

OEA takes university to court ; wants YSU budget open to public inspection

Atty. John G. Ingram, special council for the university, will represent YSU in a complaint filed by the YSU Chapter of the Ohio Education Association seeking to force the university to open its budget to public inspection. The complaint maintains that the university has refused to date to comply with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43 which provides for public accessibility to all state records except those prohibited State or Federal laws.

The complaint will be heard by Common Pleas Judge Forrest J. Cavalier at 9 a.m. Monday morning at the Mahoning County Court House. The complaint states that the plaintiff organization has demanded and been refused permission to inspect the budget. The university, President Albert L. Pugsley, and Vice President for Financial Affairs, Joseph S. Rook have been named as defendants.

The plaintiffs, to be represented by Atty. Eugene Green, ask that a Writ of Mandamus be issued ordering the defendants to deliver copies of the budget for the academic years 1970-71 and 1971-72 at the plaintiff's costs. They also demand an alternative writ be issued directing the defendant's to show why they have failed to deliver copies of the

budget for the two academic years.

The OEA has been trying to obtain copies of and/or access to the university budget for over a year. President Pugsley, when first asked about access to the budget, questioned the attorney general's office about the legality of releasing it.

The attorney general's office informed him that they had no jurisdiction over the matter. He then questioned the attorney general appointed university counsel, Atty. Ingram, who advised him that the matter was up

to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

The matter went before the Board of Trustees at their last meeting and they, in an effort to seek faculty opinion on the matter of releasing the budget and in effect faculty salaries, referred the question to the Faculty Affairs committee for a recommendation. The Faculty Affairs committee has, as of yet, made no recommendation.

An OEA spokesman yesterday urged all interested faculty members to attend the court hearing Monday morning.