



Ted Mumford photo

Howard Crosner (left) and Pamela Fitzgerald were two of the students whose complaints led to the resignation of the entire Philosophy Students' Association executive.

"Going for a cool beer," philosophy executive quits

By DAVID J. SALT MARSH
The executive of the Philosophy Students Association resigned at a meeting last Thursday because of internal conflict over the management of the PSA.

Nicholas Graham, Patricia Baker, Mark McNamara and John Di Novo abruptly ended the meeting called to discuss a number of charges against them by handing a letter of resignation to the Excalibur reporter present, and then walking out of the room, announcing they were "going for a cool beer".

The executive of the PSA, especially Baker, were accused of not attempting to involve students in the PSA, not publicizing meetings, approving a constitution seen by no one except Baker, of-

fering persons positions on the executive without the approval of the membership, and mismanagement of a special meeting with Professor McShane of Halifax, who was paid \$150, three times the PSA budget, for a lecture attended by fewer than ten people, half of whom were from the University of Toronto.

The charges were made by philosophy student Pamela Fitzgerald. In a letter sent to Baker on January 5, Fitzgerald outlined her complaints against the executive and demanded Baker's resignation. The PSA executive decided that to resign was to admit guilt and instead should face the membership of the PSA at a meeting and refute the arguments.

The stormy but carefully controlled meeting was chaired by Nicholas Graham.

Before the meeting could get underway CYSF chairperson George Manios rose on a point of order. He was told to sit down and keep quiet. When Manios persisted Graham said that his was not a paid position, that it was a service to students, especially philosophy students, and not to "CYSF presidents or vice presidents, or any other type of politician and terrorist".

After that Fitzgerald read her letter to Baker, and Baker replied to the charges against her. She said that the first paragraph of the letter contradicts the first charge, because several of the PSA's meetings have had quorums, and that she and other members of the executive had gone to great effort to distribute over 300 notices of these meetings to philosophy students. The meeting Fitzgerald claimed didn't occur was not a meeting of the PSA, said Baker, but a meeting of the PSA executive with George Manios to discuss reallocation of

part of the PSA's budget from duplicating to speakers. Baker said she and Effie Efantis had spent eight hours drawing up the association's constitution which was later shown to Graham and "one other philosophy student". Concerning appointing other members to the executive, Baker said Graham knew of the appointments. As for Baker offering Fitzgerald the position of publicity manager without the membership's consent, she did this with the hopes of involving Fitzgerald.

Her appointment would have been brought up at the following meeting if Fitzgerald had accepted. Baker claimed at the meeting that decided to bring McShane to York, she had opposed the move and Fitzgerald had supported it.

Immediately after Baker had finished, Graham rose and said, "Before we get to point three, we're going to give a letter of resignation to the press". After doing so the four former members of the executive walked out of the meeting, leaving the remaining members of the PSA to pick up the pieces.

Later Baker said the reason for the resignation was that they were frustrated at trying to make the PSA work while being attacked from within, especially by Fitzgerald.

"We really wanted to resign on Monday," Baker said, "we just wanted out of this mess". She and the other three executive members decided instead to defend themselves and resign at the meeting on Thursday.

Both Fitzgerald and Baker said the PSA is probably finished for this year. Fitzgerald said that she intended to try to get it re-organized for next year.

Food body changes structure

By DAVID LANG

A re-structuring of the University Food Services Committee (UFSC) is underway, with the stated purpose of providing a better service to the York community.

The UFSC is an advisory committee on campus food services provided by York's six caterers. Since 1973-74, it has comprised 44 representatives from 22 constituencies such as the Colleges, Residences, the York Student Federation (CYSF), the Faculty Association (YUFA), and several "non-governmental" student associations.

According to the memorandum, "with the change from a single campus caterer to the present arrangement employing different caterers in each food service area, the UFSC could not deal with the operating criteria of each area."

Instead of turning their complaints to the UFSC, a number of constituent areas formed 'users' committees to discuss operating matters of local concern with the area caterer directly. As a result of this, the memorandum said, the attendance of UFSC meetings has dropped to a very low rate and this further affected its functions.

The newly re-structured UFSC legitimizes the status of the former ad hoc 'user' committees and six of them are organized for the following food service areas: Atkinson Dining Lounge and Acropolis, Central Square Coffee

Shop, College Complex One, College Complex Two, Glendon College and the Osgoode Snack Bar.

According to Norman Crandles, secretary of UFSC and manager of food and beverage services, the restructuring was done to allow local matters such as retail price levels, menus, quantity and quality of food, courtesy of staff, etc. to be dealt with directly between the specific "users" committee and the caterer.

Over-all university policies such as residence dining plans, food and beverage operating policy, budgets, etc., will be the responsibilities of the UFSC now comprising sub-committee chairpersons and one representative from each of the CYSF, the YUFA, and the YUSA.

Crandles, previously a non-voting advisor on the committee will now be a voting member of UFSC. He said there will be no conflict of interest although he is holding two positions simultaneously, because he solely "represents the interests of the university administration".

Crandles said the improvement of food services is "a general concern of the whole university" and "students should get the kind of attention they deserve".

When asked what kind of "positive results" have been achieved with the catering services in the past few months, Crandles said services have been improved

in Stong dining lounge, and the quality of food has been raised both in Atkinson and the Osgoode Snack Bar.

But many things are still waiting to be improved. Many students complain that the quantity of food they receive is not worth the price they pay, the courtesy of some cashiers is not very satisfactory, etc. A common sentiment is that students are being "ripped-off".



Bryon Johnson photo

Secretary of food services, Norm Crandles

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