

Leadership and planning are needed Mr. President

As the Bible tells the story it took the Lord a week to create this world. It must have been an afterthought for him to have created the SRC and the presidency of that body.

The present world is governed by a set of natural laws that are the same for anything, except, it seems, our student government.

Yes, Virginia there is a SRC. That SRC is lead by an executive of which the president is the head. Some minds debate that the SRC exists only in the minds of a few people and is a myth to the others.

The object of this exercise will be to help people clarify what the president should be doing and to help him reach the goal by making a few recommendations.

The present job criterion that the president has to fulfill once he is elected is quite out-dated. It was out-dated for the job previous presidents had to do, and it is how painfully apparent that it is even more out-dated for the job that is presently required. The job criterion of the presidency is out-lined in the constitution of the SRC is very vague.

Within the last year the president was granted the option of taking a sabbatical presidency and going on a salary of \$80 per week. This year the option is being exercised by president Roy Neale. There is very little reason to expect that this option will not be exercised consistently in the future. The job that the president is required to do is growing ever larger, and greater demands are being placed upon him.

While the job is also not one of total involvement, it must be done, and to do the job properly requires a little reorganization, and re-allocating of the present priorities of the present administration.

Leadership is not being provided. This starts from the president and works it way down. One of the most important functions of the president should be a planning function. It says in so many words in the constitution that this is indeed one of his functions but this is being pushed aside, in favour of pet projects of each administration, with different priorities on each, with very little continuity from one to the other.

The president has the authority to delegate almost all of the decision making process that he wants to. This is not being done. This needless centralization of the decision making process takes time away from many projects that desperately need the SRC's elemental leadership.

The president must have other priorities, and stop attending endless committee meetings just because he is an ex-officio member of all SRC committees. There is a very fine line between participating meaningfully and meddling in the committee process to give his job meaning. That should come to him in other areas. The provision in the constitution for his being an ex-officio member of all SRC committees is there only for important occasions (i.e. when the presence of the president is required for major policy or the clarification of important facts and decisions).

The president must act on any matter of student interest, both on and off the campus. No longer is the job small enough to have all of the decision making process centralized in one office. A tremendous amount of co-ordinating is required and this will mean decentralization of some of the authority that rests within the president's office.

It may be at the expense of the president thinking that the decisions made are not as good as the decisions that he makes. On the other hand, however, they might be better, which is indeed something to think about.

We will now attempt to relate to all those involved some of the ways in which the president can make his job more meaningful and at the same time achieve greater efficiency in the use of his time. There are several excellent examples of how the job of the president could be changed around and the lines of authority cleared up. These recommendations, if followed, would also give the president more time to perform other tasks.

The first, and most important area that needs clarification is the role that the president should play in relation to the Administrative Board. It states quite clearly in the constitution that the Comptroller is clearly responsible for the functioning of the financial end of SRC affairs. The present comptroller has demonstrated no incompetence in that job that warrants the president's involvement in that committee. In fact it is our opinion that the comptroller is becoming much more knowledgeable of the functions that he has to perform and he is fulfilling those functions well.

Why then, when the comptroller is clearly responsible, does the president continue to attend all the meetings and to participate needlessly in that committee? It is the function of the finance chairman to keep the president fully informed on

all matters of a financial nature that the President should be informed about.

If the finance chairman is not performing his function then a replacement should be found, but at no time should the president be found at the meetings of the Administrative Board. If the president wants a project that requires funds initiated then he tells the finance chairman his plans and his financial needs. Then it is up to the finance chairman to get the needed funds. The finance chairman is the president's confidant for financial matters, and the president should not have to worry at any time on matters that are pertaining to the finances of the SRC.

If the president wasted less time at the AB meetings he would have a lot more time to devote to several important projects. This authority has already been delegated in the constitution but presently is not being followed in practise.

Another area of needless interference is the recent incident involving the Campus Police at the Liederhosen beer festival. It is granted that the president of the SRC is the titular head of the Campus Police, but is taking himself and his job too seriously when he approached the investigation of the allegations under these auspices.

The investigation should be divided into two areas of concern, firstly the mismanagement of the beer festival and secondly the actions of the Campus police. As president, Roy Neale should be worried about the first area only. In fairness to all parties concerned he should have had the Student Disciplinary Council conduct the investigation into the actions of the CP's, and to submit their report to him. The delay that has resulted has done more harm than good. Readers are encouraged at this point to read the letter that Gary Godwin the Chief of the Campus Police has submitted. If the president had had the SDC investigate that incident he would have achieved great things over the past two weeks. But he didn't, and that investigation has taken up a lot of his valuable time - time that he mis-allocates to the wrong priorities.

Yet another area of inefficient usage of his time was his participation in the Red and Black Revue. It is understood that when he is not playing the role of SRC president we can't begrudge him the right to enjoy himself. But we think and hope that Mr. Neale should have been smart enough to realize that almost all of that week was taken up with his participation in the show.

Winter carnival is next term and it will be interesting to see if he has learned of his lessons. There are several people who are presently interested in running the show as a committee, much the same as it was done last year. It is our earnest hope that these people will be given the chance to do the job that needs to be done. Absolutely no meddling is needed as these people have nothing short of excellent qualifications.

The president must attempt to be a good example as he is one of the leaders of the campus community. There are limits for him as there are for every other student and he above all must not attempt to use his position to exceed these limits or by-pass rules that other students obey unquestioningly.

It is hoped that every recommendation and comment written here is taken to heart by both Roy Neale and the Constitution Committee. This is not needless criticism. It rises far above that and makes recommendations that could serve useful for many years to come. The constitution needs considerable revamping by that committee.

By taking any of these recommendations seriously the president will find that he has a greater amount of time on his hands and can then plan what he would like to achieve in the second half of his presidency. Areas of concern are neglected presently that could be solved in the near future with a little bit of effort.

Some major issues that need urgent attention are listed here: 1) Student Loans; 2) NBUS; 3) Housing situation; 4) Student Parking; 5) food services; 6) Maritime entertainment union; 7) Decrease in enrollement; 8) LIP; 9) OFY

A management text has provided us with some characteristics that a good manager should have and are looked up to. Our presidency could use some of the same qualities. Admittedly these are but a few of the many possible. Score yourself. Mr. Neale, and see where you can improve yourself over the next three months. 1) Judgement; 2) Appreciation; 3) Initiative; 4) Integrity; 5) Foresight; 6) Energy and Drive; 7) Skill in Human Relations; 8) Decisiveness; 9) Emotional Calmness; 10) Fairness; 11) Ambition; 12) Dedication; 13) Objectivity; 14) Co-operation; 15) Dependability.

One more thing: pat political answers to the problems and suggestions we have posed here will not suffice. Unfortunately, though, chances are that's exactly what we'll get.

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