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a right? p9

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THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"I think the Ipad descends directly from the Acheulean hand axe, where if we hadn't gotten that hand axe we would still be sitting in the trees eating bananas." — William Gibson p17

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LITIGATION

Former student governors sue university

Plaintiffs allege their charter rights were violated

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

Two University of Toronto alumni and former U of T governors have launched a lawsuit against the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, the Toronto Police Services Board, and several U of T officials and Toronto police officers.

Plaintiffs Oriel Varga and Christopher Ramsaroor were among 14 people arrested during a protest on March 20, 2008 that saw protesters occupy Simcoe Hall and demand an immediate meeting with U of T President David Naylor. The University of Toronto and Toronto police accused the students of preventing senior administrators and staff from leaving their offices.

The lawsuit claims that the Defendants breached their fundamental rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Free-

SEE 'LITIGATION' - PG 7

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Controversy strikes GC meeting

Protests in chambers cause disruption to meeting



People gathered outside of Simcoe Hall last Thursday to protest changes in space booking policies. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A meeting of the Governing Council had to be briefly adjourned on Thursday after a group of several student protestors staged a protest inside Council Chambers. The disturbance erupted near the end of the meeting, during a discussion of one of the items on the agenda having to do with the procedures for booking

space on campus for events. The meeting also included other developments related to Faculty Association Arbitration and the Report on Task Force on Governance.

TEMPORARY USE OF SPACE ON CAMPUS

Council approved a new policy document on the temporary use of space on campus, which turned out to be the most controversial item of the evening. The new policy was widely

publicized by several student groups before Thursday's meeting. One student governor reported being bombarded with dozens of emails and phone calls from students in the lead-up to the vote.

An email from the French Club and the Muslim Students' Association, for example, implored student governors to vote against the new space booking policy. "If ever there was an

SEE 'GC' - PG 4

ARTSCI

A&S Academic Plan put on hold

Streamlining to be reviewed after large protest

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Faculty of Arts and Science has hit the breaks on most of its proposed cuts and amalgamations. Dean Meric Gertler told the *Globe and Mail* that most of the streamlining to alleviate the faculty's almost \$60-million shortfall will now take place through restructuring instead of amalgamations and cuts.

The change comes after months of vocal protest from within the university community since the plan's publication in July, as well as opposition from academia worldwide.

"The overwhelming opposition to these changes was just too much for the administration to take. They could no longer afford the bad press which this terrible idea had accumulated," wrote ASSU President Gavin Nowlan, in an email to The Varsity. "It really is a great victory for the intellectual

SEE 'ARTSCI' - PG 5

FEE INCREASE

ASSU requests levy increase

President attributes proposed raise to combat inflation

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This Wednesday and Thursday the Arts and Science Students' Union will be holding a referendum for a \$2 per student per term increase in their student levy.

As of now, the levy sits at \$7.50 per term. The increase to \$9.50 would, according to ASSU President Gavin Nowlan, increase it from "one of the lowest levies on campus" to "one of maybe the bottom three levies on campus of all student societies."

Unlike the University of Toronto

Students' Union, ASSU has no automatic "cost of living" fee increase which rises with inflation. "We have nothing," says Nowlan, "so the fee that we had in 2004-2005, when we last raised our fee, is the same fee that we have today. So no check for inflation, no change in it whatsoever."

This 5-6 year cycle reflects ASSU's policy that fees should increase as little as possible over the course of a degree. The fee structure operates such that in the first two years of the 5-6 year cycle, ASSU takes in more money than it spends; the third year, it should roughly break even, and the remainder of the time

"...\$2 is not too onerous per term. That's something it seems like students are willing to accept."

it will run a deficit budget on paper. This year, that deficit is equivalent to \$8,234.

That is to say, the initial levy increase should be large enough that ASSU can save money in the first two years, and spend it when they run a budget deficit in the last two years, such that the typical undergrad will not see a fee increase in their time at the university.

"It was developed by ASSU as an egalitarian policy so that everyone pays into the pot with as limited fee increases as possible," said Nowlan.

The current \$2 increase is apparently a function of tradition.

Nolan suggested that an increase is necessary for flexibility in their budget. "\$2 multiplied by 26,000 students is enough money to add funding for the next five years — and also \$2 is not too onerous per term. That's something it seems like students are willing to accept, that level of increase at one time. It would take us so much longer to change our process to have that \$2 spread over five years. It's just what's made sense in the past and makes sense now."

With regard to why an increased

SEE 'LEVY' - PG 5

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
3°C to 7°C	3°C to 7°C	1°C to 7°C	0°C to 9°C	3°C to 6°C

FEATURE

The epic quest for a
new Annex watering
hole p12

A&E

The Varsity speaks to
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