

Presidential race nearly over

Senators voting on eight names

With A Little Help From Our Friends

Senators finish voting this afternoon to show their preferences as to which of the eight candidates put forward by the presidential search committee should be the next president of York University.

In a special secret senate meeting Tuesday afternoon search committee chairman Bora Laskin told the senators the names of the candidates and urged senators to "show confidence" with the names, asking them to "not reveal the full list to anybody". He said senators could consult with their colleagues inside and outside the university before they cast their votes.

The eight candidates are:

- Albert Derrick Allen, 50, dean of the arts and science faculty at the University of Toronto;
 - Andrew Booth 51, dean of the college of engineering at the University of Saskatchewan and a government and business consultant;
 - John H.G. Crispo, 37, director of the Centre for Industrial Relations at U of T;
 - Harry S. Crowe, 47, dean of York's Atkinson College;
 - Ivan R. Feltham, 39, a professor at York's Osgoode Hall Law School and one of the two faculty members on York's board of governors;
 - James M. Gillies, 46, dean of York's Faculty of Administrative Studies;
 - John T. Saywell, 40, dean of York's Faculty of Arts;
 - David Slater, 48, dean of graduate studies and research at Queen's University. Slater, an economist, is also a member of the Committee on University Affairs, the Canada Council and the Social Science Research Council, and was once editor of Canadian Banker.
- All of the candidates are Canadian.

Laskin refused to answer the senators "questions of substance on the views of the candidates," because, he said, it would be "utterly impossible" to give a sufficiently objective treatment of their views.

Two members of the search committee, science dean H.I. Schiff and humanities department chairman K.H. Michael Creal, indicated to a group of senators and others after the meeting that they had come to the special meeting prepared to try to tell the senate the views of the candidates on important issues.

Howard Adelman, assistant dean of Atkinson College, called the meeting "a farce" and charged that the senators would be "voting in ignorance".

Angered by the refusal of search committee chairman Bora Laskin on Tuesday to answer "questions of substance on the views of the candidates" for president, Atkinson College's acting dean Howard Adelman has prepared a motion for senate today which, if passed, could effectively hamper further deliberations.

At about 4:30 pm yesterday university secretary W.D. Farr received a copy of the following motion:

"1. Whereas, on Jan. 22, 1970, the following resolution was moved in senate by Prof. Adelman, seconded by Prof. Yolton, and carried with seven dissenting votes:

"That the senate offer its support and vote of confidence in the search committee to proceed under the interpretations of the procedures as presented by Mr. Justice Laskin."

"2. And whereas, on page 6 of the minutes of senate on Jan. 22, 1970 as approved by senate on Feb. 26, 1970, there is the following statement:

"2. 'A number of senators suggested alternative procedures, including (a) the search committee to become a nominating

committee, (b) the interviewing of all senators by members of the search committee, (c) the inviting of candidates to a senate meeting in order that senate might become acquainted with their views.

"— With respect to (c) above,

MR. JUSTICE LASKIN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROCEDURES OF SEARCH COMMITTEE TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING CANDIDATES. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE VIEWS OF CANDIDATES ON VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL ISSUES WOULD BE QUITE APPROPRIATE.'

"3. And whereas, the chairman of the committee of search for a new president at the special

meeting of senate held March 24, 1970, refused to answer questions concerning the views of candidates on various educational issues

"Therefore be it resolved that (a) the senate censure the members of the committee of search for a new president for skilfully disregarding the commitment given to senate, as expressed in its resolution of Jan. 22, 1970, as quoted above, (b) and the senate hereby withdraws its vote of confidence in the committee and (withdraws) three members from the said committee."

The motion, a question of privilege, has to be dealt with as soon as Adelman brings it up,

according to parliamentary rules of order.

The motion was seconded by student senator John Adams.

The same list was presented to the board of governors at their meeting Tuesday night. Before the formal "short list" is presented to the board, as required by the search committee's terms of reference, the committee must whittle the eight names down to a maximum of five and a minimum of three.

Board members are also casting preferential votes for the candidates this week.

The committee's terms of reference did not include a specified number of names to present to the senate before they cast their preferential ballots.

The senate and board ballots will be tabulated at York's Survey Research Centre. Results of the vote will be released only to board chairman William Pearson Scott and the members of the search committee.

The board will appoint the next president, keeping in mind that their choice must have the "broad support" of the senate.

At Tuesday's senate meeting Laskin again refused to define the term "broad support" to the senators. When one senator charged that that would mean the board will ignore the senate vote if there is no pattern of broad support, another senator charged that the board would probably make its own decision anyway.

Behavioralists in the meeting charged that with a list of eight candidates on a preferential ballot, there is little chance broad support will be shown for any candidate after the ballots have been tabulated.

Mathematics professor Lee Lorch stood up and quoted the minutes of the senate meeting Jan. 22, which were approved by the senate at their February meeting:

"Laskin pointed out that the procedures required the search committee to 'be prepared to answer questions' concerning the candidates. Questions concerning the views of candidates on various educational issues would be quite appropriate."

Laskin ignored the statement.

Adelman accused Laskin of "a complete about face" and questioned that the search committee could be presenting the names to senate in all seriousness.

Laskin apologized and said, "I didn't think I'd gone that far." But he said the senate would not get any more information from him and intimated that the minutes of the Jan. 22 meeting were wrong.

Laskin said each of the eight candidates had been "minimally acceptable" to the search committee. He said the committee had considered about 90 names altogether in their deliberations, but that by a preliminary, perhaps arbitrary judgment" the committee had investigated only 45 potential candidates.



MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD

Excalibur — Tim Clark

Muddy York — the name still applies to the campus, especially every spring and particularly around the construction sites of new buildings, as this student found out on Monday as he tried to get to his car.

Motion to abolish psych grades is endorsed

By JEFF FINKELSTEIN

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee of the psychology department voted unanimously March 18 "to abolish grades in all psychology courses by the academic year 1970-71."

The motion has been passed for further consideration to a special meeting of the entire department, to be held next Monday.

The motion advocates the elimination of both of the present methods of evaluation — the use of letter grades as well as the use of "pass-fail".

As an alternative method of ac-

creditation, the committee favored the idea that the student's transcript should contain a written description of the course material taken without evaluation of his individual work.

However, it is likely that the contracted course requirements, completed by the student, would be included in the transcript.

The motion was proposed by psychology professor David Bakan at a special meeting of the UCC.

Bakan told the committee that, in terms of available data, the method of grading

was unreliable and invalid. These studies have indicated no correlation between undergraduate grades and adult performance.

Bakan said he deplored the system of grading because it forced undergraduate education to be directed, primarily, towards the writing of exams rather than towards the active assimilation of the course material.

He said he felt that in a situation in which the teacher has the ultimate power over his students — that of determining his final grade — then the position of the student is one of "infantilism".

The nature of university examinations,

with each student working in isolation, forced into Bell Curve competition with his fellow students, is the exact opposite of the real need for people to cooperate and pool their intelligences in order to solve their mutual problems, he said.

Bakan said he had continued to give grades to his students only because they are the primary criterion for graduate school selection. However, he pointed out that there is now a very low rate of acceptance into graduate programs and even this rate is steadily declining. (About 4 per cent of all applicants into York's graduate department of psychology are being accepted.)