

Grad students voting on pull-out

York's graduate students are considering a withdrawal of their council as members of the York Student Council. A vote is being taken by mail, and the ballots have been mailed out to all York graduate students.

The deadline for returning them was yesterday, January 29. The questions put to the students were:

- do you wish Graduate Student membership in YSC,

- if Graduate Students were to retain membership in YSC, should it be a 'full' membership, or 'Special Status' membership.

Full membership involves seating of a full block, presently four members of the body concerned, on YSC, while special membership will only give the grads one half the representation on coun-

cil, while not significantly affecting the financial commitment of the Grads to YSC.

Should the Grads vote for no membership at all, they would still be expected to pay part of the ten dollar activity fee levied from them for services offered such as membership in The Canadian Union of Students, Excalibur, the Zzardvark, and other things.

In the letter accompanying the ballot, it is stated by the executive of the Graduate Student Association that money is a secondary issue, because there will be a fee increase next year no matter what the results of this referendum dictate.

At present, all the undergraduate colleges except McLaughlin

are full members, along with the Graduate Business Association and the Graduate Student Association.

The only special member is Atkinson College.

Should the Grads vote to withdraw, they would be joining McLaughlin College in that they would be eventually paying for services that they would have no actual management in.

McLaughlin held a similar referendum earlier this term, and as a result are not members of YSC. But at the insistence of members of the college council, there will be another referendum held in the near future in the hope that the college will this time join the central government.



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What is Zzardvark?

EDITOR FOR EXCALIBUR

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Mr. Frank Uebeck c/o Excalibur

Osgoode joins York but ignores YSC

by Kandy Biggs

Osgoode Hall Law School, which became affiliated with York last summer has not joined our YSC nor does it plan to in the near future.

"We won't affiliate during my term" said Greg Cooper, president of Osgoode's Legal and Literary Society, the Osgoode Student Council. He added that "affiliation is inevitable but it may not come for a few years."

When his term ends in March he plans to submit a report to the incoming executive concerning his personal views of the advantages and disadvantages of joining YSC.

Cooper feels it was not worth joining this year because YSC would want a proportional amount of money per student. "The only thing they could give us of significance is Excalibur", he said.

"There are certain advantages to belonging to YSC which Greg probably is not aware of yet," commented John Adams, President of YSC and mentioned Excalibur, the housing bureau, ABC programme, student directory and handbook, and membership in the Canadian Union of Students and Ontario Union of Students.

One of the reasons Cooper gave for not joining was YSC's membership in CUS, to which Adams commented, "that's their problem."

Until last year Osgoode was not connected with any university and was administered by the Law Society. The L & L society had a very informal budget set-up with a great deal of flexibility. With affiliation imminent, York wanted a budget from the Osgoode Council.

"We saw immediately they couldn't come near our requirements," said Cooper. "Therefore we negotiated with our dean who went to York on our behalf". He pointed out certain items administered by the students are academic in their character.

One of these activities is the Moot Court. "The faculty have always considered this an integral part of a student's education." It is a mocked up appeal of a case which has been decided at a trial. The students must be expert in the area of the law they are appealing.

"It is very demanding - a student could spend between 30 and 60 hours of research time," said Cooper. They compete provincially and internationally and funds are necessary to send their "mooters" to these competitions. An advocacy programme, debates programme and orientation are some of the other academic activities the L & L society runs.

Would Osgoode students be willing to pay the extra \$10 York students paid this year for YSC? "I doubt it very much - they wouldn't feel they'd be getting their money back", Cooper said. Tuition fees are \$500 per year at Osgoode.

Another reason Cooper feels he cannot predict whether they'll affiliate is because of a recent decision of their Faculty Council to admit student representatives.

"In my opinion the meaning of the Legal and Literary Society will gradually decrease simply because the faculty council will contain students. I think that will be the body looking after students in the school - the society may even become a committee of the council".

But the rest of the executive feel it will remain autonomous.

In addition to this Cooper said, "There are students who feel they wouldn't want an undergraduate controlled body deciding on their activities."

If they don't join, YSC plans to consider them in the same position as McLaughlin College. They will be billed for the services of YSC anyhow. "It will come very close to the full \$10" said Adams. Yet they won't be able to participate in YSC decisions of how that money will be spent. "This will be one of the clear disadvantages," said Adams.

Who will win - the lawyers or the YSC?

Regardless of this dispute the general feeling about coming to York is good.

Although the downtown location is far more convenient to the courts, city hall and law firms they are finding the building "grossly inadequate" said Cooper. "The life blood of a law school is its library and the new building at York is going to house the finest law library in the country."

Students graduating from Osgoode this year had a choice between a degree from the Law Society or from York University. The majority chose York.

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