

SRC: College Council Can't Keep Copping Out

York needs a university-wide government. For three years there has been nothing but talk, talk, and more talk.

What action are our college councils and responsible students taking this year?

The original students of York Campus recognized the need for university-wide government. In August of 1966 they organized the Student Representative Council (SRC). Unfortunately its first year of existence was plagued with difficulties. SRC was never recognized by the administration, it suffered from confused and ineffectual personnel, and most important, it was claimed that the duties and powers were never clearly defined.

Gary J. Smith, the first SRC president, resigned before the 1966-67 school year started.

The second president, Keith Kennedy, was unable to gain the support of the rest of his council. He resigned in January 1967 along with one of the vice-presidents and the Vanier representatives.

Ken Johnston, (Founders III), became president and has attempted to salvage the idea of an SRC. Committees were set up and recommendations made. A general meeting of college councils was held, but nothing definite could be decided last year. In fact, the newer college council members rendered ineffective some of the positive steps that had been taken. They left everything up in the air with no real machinery to either scrap the whole idea or revamp it.

The result is that this year the idea of a university-wide government at York University is still floundering. Ken Johnston has been left holding a temporary position (acting president) of a body that may or may not exist (nobody is sure) and his authority for doing so is based on no recognizably sensible actions of the elected college councils.

What is to be done?

Proposals abound. Founders Council has published its idea of a temporary College Co-ordinating Body (CCB). The Fountain, in its editorial of October 5, has also supported this proposal. They envisage a two part body: the first co-ordinating social, cultural and athletic events on the university-wide level; the second, a policy-making body composed of the college presidents plus one popularly elected member from the students at large.

If the trend of the past two years at York is indicative, we doubt there is any chance for the success of this plan. It depends too much on the college councils working together. We do not believe this to be possible.

A superior plan is that offered by Ken Johnston (reprinted on this page).

The people elected to this body will have the specific duties of co-ordinating university-wide affairs--unlike the Founders' plan where the same person is attempting two jobs.

Certain conditions, however, must be added to Mr. Johnston's proposal.

There must be a clause to make revision possible in two to three years.

There must also be provision to prevent more than three of the executive originating from one college for this year and possibly less in future years, for obvious reasons.

More important, the idea of delegated council representation must be given further consideration. There is some doubt as to whether this aspect of the plan, as presented, is workable.

Even if we have ideas, we do not have any machinery to either implement, change or abandon them. No one is taking the initial and vital step of calling a general council meeting.

Let's get off our collective asses!

Call a meeting, councils, or we will.

letters to the editor

NO ONE SPEAKS

Dear Sir:

You ask "who speaks for us?" Excalibur knows damn well that at this moment no one speaks for all York students. Excalibur is fully aware that, because we do not, at present, have an elected Students Representative Council

at York there is no voice, no leadership for York students.

Excalibur, knows full well that because the college councils at York Campus have been reluctant to give up any power at all, any of their precious money; that because our college councils have procrastinated interminably in helping to establish an effective

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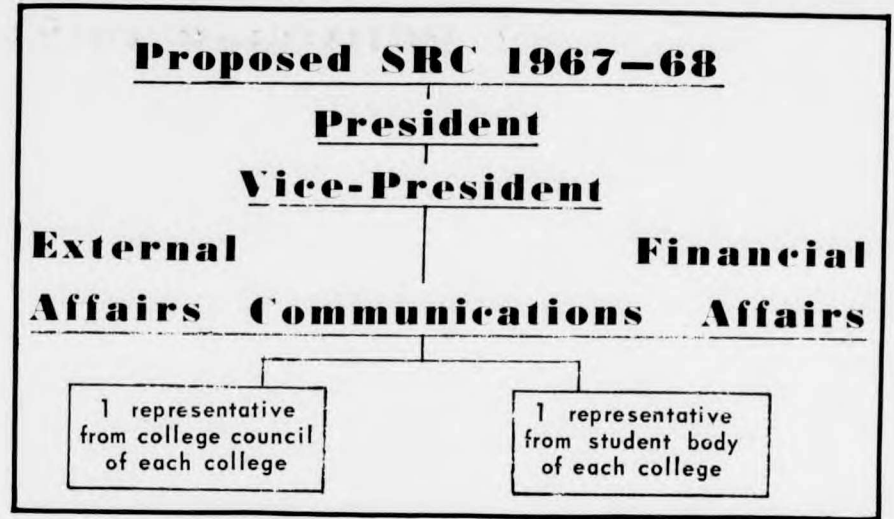
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offices: york university



a proposal by ken johnson for

The Student Representative Council of York University

Student Representation by the college student councils alone would be insufficient to meet the needs of the student body. This fact was very clear in our relationships with the Canadian Union of Students and other outside groups, where there was clearly a need for one rather than a variety of voices from York University.

Similarly, no cohesive group of individuals, expressing a preference for a wide rather than a narrower college point of view in representing students on academic matters and matters of university administration seemed more desirable than the probability of thirteen disunited and conflicting college opinions. Such a centre of student leadership must, it was felt, be given a maximum degree of autonomy, free from pressure by any other body, including the university administration and the college student councils.

STRUCTURE & REPRESENTATION

The new council is to be composed of a five man executive and and executive board, with two representatives from each of the colleges on this campus. Each member of this body is to have one vote, giving a voting majority to the college representatives. Of the two representatives from each college, one is to be elected from the college population at large, while the other is to be appointed by the student council of the college. It is hoped that such a system will maintain the link of communication between the central body and the college councils.

Glendon College sends one representative to sit on SRC although this member is given no vote. This is related to Glendon's comparative autonomy from the York Campus; its desire to handle its own voice before the administration.

The SRC represents, therefore, the entire full time undergraduate student population on our campus. Any undergraduate can vote in SRC elections, and any undergraduate can run for office (with the exception of freshmen, who cannot run for any executive position). Also, the SRC should move toward including graduate and Atkinson students, and, certainly, all of the professional faculties, including law.

reprinted from Foundations

university student council, we have no voice today. Excalibur knows that the myth of a mighty college system at York has been a constant barrier to effective student government at York.

So why does Excalibur play the naive freshman and ask innocently in a timid voice, "Who speaks for York?"

Speak for York, you hypocrites!

Ron Graham
Former Editor-in-Chief
Excalibur 66/67
(Founders III)

VERSAFOOD AND THE ECM

Dear Sir:

It appears Mr. Angrave, in his scathing denunciation of York, and indeed, of every other Canadian university, for somehow degrading itself by buying food from the Versafood Corporation after an American (horrors!) takeover, has demonstrated his critical faculties and awareness in one, overriding acute observation--that Canada is in its Centennial year of Confederation. Good boy!

Mr. Angrave has a rather restricted devotion to the archaic philosophy of petty nationalism. I hope he realizes the implications of his emotional statement "How can we be a nation if we can't even feed ourselves?" This criterion of self-sufficiency would imply that Russia, China, India, and indeed most of the countries of the world, because of their concern that their respective populations receive a balanced diet and don't starve to death, somehow fail to achieve

the status of 'nation.'

Aside from this, Mr. Angrave seems to find fault, when an 'American' Versafood which uses Canadian produce, employs Canadian personnel, does a more efficient job, and pours profits back into the company. Of course this point is irrelevant to Mr. Angrave's basic principle that somehow nationalism is equivalent to isolation and self-sufficiency, and we should "buy Canadian" to combat the inevitable transition from mutual economic activity to political domination.

Accordingly, we can write off the European Common Market, the Outer Seven, and all other international trade organizations as being basically unsound.

I wish to thank Mr. Angrave for his contribution to the problems of getting along in an international community.

D. Bullock
(Founders III)

Excalibur recently conducted a poll to determine the attitude of the student body to a university-wide government. This was a random poll but since only a small cross-section of the student body was polled we by no means claim this to be wholly accurate.

In favour of university-wide government:	32 students	78.5%
Opposed to university-wide government:	5 students	12%
No opinion or not interested	4 students	9.5%