

SU exec gets 33% pay raise

by Ken Lenz

Students' Council raised SU Executive salaries \$150 per month - retroactive to July, 1983, at Tuesday's meeting.

A \$2100 cheque will await each of the five executive at the end of this month.

The second part of the motion sees the salaries of next year's executives raised an additional \$150, up to \$1200 per month per executive member. This makes the total wage increase 33 per cent this year.

It will cost students \$72,000 per year, over \$3 per student, to retain 5 executive members next year.

The SU Executive salaries will have increased over 90 per cent in less than two years, and over 110 per cent in just over two years, despite the organization's indebtedness (nearly \$1,000,000) less than a year ago.

There was virtually no debate on the motion.

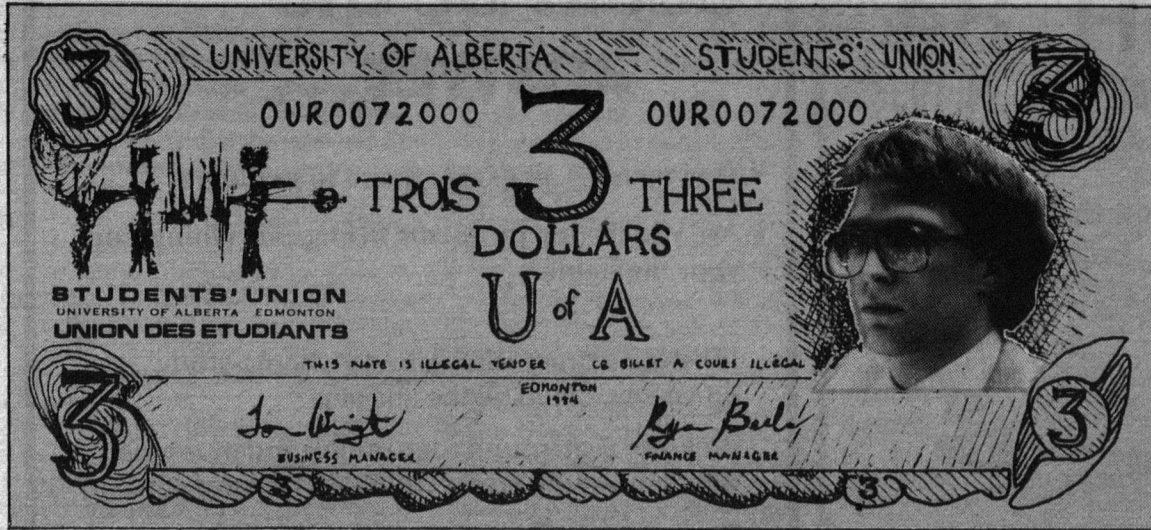
Nevertheless, the wage increase was accompanied by a three-week paid vacation leave, as well as several other benefits.

Ann Fischer presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Wages and Benefits of the Executive Members of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta. The report justified the increase incorrectly, saying the SU Executive had not received an increase since May, 1981.

But SU President Robert Greenhill recalled the motion he presented to council in February 1982, where exec salaries were raised 63 per cent, from \$550 per month to \$900 per month.

The report also pointed out that SU Executives are expected to fulfill full time responsibilities and as full-time employees, are expected to start paying back their student loans.

Robert Greenhill took three courses last term.



Pay early! Cut out this three dollar bill and run, don't walk, to the Executive offices located at Room 256 SUB.

"There are inevitable expenses, such as meals and travelling costs," says the report.

As well, "the executive's clothing costs are elevated from those of normal students" because "their appearance must present a professional, serious attitude" when dealing with "government and university officials."

Commerce representative Brian Thomas called this subsidy of Executive clothing expenses "laughable."

Both VP Finance Greg McLean and VP Internal Peter Block used an executive rollback policy as part of their election campaign last year.

Says Block, "we were using our salaries to finance some of the programs students needed - now there's enough money."

President Greenhill says the increase may "allow people who couldn't have run before, to be able to afford it."

"The minimum that executives could work for doesn't detract from the arguments in

favour of what they should be paid," he adds.

SU Business Manager Tom Wright said though he endorsed the increase, there may be problems negotiating with CUPE (the union from which the SU employs 80 people) this March.

In other business, the SU passed second reading of the new Election Bylaw.

Under the new rules, "the names of slates may not include federally or provincially registered political parties or their affiliates."

The main reason in favour of this motion is that party affiliated slates may have an unfair advantage should a provincial or federal election take place close to SU election time.

But some councillors complained that this bylaw was infringing on a "fundamental freedom."

The other major change in the Bylaws, which govern elections, concerns the appeal process after an election.

In the past, people could appeal to the Discipline, Inter-

pretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board only after the election, and DIE Board could void an election.

Now the ballot boxes will be sealed until all appeals are heard. The appeal procedure has been changed and DIE Board has only judicial powers, no authority to overturn an election.

All appeals must be presented to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) before 8 PM on election day. The CRO acts as the first court of appeal, making the first decision within 24 hours.

The slates then have 48 hours to appeal to DIE Board.

DIE Board has 48 more hours to make a decision.

After DIE Board, the University Disciplinary Panel is the final court of appeal. They hear the complaint at their leisure, with no time limit.

When all the appeals are finally heard, the boxes are opened and a winner is decided.

For the second time this month, the council meeting was adjourned early because some councillors left early.

Graphic Anne Stephen

Gateways
Thursday, January 26, 1984

Art critics are like eunuchs in a harem...

...they know how it's done, they see it done every day, but they can't do it themselves.

Finance Board squeezes parents

Single parents will have to take five courses to get assistance

by Angela Wheelock

The Student Finance Board wants single parents who attend university to take more courses.

"We're taking a good hard look at abuse within the system," says Gay Mathieson, Public Relations Officer for the Finance Board.

Single parents in Edmonton and Calgary who received aid in 1983-1984 were sent letters requesting transcripts, in order for the Board to evaluate their course loads and marks.

Presently, if a single parent is taking 3 courses, he or she is eligible for maintenance grants of up to \$15,000 a session.

The University of Alberta defines a fulltime student as someone who takes at least three courses.

The Finance Board thinks five is a more reasonable number.

"Some single parents take a minimal course load, and fail courses but remain in school in order to receive financial aid," says Mathieson.

Brenda Davis, a fourth year Education student with 2 children, disagrees. She feels most single parents at the U of A are serious students attempting to improve their lives and get better jobs by completing degrees.

"They're squeezing the wrong group," Davis argues, "squeeze that group if you want to, it will basically be forcing them out of school and onto welfare."

Mathieson denied that this is the intention behind the Finance Board's investigation. But she says single parents have to make a realistic assessment of the situation.

"The pressures of a job are equal to the pressures of an education," she suggested, "if they can't handle a full time course load, and go home to their children, how will they handle a job?"

Since these students spend more time in university, they need significantly more student aid. Mathieson claims that in some cases this could cost the taxpayer as much as \$65,000 over four years. Single students only cost \$15,000.

"What we're concerned with," Mathieson said, "is that the students are really using that



4th year student Karen Tjosvold talks with her two sons, Caleb and Jason.

money as efficiently as possible."

However, some of the single parents argue that it is unrealistic for a single parent to take 5 courses, and be able to cope with the pressures of being a single parent at the same time.

Both Davis, and 4th year student Karen Tjosvold, mother of 2, agree about the possible effects of a change in policy.

Requiring single parents to take 5 courses could reduce the

margin of safety needed for successful completion of a program.

Both have carried 5 courses during their academic careers but circumstances sometimes forced them to take only 3 or 4.

"If I hadn't the option to drop," says Karen, "I wouldn't have made it."

"It's a human issue," Davis argues, "not just dollars and cents." The real tragedy is not if

several people take advantage of the system, but if a talented person ends up in a deadend job."

Ron Chillick, Acting Director of Student Affairs, agrees: "In the end the suggestion that students take 5 courses may drive prospective students away, and mature students have enough impediments in their way already. The damage is possibly done, no matter what the end result of the investigation."

photo Angela Wheelock

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