

**To meet in November**

**Proposed national student group studied**

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canadian student council representatives will meet in early November to attempt to initiate a new

national student union, following several country wide meetings during the summer.

But it appears major support for the new organization comes only from western Canada, with little interest in Ontario and almost none in the Maritime provinces.

The new organization would either replace or resurrect the now-defunct Canadian Union of Students (CUS) which died in 1969, amid charges that it had adopted too radical a political stance.

A preliminary meeting at the University of Windsor in May set the ball rolling, with the formation of a national steering committee, mandated to solicit proposals for the new union and write a draft constitution.

Delegates from Ontario's larger universities doubted the feasibility of establishing a national organization, and said they preferred to consolidate and improve the fledgling Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), which was formed last spring.

Few Maritime representatives attended the Windsor conference, while the main protagonists for a national union were delegates from Simon Fraser University, the University of Saskatchewan Regina campus, the University of Manitoba, and the host University of Windsor.

At a conference of prairie student councils in Regina July 14-15, representatives from eight universities and technical institutes agreed that a national students' union is the best vehicle for tackling problems

facing students. Only the U of Saskatchewan campus was opposed. Delegates passed a statement of principles listing priorities in forming a new union, although no delegation had the power to commit its students' union to definite plans.

The prairie schools indicated a regional association will be organized even if a national body is not established.

Meanwhile, plans for the November conference are well behind schedule.

Bruce Cameron, president of the Carleton University Students' Association and a member of the national steering committee for the new union, said the committee had hoped to have a preliminary draft of a constitution sent to member councils by now, but the person drafting the document at Simon Fraser was tied up working for the New Democratic Party in the recent British Columbia election.

"By our original timetable we had hoped to have a draft constitution sent out, feedback returned and a new document produced, on which councils could then have mandated delegates to act on in November," he said in an interview. "Now I don't know how successful this timetable is going to be."

Cameron noted "a certain amount of arrogance" among Ontario university student councillors toward the idea of a national organization.

"In Ontario there's a feeling that we've got to get OFS off the ground, and in dealing with the

Wright report (the provincial government's report on post-secondary education) we find the national issues tie in anyway, and there's a certain amount of arrogance that we can do it ourselves," he said. "There's a feeling that national issues can be dealt with by Ontario as Ontario, and with only informal relations with other provinces."

Cameron added that the Maritime provinces were "very suspicious" about anything happening west of the New Brunswick border.

"The problem with the Atlantic provinces is that the universities are now in a fairly conservative state and are suspicious of CUS and anything like it."

Cameron said that the November conference will probably see an organization form with representatives from most provinces.

Indications are that the conference will take place in Ottawa, but final plans have not been made. Steering committee members are chasing various sources of funding, including the federal government.

Originally students planned the conference in Toronto during the annual meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, but apparently they now want the new union to be born free of administration connections. Another factor in the move from Hogtown is a disastrous national conference on university financing held there in July.



(ted coldwell/dal photo)

Smilin' faces.

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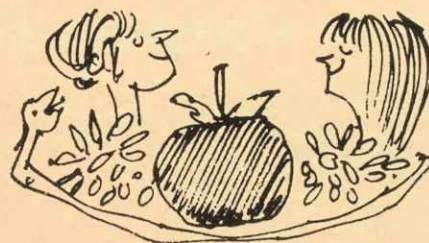
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