

Council spending criticized

By Jerry Lewiski
of The Gateway

The Student Council executive was criticized for spending \$2,106 in delegate expenses to send U of A representatives to three CUS conferences this summer.

U of A is not now a member of CUS.

This issue and others were discussed on Wednesday in SUB Theatre as members of the students' union executive occupied the "Students' Union Hot Seat" sponsored by the Interfraternity Council and Freshman Introduction Week.

Members of the Hot Seat were David Leadbeater, President of the Students' Union; Liz Law, academic vice-president; Dennis Fitzgerald, treasurer; and Dennis Crowe, co-ordinator of student activities.

Defending the action to send delegates to the CUS conferences, David Leadbeater pointed out that these were CUS rebuilding conferences. Changes were being made to the structure and attitudes prevalent in CUS and it was a responsibility of the executive to keep aware of these changes. If there were another referendum on CUS, students would have more information on the national organization, he said.

Mr. Leadbeater considers the cost of \$2,106 small in comparison to the \$18,000 annual fee that would be paid to CUS should U of A commit itself to CUS in a future referendum.

A second area of inquiry was renovating students' union offices. It was originally estimated that the cost would be \$4,000 for the work. When completed, it cost \$8,200.

Dennis Fitzgerald explained that this covered not only the renovation of office premises, but also work in three other areas.

The over-expenditure in office renovations led to questioning of amounts left for supporting various recreational activities. It was asked if the expenses incurred in sending delegates to CUS and the increased renovation costs would cause any other areas to suffer.

Dennis Fitzgerald replied that barring any unforeseen expenses, adequate funds would be available to carry out all programs. The possibility that some recreational facilities may be eliminated in SUB to make room for a day care center for the children of university students also arose.

Liz Law noted that in 1967 there were 1,207 children of university students. That figure is probably substantially greater now. The space that the executive had considered for a center is basement storage space in SUB.

It may however include part of the recreation area where the ping pong tables are now. This would provide space for an additional 80 children. The ping pong tables are easily removable and could be set up again after 5 p.m. when the day care center would close.

The question of student participation in student affairs again became an issue. A few of the councillors also voiced dissatisfaction with the communications between the executive and the council members.

Some felt that consultation between the two groups was poor on matters of importance.

Attendance was about 100. Many of the students carrying on the dialogue were on a first name basis. Elizabeth Law summed up the "apathy" when she said "There are 101 students here of which I recognize 74 as old faces. That shows who we are talking to".

CUS criticizes "ivory tower" "apologist" university

PORT ARTHUR (CUP)—Canadian universities are supporting "an irrational and inhuman status quo," according to the education policy statement passed by a large majority of the universities represented at the 33rd CUS congress.

While recognizing that the university does criticize the present system to some extent, delegates said the "ivory tower" approach to problems "separates criticism from action," and produces "academic criticism that is often merely academic, removed from real material problems."

The policy statement relates society's inability to solve the

problems of poverty and inequality to the fragmentation of knowledge which prevents intellectuals from forming the "total perspectives" these problems require.

The statement also condemns the subordination of public good to private profit.

Congress delegates also attacked courses "directly apologist" of present conditions which encourage students to think the system is unchangeable. The policy statement condemns "ecology courses that can't deal with pollution, politics courses that deal with politics as what happens in parliament, and economics courses that teach Samuelson" (a major apologist of the present North American economic system).

The only real opposition to the statement came from Martin Shapiro, a congress observer from McGill University.

Shapiro was received with amusement or disbelief as he said the document was "intolerant" of non-socialist views, "perhaps much narrower than the present educational system," and had "dangerous tendencies towards a new kind of fascism."

Delegates applauded CUS secretariat member John Gallagher when he replied that the statement called for "something more than a unified university with a unifying ideology." Most expressed approval at Gallagher's statement that the present university system does not allow different points of view to be expressed and can only lead to a reinforcement of the status quo.

For their part, radical delegates criticized the document as "too moderate," although they appeared to agree with the principles of the statement.

Only two schools voted against adoption of the statement.



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An Apology

At the IFC-FIW Hot Seat I posed several critical questions to members of the students' union executive. I have since learned that the essence of these questions was based on erroneous information. I would thus like to apologize to the executive for any embarrassment I may have caused.

As an error was made in public, I am grateful to have the opportunity to apologize in public.

Sincerely,
Robert White
DIEB Chairman

Busy Bee

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Due to circumstances beyond our control, The Gateway number has 432 in it, the same as the area number for the university telephones. Many people attempting to dial within the university use the 432 prefix and get our number.

There is no need to dial anything but the last four digits when dialing within the campus.

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Otherwise they will get an irate Gateway staffer on the other end who will not appreciate their hanging up without a word.

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