

030-1980
Richard K. Taylor
April 14, 1980

For release April 15

Operating expenses at WLU expected

to reach \$19.7 million

Wilfrid Laurier University's operating expenses are expected to reach \$19.7 million for 1980-81. This estimate is contained in the tentative budget for 1980-81 recommended by the administration to the university's board of governors.

The budget shows a \$238,510 surplus on current operations, which represents 1.2 per cent of the university's operating expenses.

In addition to income from current operations, the university expects to earn \$487,300 in interest on its \$4 million surplus accumulated in previous years. Since Wilfrid Laurier became a provincially assisted university in 1973, interest income from its accumulated surplus and other sources has grown from very low levels to \$575,000 annually.

Interest income now amounts to 2.9 per cent of operating expenses. This percentage is slightly lower than the average for all Ontario universities according to a report prepared for the Council of Ontario Universities last year.

Current income is up by 9.7 per cent in 1980-81 as a result of an increase in government grants and higher tuition fee revenue. Tuition fee revenue is expected to increase by 14 per cent as a result of a 7.5 per cent increase in tuition fee levels, a forecast enrolment increase of 3.1 per cent and increases in other revenues, including foreign visa student fees.

2 . . .

The \$1.5 million increase in operating expenses provide for anticipated salary adjustments and a modest expansion in faculty and staff.

The increase in faculty was authorized to accommodate the enrolment increases over the past two years in the school of business and economics.

Other priorities reflected in the budget include:

* A 15 per cent increase in the budget for library books and periodicals,

~~* A 21 per cent increase for placement and career services etc. etc.;~~

* A 21 per cent increase for placement and career services to expand and improve assistance to students in defining their appropriate career goals and securing relevant employment while in the university and upon graduation;

In several areas, the university's expenses will be cut in 1980-81. The elimination of the need to provide special funding for the pension plan will result in a saving of \$103,000. Almost \$110,000 in reduced equipment purchases and leasing costs of classroom portables will be realized now that the construction of the Frank C. Peters building has been completed.

Spending on special renovations, repair and renewals will be down by \$51,980. The elimination of externally contracted computing services in the Registrar's Office will save a further \$8,500.

Scholarship and bursary expenses are expected to increase by 9.4 per cent, but WLU's activity in this area remains far below the average for other Ontario universities. Many of these universities use substantial portions of interest earned on their endowment funds (which are much larger than WLU's) to finance scholarships and bursaries.

The university intends to add a new sport, soccer, to the list of inter-collegiate sports in which it participates.

3 . .

Income from conferences is expected to increase dramatically from \$117,000 to \$212,400. A large part of this conference income will be used to absorb some of the overhead costs in residences and the dining hall.

Consequently, charges to students for residences and meals will be increased by 7.5 per cent - an amount below the expected rate of inflation in 1980-81.