

# YSU defers payment for strike-stricken students

■ YSU offers tuition payment extension due to GM strike.

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MANAGING EDITOR

YSU announced Friday it will offer automatic tuition payment extensions to students whose funds have been hampered by the General Motors strike.

The strike, which ended Tuesday, forced the GM assembly plant in Lordstown, the largest single employer in the Youngstown area, to close its doors for nearly seven weeks.

YSU reacted by pushing the July 31 tuition payment deadline back to Sept. 22 for students hindered by the GM strike. They will not have to pay the \$25 late fee.

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Cynthia Anderson said, by offering tuition deferment, YSU will be able to help out students affected by the GM strike.

"GM has been very supportive of YSU in hiring students, offering internships, etc.," Anderson said. "We feel we should help them out in their time of need."

Executive Vice President Dr.

G.L. Mears said YSU decided to offer automatic extensions after the Bursar's office received numerous calls from GM employees.

"I had a father call me with twin daughters at YSU," Mears said. "He's got a mortgage, car payments and two tuition bills and he can't keep up with all of them. We're simply trying to make it possible for people to attend YSU."

Anderson said the payment deferment is not just for GM employees or family members of GM employees.

"We realize this is not GM specific — that other companies in the valley are affected by the shutdown," Anderson said in a written statement. "Clearly, because of the responses we have been getting, the impact of the shutdown has reached much further than we originally believed. We are urging all those students who need extensions to give us a call."

She said YSU was concerned that a large number of students would have to sit out fall quarter

because of the strike, but that was not part of the decision to aid victims of the shutdown.

"Obviously, if a lot of students sit out, that's not good for the university," Anderson said. "But we're just trying to help the only way we can."

YSU Bursar's Office Account Clerk Supervisor Kathy Kish said YSU offers payment extensions every quarter. However, students who receive those extensions still must pay the \$25 late fee.

She said the automatic extensions are the only exception to that fee.

Anderson said YSU is trying to accommodate all students.

"The bursar's office is dealing with students on a one-by-one basis," Anderson said. "We're trying to help everyone who needs extensions."

Mears said now that the strike has been settled YSU will still offer the extended Sept. 22 deadline.

Anyone who requires a tuition extension should call 742-3133 or 742-3137.