

NEWS

York's student handbook runs up a deficit of \$5,000

by Salman A. Nensi

After looking to break even, this year's student handbook has been budgeted at a deficit of \$5,000.

There are four main factors that contributed to the unexpected increase in the cost of producing this year's student handbook, Up York.

First, the handbook was published on recycled paper. Recycled paper costs about one and a half times as much as regular paper.

Secondly, the YFS/FEY printed 20,000 copies this year, 10,000 more than last year's council.

Thirdly, last year's president, Peter Donato, signed a contract with Campus Network, a national advertising company. They did not come through with the number of advertisements for which York originally hoped.

Finally, the downturn in the economic situation forced regular advertisers to cut back on their advertising budgets.

The \$5,000 figure may not be firm. Brad Abrams, vice president (finance), said that the figure may be reduced by up to \$2,000. The insides of both covers were used for YFS/FEY advertising.

The YFS/FEY did not pay itself for the ads, but the money will be

moved, on paper only, to give a proper representation of the handbook's financial situation, thereby reducing the handbook's deficit to approximately \$3,000.

In addition, "... certain allowances for this year's staff were not made by last year's council," said Abrams.

In other fiscal news, the YFS/FEY has implemented York University VISA affinity cards. Abrams feels these are considerably superior to the card offered to the students by the administration.

Approval is virtually automatic, with no heavy service charge. There is no user fee for the first year, followed by a discounted

fee for students. Perhaps the biggest benefit that the VISA affinity card offers to students is a lower interest rate on monthly payments.

Benefits to the university come in the form of a 9.75% kickback on everything that students purchase. This money goes to Alumni Affairs and is then pumped back into scholarships and bursaries.

The YFS/FEY also gets a kickback, 0.25%. In addition, the YFS/FEY gets \$7.00 per approved application. Abrams has budgeted for \$3000 in revenue from this project, but states that the amount could rise a lot higher.

"When budgeting, I must use the principal of conservatism. Last year there were about 1000 AMEX card applications, so I have budgeted at the lowest possible figure."

Abrams has managed to increase the YFS/FEY's outside revenue \$14500 over last year's council. Even so, the council is still predicting an approximate \$9000 deficit.

Perhaps the YFS/FEY is trying to do too much too fast? Do we really need all these programs and services? Can we continue to run on deficit financing? Our executives seem to think so.

Over the past fifty motions made in YFS/FEY council meetings, only three "No!" votes have ever occurred. Two of them were in regards to the budget. Those voting against the budget were not necessarily voting against the preparation of the budget, but rather against the allocation of certain funds to certain accounts.

If you are concerned where and how our money is being spent by the YFS/FEY executive, I urge you to drop by their offices, 105 Central Square.

They will be most happy to sit down with you and show you the budget.

Commission on universities coming to York

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Pederson added that although university financing will be examined as part of an "overall concern that many universities have," it is not the commission's primary emphasis.

Instead, the inquiry aims to understand the standards of our educational curriculum and its significance to our changing society.

Other issues include increased accessibility of university education for Natives, handicapped and certain immigrant and socio-economic groups.

The commission will also explore the relation between university education and other levels of the school system as well as monitor teaching performance.

According to Pederson, the AUCC will be providing \$250,000 as basic funding for the commission.

An appeal had been made to the Secretary of State to attain another \$250,000. Corporate communities and foundations are also helping to fund the inquiry.

Dr. Stuart L. Smith, chair of the commission will be assisted by

an advisory committee, several interest groups and a research staff. Smith's qualifications include being bilingual, and having experience in academics, politics and business.

Pederson underlined some of the problems faced by post-secondary education systems. Universities are encountering a 30 per cent increase in enrolment, vast ethnic and social changes, and depleting financial support.

"Classes are larger and labs are not well-equipped," Pederson said. "We are facing serious problems which have a direct influence on Canada's future."

This is the first inquiry commission on Canadian university education on a national scale. Public hearings are to be held throughout Canada.

Beginning with Quebec City on October 17, the commission will be making four trips to ten other cities including Toronto on November 22 and 23.

The commission will carry out public hearings until December 5. After this research, the final report will be presented to the AUCC in October 1991.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) was one of the special interest groups asked to participate in this project.

CFS chair Jane Arnold commented that the first hearing coincides with National Students' Day.

According to Arnold, the CFS will be presenting its views of "what post-secondary education should be like" during this first hearing.

Jeffrey Holmes, communications director for the commission, feels that "students have got strong ideas" and "[expects] to get a lot of student input" in this inquiry. He encourages student councils and associations to submit individual reports or attend the hearings to contribute their views.

The hearings are scheduled during the morning and afternoon of November 22 and 23.

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