

# An Inside look at the Ivory Tower

by Ken Lenz

The University of Alberta is an institution and like all institutions has a bureaucracy complete with committees, sub-committees, and miles of red tape. All this tends to be monotonous, boring and confusing at best. At worst it is enough to drive frustrated students into a suicidal frenzy.

Anyway, this is an extremely condensed guide to the inner workings of an institution you will probably spend at least four years at, and it may be important, at least for your own peace of mind, to understand who is making the decisions about your future.

## THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

This is the real decision making body at the University. The Board of Governors decides where to allocate the funds provided by the Provincial Government and fees paid by students. This entails decisions on tuition increases, building construction, hiring of academic staff, rents in student accommodation and so on.

There are 19 members on the Board of Governors: the University President, the Chancellor, the Chairman, eight members of the general upper-class public appointed by the Provincial Cabinet and one representative from the Senate, the Alumni Association and the Academic Staff Association. The Students' Union President, an elected Undergraduate and a member of the Graduate Students' Association represent student views on the Board.

## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Below the Board of Governors is the General Faculties Council, which makes decisions on primarily academic matters.

There are 140 members on GFC including 50 student representatives, which incidentally haven't been filled in recent years because of an indifference demonstrated by students. We like to call it apathy.

The remaining positions on GFC are filled by the Administration and the teaching staff.

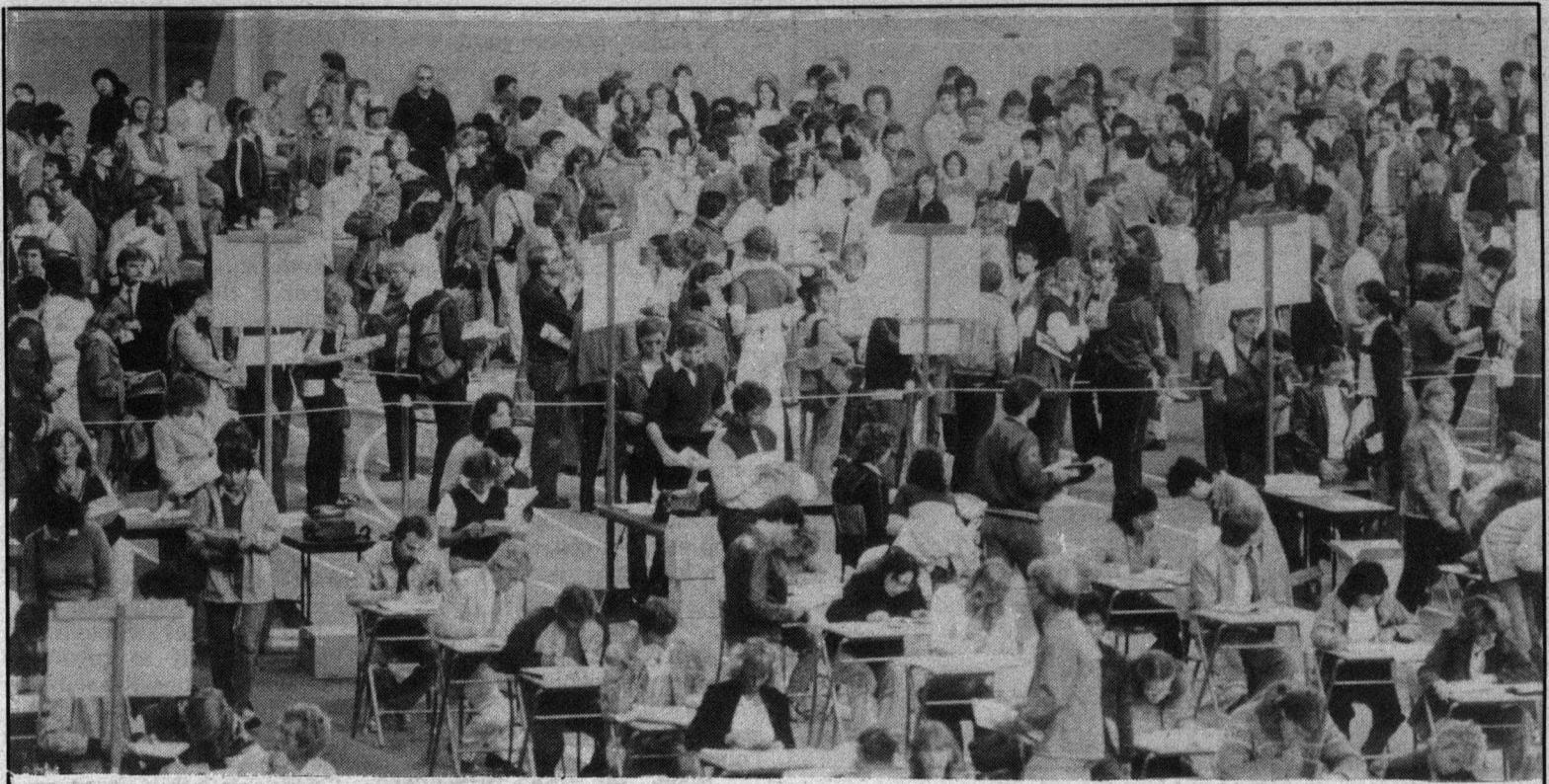
## THE SENATE

The Senate's role is almost purely advisory. It is intended as a link between an otherwise isolated University and the outside world. Dealing with issues like Native Studies Programs and the status of women, the Senate addresses some problems (however slowly and often ineffectively) which might otherwise be neglected.

The membership in the Senate also reflects its purpose of keeping contact with those outside the 'ivory tower'. Of the Senate's 89 members, 62 come from the general public. Of the remaining 27 members there are two from the Board of Governors, eight from GFC, five student representatives, four Alumni members and eight members appointed by the Provincial Government.

## THE STUDENTS' UNION

This is the organization looking out for our interests. The University of Alberta Students' Union is a five million dollar per year business employing some 70 people, from big shot lawyers to the waiters and waitresses in RATT and Dewey's. Besides the campus pubs, the SU maintains the Gateway, the campus radio station CJSR, the housing and exam registries, the SU record store and several other services.



Crowds, confusion and bewilderment; products of bureaucracy

And like the University, the SU has managed to build up an extremely confusing set of committees, boards and policies, all of which are far too convoluted to even touch upon in this article.

Administered by five paid elected executive members and watched over by an often bewildered democratic Students' Council, the SU does its best to act in the interests of students and to further the bureaucracy, but not necessarily in that order.

This year's executive consists of:

President Robert Greenhill acts as a spokesperson, sits on GFC, the Senate and the Board of Governors and does his best to keep everyone smiling with his masterful use of diplomacy and rhetoric.

The VP External Andrew Watts works with the Provincial Government and other outside things. He campaigns for lower tuitions and higher grants as well

as many other programs which might make your life at University a little easier.

The VP Finance Greg M. Lean works closely with SU Business Manager Tom Wright trying to control the amount of money spent by the SU. M. Lean's biggest job this year will be to try and control the SU's massive \$300,000 dollar debt.

The VP Academic Barb Donaldson represents students on academic matters ranging from

the lack of library study space, to proposals for tougher entrance requirements.

Finally, VP Internal Peter Block administers the smooth operations of the SU Building and SU services.

If you made it through this article, long dull and boring as it was, you will probably make it through University with relatively little trouble. To the remaining 99 per cent of you who really don't give a shit — I don't blame you.

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## Students' Orientation Services

requires a

### DIRECTOR

responsibilities include:

- program administration
- making budget, financial policy, and fee recommendations to Policy Board
- develop and run promotional campaigns for the program
- all program activities
- some financial background

### and ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

responsibilities include:

- making recommendations on the recruitment, maintenance, training, and evaluation of leaders to Policy Board.
- making recommendations on seminar content and format to Policy Board
- assisting the Director with general program administration.

These positions demand interested and dedicated individuals. Each position requires the specified responsibilities, as well as sitting as a member of the SORSE Advisory Board.

Students' Orientation Services (SORSE) is a large, student-based orientation programme. Successful candidates will be interested, enthusiastic, and have time to contribute to the program. Experience with orientation is a definite asset, but not essential.

The term of office is one year. The positions offer full time employment over the summer, and part time salary for the winter months.

Further information may be obtained from the SORSE Office. A letter of application and a detailed resume should be submitted to:

CHAIRPERSON  
SORSE Selection Committee  
Room 278  
Students' Union Bldg.  
ph. 432-5319

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3 pm. - midnight

A Students' Union  
Service