

General meeting scheduled to decide future of CFS

by Brent Jang

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) referendum came riding, riding up to the SU door.

SU President-elect Floyd Hodgins has collected 500 signatures on a petition calling for a "review of the October CFS referendum," thus forcing the speaker of the SU to call, organize, and chair a special general meeting.

In a memo dated March 14, SU President Robert Greenhill says, "the issue at hand is not the legitimacy of the October referendum, as the result was declared legal by the University Disciplinary Panel, but rather, its fairness."

The special general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st at the Butterdome. The doors open at noon and a quorum count will take place at 12:30. Hodgins says quorum will be reached when

one-twentieth of the student body, or about 1200 students, show up at the general meeting.

"If quorum is not reached, it shows me that students are just not interested in CFS. It's not an isolated section of campus that wants a CFS referendum, it's a cross section. For my petition, I got 200 signatures in CAB in less than two hours. The rest came from HUB, Education, Phys. Ed., and all over the place," said Hodgins, who surprised SU observers with a landslide victory over Andrew Watts in the February SU General Election.

Chief Returning Officer Ninette Gironella says if will be an extremely tight time-line if a referendum is given the go-ahead in March. "The Special General Meeting is to decide whether or not to hold a referendum, it won't

be the referendum itself. But if it's approved next Wednesday, nominations for "Yes" and "No" campaigns would close two days later, on March 23rd," said Gironella.

She says there would be then four days of campaigning, starting on March 26th, culminating with the CFS question on March 30th.

"The idea is to get a fair referendum that everyone respects. I have to work within CFS; I don't feel, with the controversy surrounding the previous October referendum, that I truly have a mandate as President to work with CFS in a non-critical manner," said Hodgins.

Gironella says it will be very difficult to conduct a proper referendum, given the lack of lead time. "I question whether such a referendum on CFS would be fair

in light of the short time available for campaigning."

Hodgins insists there's an important principle to uphold of reflecting students' preferences.

"We lose \$50,000 if there's a no vote after September 1984. That's our first installment of fees and they are not refundable if we vote to withdraw in the fall. We're forfeiting money to CFS that way. After the Calgary referendum (U of C students voted "No") I have a feeling that U of A students will say "No" to joining CFS."

Hodgins is upset that Students' Council decided to table the CFS motion after a quick two-second speech by Greenhill. Hodgins says the petition was the only way to get Council to pay attention.

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Stamp sees sexism in SU

VP Internal-elect Gord Stamp called up the chief negotiator for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) during talks with the Students' Union in a move that he insists was not meant to disrupt negotiations.

The contract talks started on Thursday and a settlement was reached yesterday.

"I obtained job descriptions of all employees of the Students' Union from (SU researcher) Stuart Mackay. I noticed the qualifications for a housekeeper suggested a grade 12 education. The caretaker's position needs a grade nine education but he makes \$3800 more than a housekeeper. In my mind, it

seemed like a clear case of sexual discrimination because all the caretakers here are men and all

the housekeepers are women, explained Stamp.

Current VP Internal Peter Block says Stamp simply misunderstood the issue, since the two positions are open to both men and women.

"Sure, Gord is free to call CUPE for information. In this case, though, he should have waited until our contract talks were over with instead of going on a crusade. A housekeeper does light maintenance while a caretaker works with heavier cleaning equipment. But these job descriptions do not preclude men applying for housekeeper or women applying for caretaker," said Block.

Says Stamp, "I asked (SU President Robert) Greenhill and Block what the difference was in

those jobs. And they said they didn't know. Greenhill suggested I talk to (CUPE rep) Royal Harris or (SU Business Manager) Tom Wright. Tom wasn't in his office when I called so I phoned up Royal to ask him about the job differences."

Stamp says he was caught off-guard when student councillors blasted him for the phone call. He maintains he did the right thing, however, feeling it is his obligation to speak up whenever discrimination occurs within his future portfolio.

The negotiations between the SU and its CUPE employees seemed to weather the phone call and Stamp's questions. A settlement was reached yesterday afternoon. The SU will be giving CUPE employees a 3 per cent raise, straight across all positions.

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Responsibility:

As Chairperson of Students' Council meetings, the Speaker shall conduct meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and the standing rules of Students' Council.

The Speaker is also responsible for the agendas and official minutes of Students' Council meetings.

Remuneration:

\$40 per meeting

For information and/or applications, please contact:

The Students' Union Executive Offices
259 Students' Union Building
432-4236

Deadline for Applications: Monday, 19 March 1984, 4:00 p.m.