

"Council should be an effective decision-making body"

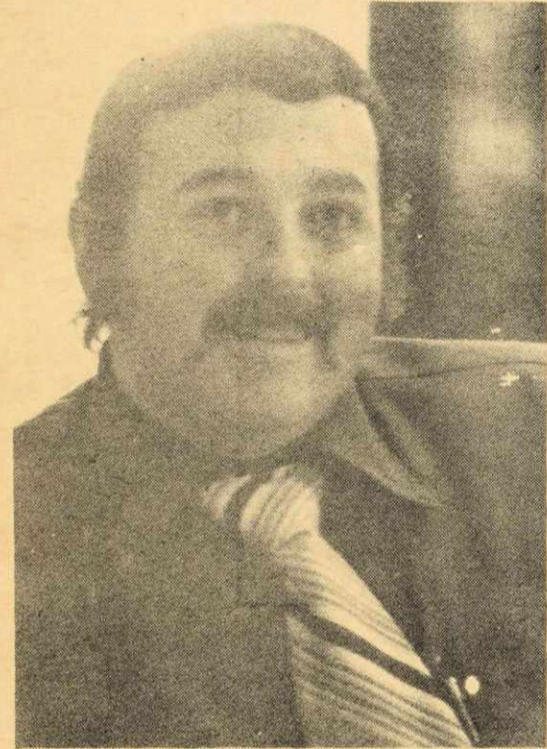
— Brian Smith

Brian Smith — Student Council President
Role as president:

Brian Smith sees his role as one of being a co-ordinator for the Student Council and providing direction when it is required. He acts as a "mediator between students, staff and faculty in a given particular situation."

"I oversee the operations of the physical plant and the day-to-day operations in the Student Union."

He says his position also requires that he be around as much as possible to talk to students so that he can "carry the views of students to Senate and the Board of Governors and take their views to



BRIAN SMITH

"Council gets bogged down in hum drum activities of SUB"

— Clem Norwood

For the Student Union to effectively reach all levels of the Dalhousie student population, it must learn to make constructive use of students' free activity time.

Rather than taking the initiative in such matters, students have come to expect things to be done for them! During an interview with the Gazette, Clem Norwood, head of SUB Operations, discussed some of the problems besetting the Student Union as well as the prospects of change within.

Responsible to all Dalhousie students, Norwood is Administrative head of the SUB as it affects day-to-day operations. Besides these duties, Norwood works closely with the SUB Affairs Secretary (Stu Barry) to provide the services, facilities, and program desired by the Student Union Programming Committee and acts as advisor to the Student Union Programming Committee and other student groups in establishing their programs, and proposes to the general manager of the Student Union the requirements for alterations, additions and other items of capital expenditure. While his job responsibilities make him administrator, educator, and advisor to the Student Union, Norwood prefers to work behind the scenes where he "tosses out ideas to stimulate the thinking of students."

Within the Student Union, Norwood was critical of the Students' Council for getting "bogged down with the hum drum activities of the SUB." As a result of this, the Council has often lost sight of the bigger concerns of university life (academic concerns and housing problems). Because of the shortsightedness of past Student Councils, it is not surprising that students themselves have little or no understanding of the purpose of the Student Union.

Norwood was also concerned that Dalhousie's too rapid expansion, "sea of faces," has made it difficult for those working in the SUB to perform their various duties. With a shortage of staff at the administrative level and the overlapping of certain job responsibilities within the SUB, it is virtually impossible for the Union to satisfy the many and various interests of Dal students.

Despite the highest enrollment ever at Dalhousie, Norwood estimated that student participation in the

the persons responsible."

Basically, he says he is working for the improvement of the student's position in such matters as student aid and university priorities.

Role of the Student Council:

"Ideally, the role of the Student Council is to represent the students and their views. Council should be an effective decision-making body in the Student Union."

Smith stated that there were a number of faults with the present form of student government, and this is why a committee on alternate student government has been formed.

"First we must study whether we have the best form of government. This committee will hopefully find that out."

Smith said that Council members should also make themselves available to the students they represent. He says that now, many members are just not putting in the time to do this effectively.

Role of the Student Union within the university:

The role of the Student Union within the university is to "look after the best interests of students while always considering the other point of view. We are involved in the university's decision-making bodies, and so it's not just their decisions or just ours."

There are enough students sitting on these bodies, says Smith. "But the only basis for saying that is that decisions that have been made, have been corresponding with the views of students."

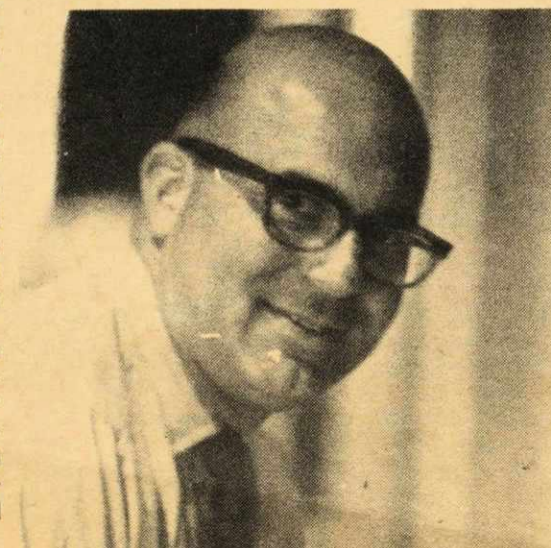
He also says that many of these bodies rubber-stamp the recommendations of the committees, but this is done, he says, because these recommendations are based on information specialists in that particular field.

Smith feels that involvement is a major problem for a strong Student Union.

"You can invite involvement and you can suggest it. Last year I contacted as many groups and organizations as possible to tell them about the Student Union. I told them that if they didn't like what we were doing, then come and help us change it."

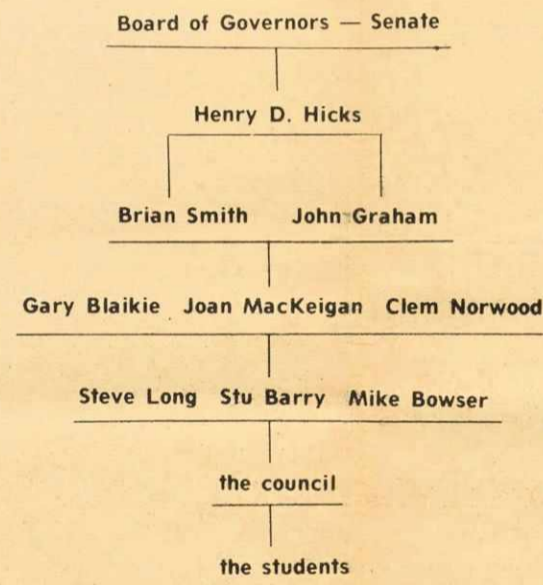
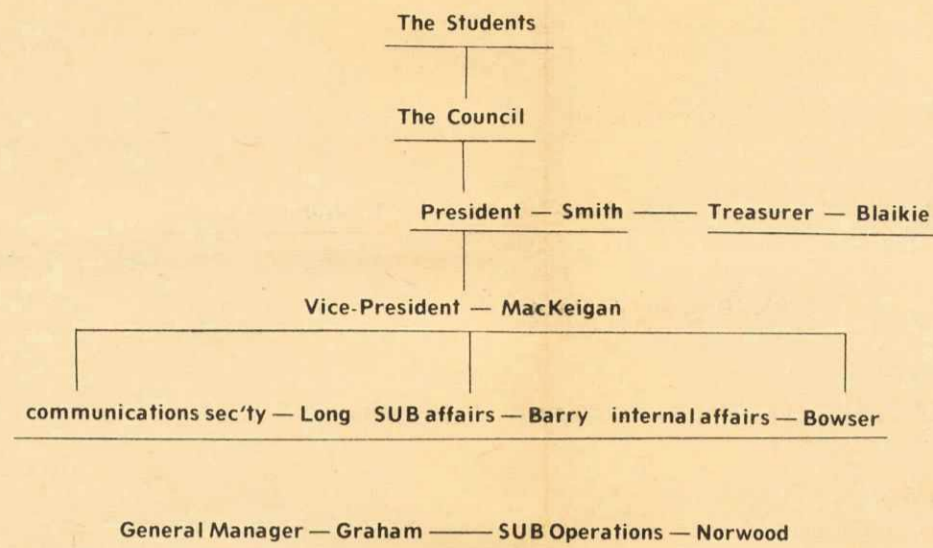
Student Union organizations was at a lower level than before the SUB was built. One way of overcoming this difficulty and getting first year students plugged into Dalhousie would be to send to prospective students lists of all the different organizations within the Student Union. Such information should explain the purpose of each organization and how the student can become a part of that organization.

Norwood expressed hopes that the present Students Council give more thought to decentralizing programs outside the SUB in the future. With the increased enrollment at Dal, the SUB is no longer large enough to accommodate so many students' activities. This is amply illustrated each year at Winter Carnival from the many complaints of over-crowded functions and exorbitantly high prices for tickets. Norwood explained that such events had to be spread over a rather long period of time to alleviate the great demand for tickets. In the future, Norwood envisages such buildings as the Halifax Forum being utilized for mass entertainment events sponsored by Dal.



CLEM NORWOOD

"Lines of authority and communication"



Above are two charts: the upper one is the official "lines of authority and communication" of the student union. The lower chart is the Gazette's version of the other one

— this shows where we feel the real power in the union lies, and what the actual pecking order is in the decision-making process of our student union.

"I am totally subject to council"

— John Graham

John Graham, General Manager of Student Union on his position:

"I act in an advisory capacity first and last. I provide expertise with regard to management yet I am totally subject to council."

on the council:

"Being involved as I am in an advisory capacity, I would prefer not to comment on the shortcomings of the council."

on the student union:

"One problem faced by the Student Union is communications. Nobody, even the student newspaper, really puts forth the ideas and accomplishments of the Student Union. The Student Union in general would be improved if students participated more on committees."

the student union and the university:

"The real decisions concerning the university are made by the Board of Governors. The students do have representatives on this board. Often, students' demands are considered when the Board makes a decision. A compromise usually results when a conflict appears between the students and the administration."



JOHN GRAHAM

"In the Union there is essentially no bureaucracy"

— Steve Long

Steve Long — Communications Secretary
Role of Communications Secretary

"It is a job of policy-making and co-ordination, and Role of Communications Secretary of improving internal and external communication." He is responsible for internal communication between Council and all operating departments of the S.U.B., between all operating departments themselves (Gazette, Photography, Pharos, Dal Radio and Publicity), and with the student body as a whole.

As an appointed secretary, Long cannot vote at Student Council meetings. "I really owe allegiance to no one; I don't politically support anyone. What I try to do is mirror Council's feelings to the people, and the people's feelings to the Council."

He has no direct power, he says, "but supposedly I have tremendous influence over Council in matters concerning communications."

Long says there are three main areas of things he would like to accomplish.

1. "I want to establish a working relationship with all departments so they can function properly on their own."

2. "I want to improve the quality of the Gazette and Radio in particular."

3. "I want to build an image of the students in the university to the community."

"I would like to see the GAZETTE reflect more of student interests, which I do not think it is doing as much as it can. It could print more of the things that the University News prints — the NEWS should in fact go — but only if the GAZETTE takes it upon itself to do this."

Role of Student Council:

"Student Council is an elected body of representatives which must take care of the nitty-gritty procedural matters and deal with policy matters. Ideally, Council should try to reflect the wants and needs of the student body. All these functions are equally important."

Long says that the first two functions are being taken care of (procedural and policy matters), "but as for reflecting student needs and wants, they are not doing that."

He pointed out the new billboard in the SUB with the dates of the Council meetings and a copy of the agenda, as an attempt to get students to show some interest.

"Students do have a role to play, but I don't think they've been playing it. They're sitting back and

waiting for things to get done, and therefore it's difficult for us to represent them."

"In the Student Union, there is, essentially, no bureaucracy. In a rampant bureaucracy, members would have nothing to do, but here they do."

Role of Student Union within the University:

"The Student Union should essentially be a meeting ground for all students; it should avail itself to the student body and also entertain them to a certain extent, but not concentrate on any one aspect."

"Ideally, that's the way it should be, but until people make their voice known, it will remain ineffective."

Long said that more students on the university's decision-making bodies "would all the more reflect the student body, though this doesn't preclude that the student body is not represented fully in the decision-making now."



STEVE LONG

"My job is difficult because of the bureaucracy"

— Gary Blaikie

A lot of your money passes through the hands of Gary Blaikie, Student Union Treasurer. So you would probably like to know something about his views on his role, the Student Council, and the role of the Student Union within the university.

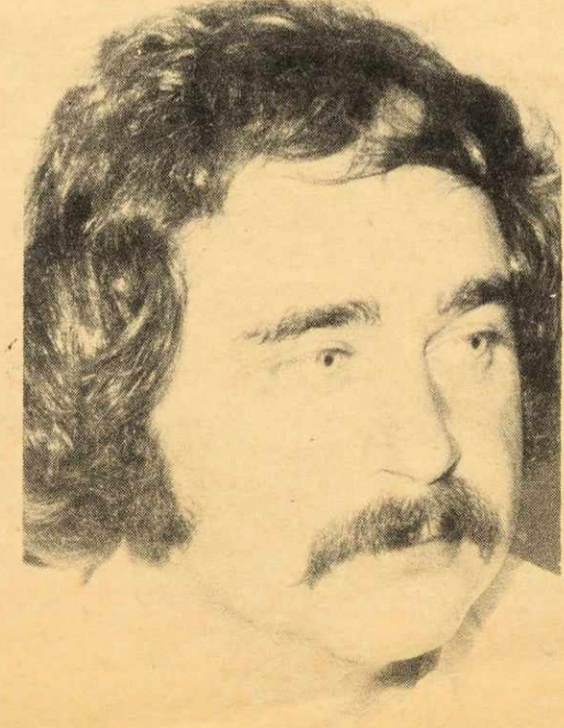
"My job is to make an appraisal of the funds of the Student Union and advise Council as to how this

money should be spent," says Blaikie. He does not have the power to allocate funds without the permission of the Council. "My job is difficult because of the bureaucracy I have to go through" but he adds that this is necessary. Blaikie doesn't feel it is the purpose of the Student Council to financially support outside organizations except when these groups directly affect students.

The budget of the Student Union is always available to anyone who wishes to see it. Blaikie intends to make students more aware of how the funds are allocated.

Although he says his job is rather straightforward, the Treasurer says his personal philosophy of the Student Union enters into how he carries it out. "The purpose of the Student Union is to serve the students, to find out what the majority of the students want, as well as considering the minority." The Student Union is responsible for the "social needs" of the students.

When asked what changes he would suggest in the structure of the Student Union he said, "I can see many changes that could be made for the sake of efficiency, but this would defeat the purpose of the Student Council." He added "the optimum situation right now is a very good system, and I can't think of any great changes that are needed."



GARY BLAIKIE

Salaries	
President's salary	— \$4,845.00
Vice-President	— \$1,600.00
Treasurer	— \$1,630.00
Secretariates (SUB Affairs, Communications, Internal Affairs)	— \$3,760.00