is calling for the creation of faculty-based student governments. In addition to recommending that all first-year students belong to both a college and faculty government, it also suggests that all other undergraduates be given the choice of belonging to either a college, faculty government, or both.

Founders' College president Mourad Mardikian and Master Arthur Haberman have some concerns about the report, but they support the creation of faculty-based student governments.

Mardikian said, "The time has come for faculty governments, but not at the expense of the colleges." He indicated that faculty governments could run programmes that would serve the academic interests of students. "Student conferences and lecture series could be better organized by faculty governments because they have the expertise to do so," said Mardikian.

Haberman pointed out that "a university is a pluralist society. Students are best served when they have as many services as possible to choose from." Faculty governments, especially in professional faculties, can help to introduce students to their professions. Still, he said, "one ought to belong to a college because a college is an interdisciplinary community which provides certain kinds of services" that a faculty cannot.

Both Mardikian and Haberman believe that mandatory co-affiliation should be incorporated into the report. Master Haberman said, "Co-affiliation makes sense" so that the greatest possible number of services

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would be available to each student.

Funding is another source of concern. Haberman feels "the worst thing that could happen would be to pit the funding of one student organization against another. That's a nice way of destroying both." He believes that if the student governments compete for students, "we will all cheapen our fees, which will cheapen our services."

Mardikian is concerned that a funding formula has not been specified. No one is sure if the money "will be split down the middle, or if we will go to the students and ask them for more money to fund faculty governments."

Master Haberman pointed out that "the assumption is that the funding will be there. I think it's up to the central administration to say

that if we agree that this is appropriate, then we fund it." He believes that the present amount of money collected for the colleges will not have to be greatly increased for faculty governments to exist.

Due to the large size of the Faculty of Arts, creating a student government for it would be very difficult. This government "would probably be some kind of monster," according to Haberman. He said, "To talk about it as a kind of parliamentary body is to introduce an octopus, when the last thing we need is that kind of labyrinth."

Mardikian is worried that a Faculty of Arts government might jeopardize the central government's role because of the large number of students it would represent.

Despite his concerns, Mardikian thinks "both systems could work together and complement one another." Haberman believes that the SRC's draft "will not pass in its existing form, because it is an ill-conceived model. When it is argued through, pieces of it will become part of the larger consideration."

CYSF

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