

EDITORIAL

SCC gets comprehensive deal for York U students

When the Student Centre initiative was presented for student consideration in last spring's referendum, it won overwhelming approval. Unlike the unsuccessful initiative conducted in 1985, the Student Centre Committee prepared a convincing case, guaranteeing student majority control on the Management Board and securing a \$3 million grant from the Administration in addition to a plot of land worth \$1 million. The proposal contained a detailed, concrete plan which, after exhaustive studies, proved that the Centre was not only desperately needed, but could be financially viable without University support.

After months of negotiations, that initiative was finalized last Wednesday, when an historic agreement was signed between the Administration and the Student Centre Committee (SCC). After reviewing the student centre agreements of other universities, it becomes easy to appreciate the scope and detail which this formal contract contains. This comprehensive agreement succeeds where many others fail by establishing the best possible management framework to ensure not only that the Student Centre remains financially sound, but that student interests are protected as well.

The University of Calgary's contract, for instance, empowers the student's union with full management responsibility for their centre. But such an approach could create many problems, because the interests of a student government do not always reflect those of the student body at large. Thus, additional representatives outside the student government should be required to sit on the board. Also, a management board should be insulated from the volatility of student politics in order to ensure that corrupt administrations do not jeopardize the viability of the Centre. Moreover, the extent of the Union's management responsibility is left vague, with most major policy revisions requiring consultation with the Board of Governors through a Joint Liaison Committee. Very little concern is given to dispute resolution and the Board of Governors retain veto power over many important policy decisions which the Union may make. Finally, in the Calgary agreement, mechanisms to alter the student levy with student consent is virtually ignored. In such an agreement, the more ambiguous the document, the more potential there is for conflict; stipulations must be meticulously defined and contractual obligations understood by both parties. York's new Student Centre agreement fulfills this mandate.

First of all, the Management Board is a completely separate entity from both student government and the University, and dispute resolution mechanisms are firmly in place to ensure that conflicts are resolved in a specific and impartial manner. The agreement also includes large student majority on the Board with two administrators who will serve as a valuable resource in advising students on important policy decisions. The agreement takes an intelligently cooperative stand with the Administration and this is especially evident in the Design Project Committee which will have a majority of administrators. While some may scoff at the makeup, the expertise and contacts which the administration has within the architectural industry, plus the fact that the Committee only possesses control over the exterior design of the building, immediately puts these criticisms to rest.

In reality, the agreement places the onus on the students to perform, and if they don't, then the agreement is dissolved and the management of the Centre turns over to the University. An example of this could occur when the Management Board frequently fails to make quorum at meetings (which occurs in many student governments on campus) in order to pass important financial decisions. With this kind of apathy students do not deserve the responsibility of managing a Centre.

Finally, there's the issue taken up by clubs over the recent reduction in club space. But the clubs fail to realize the desperately-needed space for daycare facilities and for the Atkinson College Council which will help them better integrate into campus life. However, clubs point to the expansion of the pub and claim that the Centre is turning into a profit-making venture. The majority of students, though, do not even belong to the clubs, and it's about time that York gets a decent-sized venue to attract acts which regularly pass us by.

Thanks to the efforts of a handful of students, campus life will certainly be a little more bearable with a Student Centre.



LETTERS

YUSA ignored petition request

Dear Editor:
I recall in October of 1984 when YUSA went on strike. They wanted, as they do now, student support by boycotting classes. I respected their right to strike and I did not cross their picket lines. As a result, I was penalized for missing an assignment during the YUSA strike. I have since petitioned against this illegal penalty. In my petition process, I requested from YUSA a letterhead stating that they were officially on strike from October 11, 1984 to October 18, 1984. They refused to fulfill my request. According to them, they do not get involved in petitions. I indicated that their involvement was not what I requested nor needed. All I required was a letter signed by YUSA confirming that the union was officially on strike on the above-mentioned date. The reply was negative. According to YUSA, it does not do such things.

Not only do I have to put up with an administration that seems to enjoy basking in the arms of inconsistencies, but I was also faced with a union that turned its back on me. As far as I am concerned, my request was a very simple one, one which required little effort, if any, on YUSA's part to fulfill. During the present strike, YUSA is asking for student support. How can YUSA ethically ask for student support when it is not willing to reciprocate that support?

Steven Margie
History

Beach blasts Mac Advisory Council

To All York Students,
During my recent leave of absence from my duties as President of McLaughlin College, the new Master of the college, Professor Lanphier, saw fit to establish an Advisory

Council to oversee the activities of the duly elected official of the college—the Student Council. This was done without prior consultation with either myself or any of the members of the Student Council. Incidentally, the Provost, in a letter dated September 5, heartily endorses the Master's actions.

The reasons cited include the allegation that McLaughlin Student Council has not yet produced an audit for the 1986-87 fiscal year. McLaughlin however, is not unique in this circumstance. At least three other student governments, most notably CYSF and Stong College have not, as of this writing, produced an audit for 1986-87.

In a communication dated September 4, Master Lanphier defined the role and the sweeping powers of this Advisory Council. Of particular note, the newly-formed council shall "... Receive and disburse all new monies allocated to McLaughlin Student Council" and it "... may interpret its mandate as widely as it may seem fit."

The Student Council usually receives an operating grant in the area of \$50,000. Master Lanphier's actions places control of these student funds in the hands of a council composed primarily of administrative representatives.

If you find these facts disturbing, you are not alone. I, along with members of the elected Student Council and members of the McLaughlin community are outraged that such high-handed tactics have been employed to usurp control over Student Council and therefore, student funds.

Many of you have read in last week's *Excalibur* that I was recently acquitted of charges laid by Master Lanphier. It is interesting to note that Provost Meininger, the man who holds all student council operating grants in trust and the man who is quick to endorse Master Lanphier's questionable actions, also served in the capacity as prosecutor in my trial.

Despite the fact that I was found

not guilty on all counts by a York Disciplinary Tribunal, it seems that my trial is not yet over and it seems that the trial of student governments has begun.

While it appears that Master Lanphier's actions were precipitated by a desire to strengthen McLaughlin College, Master Lanphier has fragmented the college, alienating the voting student membership of McLaughlin by denying them their right to self government.

Attempts have been made by the Student Council to reach an equitable solution to this problem. The administration has failed to respond.

As a concerned student, and as President of the McLaughlin College Student's Council, I feel it necessary to inform the York community of these events. Though some may consider this an isolated incident, it will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects.

Furthermore, I urge the members of the York community, in particular, the members of other York student governments, to take a stand on this issue and to question the validity of the decision making process behind the formation of the Advisory Council.

Howard M. Beach, President
McLaughlin College Student's Council

O'Neil's comments misguided

Editor,
It was with interest that we read the interview with Michael O'Neil, Director of Security at York University.

In the conclusion of the interview, *Excalibur* posed the question as to the 'special problem' of York's proximity to the Jane-Finch corridor. Director O'Neil responded:

"I think that once the message gets out to the Jane-Finch area, any people living there who intend to come in here and commit deviant acts will know that the security service here is intent on deterring them."

With all due respect to Director

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