

# Voting on the new CYSF constitution?

## Here's what it's all about



### OBJECTS

To act as the representative body of the undergraduate and graduate students of York University including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the said students of those various constituent colleges, faculties, schools (hereinafter called "constituency") which are or may be from time to time a part of or associated with the said University and the Federation; to administer the affairs of the said students and constituencies including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the receipt and administration of all funds accruing to the Federation from student and other fees that may be collected and remitted by the said University and such other funds as may become the property of the Federation by donation, gift, return, business venture, legacy, bequest or howsoever; to develop and promote responsible student government and the welfare, well-being and interests of the said students and the aforesaid constituencies; to serve as a recognized medium of communication between the said students and constituencies and the duly elected and appointed authorities both administrative and academic of the said University; to promote and encourage loyalty to the said University; to serve as a representative of the said students and the aforesaid constituencies with other groups whether public or other educational institutions or student organizations; to coordinate the communications of the said students and direction of social, cultural and athletic activities in the best interests of the University community, including the publications and sale of printed

matter of all types; and generally to administer and conduct the affairs of the said students and constituencies as outlined in the constitution.

### ARTICLE I:

Name — Council of the York Student Federation hereinafter referred to as the Federation.

### ARTICLE II:

1) The Federation is a representative form of student government elected by and responsible to the students of the constituencies comprising the Federation.

2) Constituency: any undergraduate college or any faculty of graduate studies recognized by the University.

3) Ex-Officio — An Ex-Officio member of the Council shall have all the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of membership unless otherwise specified.

4) University-wide Matter — A University-wide Matter is any matter affecting more than one constituent member.

5) Academic Terms — For the purpose of this Constitution, there shall be three academic terms. These shall be: a) Fall term, from September 15 to December 31 b) Winter term, from January 1 to April 30 c) Summer term, from May 1 to September 14.

### ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council shall be:

1) To act as the representative of the students in a university wide matter.

2) To initiate, sponsor, direct and provide facilities for the services, activities and publications in any matter affecting more than one constituency in which the interests of the students are involved.

3) To safeguard the individual rights of all students.

4) To serve as a communication and information centre.

5) To recognize and support University oriented organizations.

### ARTICLE IV: POWERS

The Federation shall be empowered:

1) To legislate by-laws according to the spirit of the Constitution.

2) To levy a compulsory fee through the University upon the students of a constituency which is a member of the Federation as defined in the by-laws; such fees accruing directly and immediately to the Federation and to administer these and all funds accruing to the Federation.

3) To engage in undertakings necessary to achieve the purposes of the Federation.

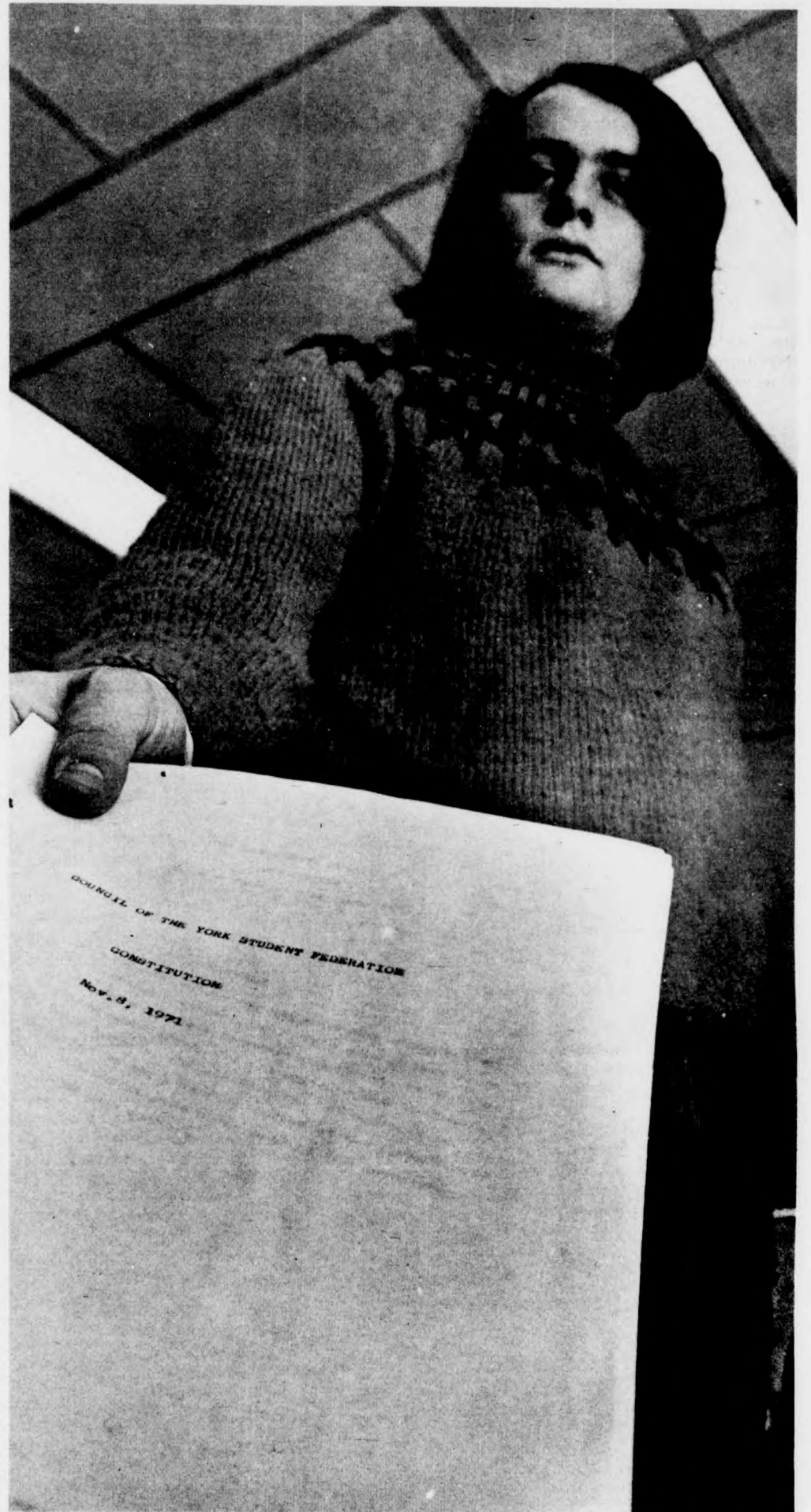
### ARTICLE V: CONSTITUENT MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership: The Federation by resolution may accept into its membership any constituencies as defined in the by-laws of the Federation.

B. Voting Members: The Federation shall consist of: 1) President who at the time of his or her election must be a student paying full Federation fees for his or her constituency. 2) Three voting members elected directly by the students who have paid the full Federation fees, from each of the constituencies of the Federation. These members shall be considered the representatives of all the students of the body which elected them.

C. Restrictions: Except for the President, no person shall continue as an officer of the Federation should he or she at any time no longer remain as a full fee-paying member of his or her constituency.

D. Removal from Office and Referenda: 1) An election shall be called in any CYSF constituency and the member shall surrender his seat on the day of the election when twenty-five percent of the eligible voters in that constituency sign a petition with names and student numbers asking for such an election.



President of CYSF, Mike Fletcher, with the proposed constitution.

2) Any voting member including the President, shall be removed from his position on the Federation for dereliction of duty directly upon a three-quarters majority vote of the full voting membership of the Federation.

3) "An election shall be called for the Presidency of the Federation and the President shall surrender his seat on the day of the election when a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent of the eligible voters, with names and student numbers is presented to council with the provision that no more than twenty-five percent of such signers be from any one constituency."

4) The student body shall have the right to vote by referendum on any motion passed or defeated by the Federation on presentation of a petition to this effect signed by ten percent of the eligible voters with names and student numbers, subject to the provision that no more than twenty-five percent of such voters be from any one constituency.

### ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FEDERATION

Each representative shall have the following duties of communication:

1) To report the proceedings of the Federation to the constituency whose students he represents.

2) To report the proceedings of the Federation to any and all publications of the constituency whose students he represents.

3) To represent the views of the constituency to the Federation:

a) on matters of mutual interest within the University

b) on fundamental moral issues of local, national or international importance.

### ARTICLE VII: AMENDATORY PROCEDURES

1) An amendment to this Constitution may be initiated by any voting member of the Federation or by a petition submitted to the Federation having the signatures of at least ten percent of the individuals of a majority of the constituencies of the Federation. However, to become part of this Constitution, any amendment must be ratified by the student body at large. A majority approval by over twenty-five percent of the entire student body is required to approve any such changes or additions to this Constitution.

2) Amendments to the Constitution, following their passage by the student body at large shall be forwarded to all of the governing bodies of the University. Amendments shall take effect as of the date of their passage by the Federation.

3) It shall require a two-thirds majority of all the voting members of the Federation to adopt, rescind or change by-laws.

4) Notice shall be given to the Federation at least one regular meeting prior to voting on by-laws, the Constitution or changes therein. These motions shall be discussed in principle at this time.

## The basic changes

### Now

1. Council of the York Student Federation must get its budget approved by a majority of its constituents;
2. CYSF serves as a coordinator for the colleges;
3. Both CYSF and the college councils handle off-campus activities and organizations;
4. CYSF executives must be full-time students.

### Proposed

1. CYSF handle its own budget autonomously;
2. CYSF become a federal government for all students;
3. The colleges would handle intra-college affairs and CYSF external affairs and York wide matters;
4. CYSF President would need to be a full-time student only at the time of their election.