

Students may boycott U of T course over new head of Ukrainian studies

Ukrainian students at the University of Toronto have threatened action, including a boycott, unless the university allows an investigation into the hiring of a Harvard researcher to fill the university's newly created Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

"The issue is serious enough to be causing the university considerable embarrassment," Cam Harvey, a governing council member, said on the weekend.

Mr. Harvey and Peter Galway, student council president, will seek the help of Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson today in setting up an external task force to investigate alleged "procedural irregularity" in the university's granting tenure to Professor Paul Magosci.

Some students have vowed not to enroll in Prof. Magosci's course. A meeting of the Student Administrative Council on Wednesday will determine whether that body will back an official boycott.

Prof. Magosci was granted a lifetime professorship at U of T last Thursday amid claims by students that he has no "clearly established competence in teaching," a pre-requisite set by university rules for such a tenure.

Arthur Kruger, U of T arts and science dean, said yesterday that the university's position is that "there is nothing to have a task force about."

He said that the tenure committee was set up "in a normal way" and that the committee was satisfied with reports of Prof. Magosci's teaching ability.

In an interview on Saturday, Michael Maryn, president of the Nation-

al Ukrainian Canadian Students Union, echoed the feeling of other students.

"We have nothing personal against Prof. Magosci. The university administration says he is a scholarly gem. The man himself is pleasant and we are willing to give him a chance."

U of T's student press and student bodies are in turmoil, however, over the fact that Dr. Magosci was granted tenure before the three-year trial period.

"It is the principle that we are fighting for now; it has gone beyond my nationality," Mr. Maryn said.

Members of the university's Ukrainian Students Club also have raised questions about Prof. Magosci's ability to teach the course in Ukrainian history, politics and society, although they say they are aware of his excellent record of research in that field.

"According to his curriculum vitae, he has taught only half of a half-course in his career," Mr. Maryn said. "We do not think it right to guarantee him a job without having to first prove himself as a teacher."

Mr. Maryn has a letter of recommendation from Harvard University's Research Institute to U of T on behalf of Dr. Magosci in which the institute's director states: "His superiority over his colleagues in publications should be confronted with the fact that all the others have spent much time preparing for courses and dealing with students."

"Dr. Magosci is aware of this Achilles heel of his, and I am not sure whether he will be able to accept your invitation at this present time. . . . It seems to me that he would need to begin his appointment with a one-year sabbatical to have time to prepare

The letter was written in February.

The students' anger is fuelled by a feeling that U of T's administration has acted in bad faith ever since the issue of hiring Prof. Magosci started a year ago.

Mr. Maryn said on Saturday that the Ukrainian Businessmen's Association was allowed after 10 years of bargaining to set up a \$300,000 foundation, matched by federal grants, for the creation of a Chair for Ukrainian Studies at the university.

However, Professor George Luckyj, a member of the committee responsi-

ble for seeking candidates, resigned last November after, he said, the university started inquiring about expertise in economics instead of Ukrainian history.

Prof. Luckyj said of the present controversy: "A great injustice has been done and Magosci is the unfortunate victim."

"There is no way we can fight against it," he said, pointing out that the university has not fired a professor in 150 years.