

CUASA COMMUNIQUE

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Editor: Bob Rupert

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CURRENT ECONOMIC CRUNCH -- CUASA's RESPONSE

President's Report -- Don Westwood

In light of the present economic climate and the gloomy prospect announced recently by Premier Bob Rae of one, two, and two percent increases in Ontario funding for education over the next three years, you may well be asking what CUASA has been doing to meet the impending financial crisis.

For some months now, a committee of eight has been meeting regularly. There are four representatives from the Administration: (Dennis Forcese - Vice President (Academic), Spruce Riorden - Vice President (Finance), David van Dine - Director of Personnel, and Bill Pickett - OPAS). Our four members are Bill Jones - Spokesperson, Shirley Mills - Salary Chair, Alistair Tilson - Grievance Chair, and Georgina Hancock - CUASA Business Agent. The committee is searching for ways for the University community to co-operatively solve the short-term and long-term financial problems.

A number of possible economies have been discussed. Others, which have a direct impact on academic programs, have already been implemented by the Administration, such as a reduction in the hiring of new faculty, and the non-renewal of some term appointments.

Under a mandate outlined in Article 19.1 (f) of the Collective Agreement, this committee now meets twice a week. It has become abundantly clear that, in the context of Premier Rae's pronouncement, the measures discussed to date are far from sufficient to deal with the consequences of a one percent increase in Provincial funding next year. The Committee will continue meeting until its members can mutually agree on further measures to cut costs and increase revenue for the University.

I need not tell you that the situation is serious. We face, at the very least, considerably decreased resources and increased pressures on workload--soon.

So far, no concrete proposals have been agreed upon, but it is important that you know the deliberations are taking place in a constructive spirit, governed by respect for the Collective Agreement.

If you have urgent concerns or helpful suggestions, or simply need more information, do not hesitate to call the CUASA office (788-5607).

CUASA COUNCIL WILL MEET FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1992 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. 625 Southam Hall.

MINISTER CALLS FOR "CREATIVE SUGGESTIONS"

Richard Allen, Minister of Colleges and Universities, visited Carleton University on Tuesday, January 28. The Minister pointed out that, aside from the one percent formula increase in University funding, a further sum of roughly one (1) further percentage could be made available to institutions which, in a timely fashion (almost immediately), submitted plans for truly innovative academic initiatives and programs.

Specific criteria have been published (and are available in the CUASA office) for plans to attract this "Transitional" support. We sincerely hope that the Carleton Administration will seek the assistance of academic staff to make one or several such submissions without delay.

In the open question and answer session, the Minister spoke with faculty, staff and students of Carleton and the University of Ottawa. He called for creative suggestions to master the present economic crisis facing Ontario's system of post-secondary education. He urged frankness and open access to information in this co-operative effort. Though counselling moderation at the negotiating table, he in no way suggested government pressure in the direction of rolling-back current valid Collective Agreements.

FOUR STUDENTS GET CUASA BURSARIES

Each year, CUASA provides funds for Student Bursaries. The Director of Student Awards tells us that this year four students received our assistance with their tuition fees and educational expenses. CUASA wishes each of these students, particularly, every success in their studies at Carleton.

HOUSING REQUIRED 1992-93 Academic Year

Math professor at the University of British Columbia is planning a sabbatical leave for the 1992-93 academic year at Carleton University and would be interested in a house exchange for the year. The family has a large (4 bedroom, study and family room) split level in North Vancouver, about 35 minutes from either BC or SFU by car and located on the express bus route to UBC. Close to skiing in the north shore mountains, Stanley Park and the north shore beaches. Three children ages 6 months, 10 and 12. Exact dates are negotiable. References are available.

Phone Mrs. Gill Murray (613-787-2167 (Office)) or the owner, Ed Perkins (604-986-7039).

TAs/RAs CONTRACT TALKS IN CONCILIATION

CUPE 2323, the Union representing our Teaching and Research Assistants, will be in Conciliation hearings February 12.

A key issue to be resolved is a procedure to handle potential overwork situations. With increasing enrolments and a likely cutback in funds available for TA work, a recent bargaining survey indicated that this is an important issue.

CUPE 2323 wants faculty supervisors to take a more active role in managing this work, and has proposed that one mandatory meeting at or about the mid-point of the Term would permit an assessment of whether the work assigned to the TA can be done in the time available.

The Administration has not accepted this principle, saying that a meeting should be held only if the TA requests one.

While there is agreement on the procedure to handle an individual's complaint of overwork, CUPE 2323 believes that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.