

YSU unions seek to combine ranks

By GEORGE DENNEY
Jambar Editor

Some 400 faculty members of the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association will meet this Wednesday to debate the possibility of accepting into their ranks three other groups of employees of the University.

According to the plan, outlined by Dr. Thomas A. Shipka, president of the YSU/OEA, 70 administrative and 400 classified employees, along with 26 campus police officers, would join the faculty union, which would then act at an "umbrella" organization.

Shipka, explaining that the proposal has been two months in the making through meetings with representatives from all the organizations, said the move is possible because of two recent developments having to do with classified service employees.

The first is a new Collective Bargaining Law, to become effective April 1, which provides collective bargaining rights to state employees and second, a recent change has occurred in the OEA by-laws allowing classified employees to be OEA members.

Members of the YSU/OEA must approve similar by-law revisions to conform with the state level change before the local chapter can accept new members

from the classified employee sector.

"This whole concept will work only if it has the support of all of the persons who want to try to strengthen our position on campus," Shipka said.

He said indications are favorable that the professional staff and classified employees will vote to join the YSU/OEA if the local chapter by-laws are approved.

The "umbrella" organization would "improve pay and working conditions for all of us in the faculty and staff," Shipka said.

He explained that the proposed 900-member strong organization would negotiate "three distinct contracts, one covering faculty/professional staff, one covering classified staff, and one covering campus police."

Although three separate negotiating teams would exist, an executive council comprised of members from all sectors would govern the "umbrella" organization and a general membership meeting would be held along with separate bargaining unit meetings.

"We (YSU/OEA) are not here to push anyone around or try to force anyone to do what he or she does not want to do. We think that if people read the plan, and understand it, then they will see

See Unions, page 8

Unions

Continued from page 1

that it is an enlightened way for us to proceed on campus," Shipka said.

If the YSU/OEA by-laws are revised to accommodate the proposed plan, Shipka said the faculty would vote by secret mail ballot whether to accept or reject the proposal. If accepted, the individual groups would then vote among their ranks toward a decision to join the YSU/OEA.

Shipka, explaining that the YSU/OEA was the first faculty

union at a state university in Ohio, said that at the two universities that followed (Kent State and Cincinnati), the professional staff is in the same bargaining unit as the faculty.

"One thing we can do for our faculty and staff is that we can upgrade substantially the quality of staff service which they receive," Shipka said. He explained that with the increased membership of the YSU/OEA, a member of the YSU faculty or staff could act as a part-time staff representative in addition to the full-time staff representative now available.