

CUASA COMMUNIQUÉ

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Editor: Bob Rupert

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President's report - Don Westwood

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) conducted a President's "Round-table" meeting on October 25, 1991. Mark Langer (CUASA President-elect) attended the meeting, and reports on a number of concerns to add to those that have evolved over the last few months:-

GOVERNANCE REVIEW:

- the Minister of Colleges and Universities has called for a review of the governance of post-secondary institutions in Ontario;
- the Minister intends to intervene in the governance of universities to make Boards of Governors more representative of their communities.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

- the Provincial Auditor plans an annual accounting audit based on "value for money", not on contributions to research or quality of education;
- "value for money" should not be accepted as the sole criterion of performance in the universities;
- faculty concerns about accountability will be raised with the Minister.

WORKLOAD:

The experience at one university will serve to illustrate the problem of changing or increasing workload, and how to deal with it:-

- at York, each Dean has been asked to cut the budget back by 5%; this was to be achieved by having fewer professors teaching more students;
- the Faculty Association at York has consequently advised its members:
 - * don't negotiate your work level with your Chair;
 - * don't accept any unilateral change in work level;
 - * tell your Chair to refer this to the Faculty Association;
 - * any change in workload must mean a change to past practice;
- "past practice" evidence will be allowed into any arbitration resulting from grievances and offers protection against workload changes and increases.

OCUFA Salary Committee Chairs plan to explore the issue of Workload at their meeting on December 6. Shirley Mills will represent CUASA at that meeting.

BREAKING MEN'S SILENCE TO END MEN'S VIOLENCE DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 6

The white ribbons hanging from the houses, cars, office doors and worn as armbands this week symbolize a call for men across Canada to lay down their arms in the war against women.

Irwin Gillespie, Joe Ramisch and Peter Swan have more information.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUTBACKS

At the November 15 Council meeting, CUASA endorsed the OCUFA "Campaign Against Cutbacks", which involves Academic Staff, Students and Administrators alike.

- * Federal-Provincial transfer payments have again been reduced;
- * Ontario is passing transfer cuts on to the institutions and next year's payments will be "historically low";
- * tuition fees could rise 30-50% next year, but not result in any increase in revenue for universities;
- * it will mean a shift in the financial burden from government to students.

What can we do?

1) LOBBY MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT (MPPs)

- MPPs must be urged to oppose the government's proposals.
- Lists of MPPs' offices and campaign lobby kits are in the CUASA office (447 St Pat's) for use in this effort. Please call (788-5607) if you can help with this.

2) WRITE POSTCARDS TO PREMIER BOB RAE

- CUASA and the Students' Association (CUSA) have been distributing pre-addressed postcards, protesting cutbacks, to be signed, collected and presented to Premier Bob Rae "en masse" at Queen's Park.
- If you still have one, please put it in the mail or send it to the CUASA office as soon as possible. The Ontario Cabinet will be making its final decision soon.

3) PUBLICITY

- Ads are being taken out in local and regional newspapers (dailies and weeklies), focusing on future prospects and urging parents to ensure quality education for their children.
- Academic staff are encouraged to speak out and write to local editors to bring the issue of underfunding to the attention of the public.

Some background information to put the dilemma facing post-secondary education in perspective:

AS A MATTER OF FACT

Is The Cupboard Bare?

Governments say adequate funding for universities may not be possible because there's no money available. That answer assumes there are no alternatives to the current tax structure. But as the chart below illustrates, our tax system has already undergone a significant shift: the percentage of total taxes collected from corporations has fallen from 7.4% to 7.1% in the past five years. Maybe that's why the cupboard seems bare.

SHIFTING SOURCES OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE

	\$ Million Revenue		% of Total Revenue		Average annual % change '85-86 to '90-91
	'85-86	'90-91	'85-86	'90-91	
TAXES					
Personal	\$56,594	\$97,563	31.5	35.8	11.5
Corporation	13,244	19,306	7.4	7.1	7.8
Property	15,607	23,051	8.7	8.5	8.1
Consumption	34,800	56,565	19.4	20.8	10.2
Natural Resources	7,924	6,041	4.4	2.2	-5.3
Other Sources	51,210	70,040	28.6	25.1	6.5
TOTAL	179,379	272,566	109	100	8.7

(Includes revenues of federal, provincial, territorial and local governments on a financial management system basis.)

Source: The Globe and Mail: Report on Business.