

In search of the lost office space

by Wes Oginski

Trying to find the Student Liberal Association or the Chinese Students' Association in the Students' Union Building (SUB)?

They probably got lost in the annual relocation of clubs that is part of re-applying for office space in SUB every year according to Students' Union v.p. internal Brian Bechtel.

About 40 groups applied for 17 offices available in SUB. 35 clubs were accommodated this year.

"That's at double and triple occupancy," says Bechtel.

"It seems ridiculous to me that we (the SU) have a building this size and we only have office space for 35 different groups in 17 offices," he says.

Bechtel is working on plans to increase the office space in SUB.

"We may see as much as a 300 per cent increase of office space," Bechtel says.

One area that may open up is the third floor, which is currently occupied by the U of A Personnel Services. They are moving to Athabasca Hall in March (1982).

"The question is, do we lease it out for \$30-\$40 thousand in revenue," explains Bechtel, "or to clubs whose benefits are less tangible."

The university is the major leaser of space in SUB, including

the bookstore and Dinwoodie cafeteria. No space is leased to private concerns, though there have been offers, says Bechtel.

Other areas that could be opened up for office space, says Bechtel, include the classrooms behind the Art Gallery, the area around the loading dock, and the space occupied now by the SUB curling rink.

"It looks like all in all, there are about 30,000 square feet that could be available," he says.

"I am very seriously going to pursue changing as much space as possible for club and service use," adds Bechtel.

He also realizes that the rest of the SU may not agree with him, but he will do his best.

"We are going to hire an architect to show us how we can most effectively use that area," Bechtel says.

Broad criteria exist for the definition of groups eligible to acquire office space in SUB.

Bechtel lists these criteria:

- a) the size of the club;
- b) percentage of SU membership in the club;
- c) the type of service augmented by location of the club;
- d) past use of office space;
- e) and how the club may benefit from an office.

"Office space is a really positive thing in the Students' Union," says Bechtel. "It gives

them (clubs) an identity on campus."

However, the situation of shared office space is not ideal.

"You can't possibly please everybody," explains Bechtel, "everybody wants an office to themselves."

Some groups just can not get along in the same room.

"The political groups seem to be compatible with no one," says Bechtel, "so it has been an

experiment to see if they can get along together."

The Progressive Conservative Campus Club and the NDP Campus Club share an office, as do the Student Liberal Association and Sacred Campus Club, on the 6th floor of SUB.

"We have tried to place religious group with religious group, political group with political group, nationalist group with nationalist group, and so on," he says.

The only other major problem clubs complain about is their location in SUB.

"Most problems are that somebody on the 6th floor would like to have an office on the 2nd floor," says Bechtel.

"Overall, a couple of political groups have kicked; otherwise it has seemed acceptable to everybody," Bechtel adds.

Special groups

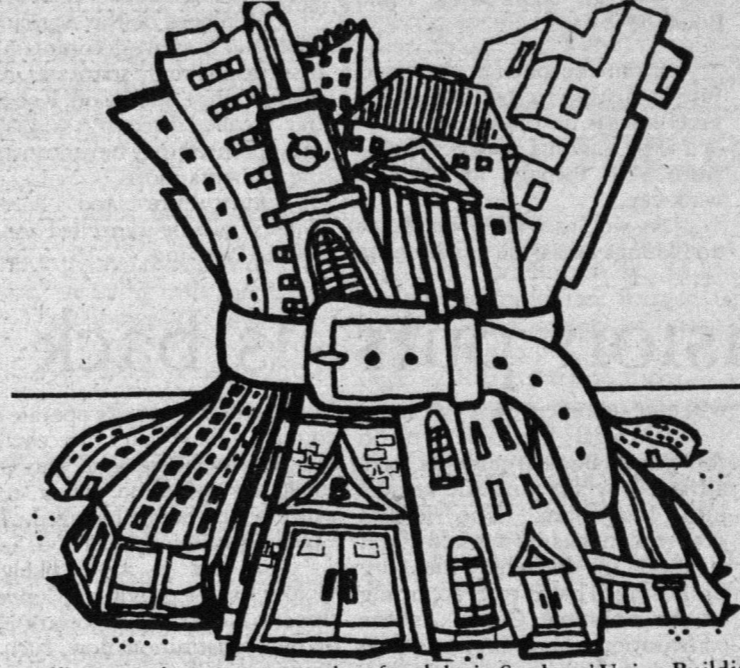
Groups like the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), Student Help, and the Student Advocate, must re-apply every year to retain office space, much like any other club.

Brian Bechtel SU v.p. internal, is currently working on a policy that would give these types of groups permanent office locations in SUB.

"You can't put these people in the same situation," protests Bechtel.

These groups would like to operate during the summer sessions from an office, but it is a problem when they have to apply for space and move each session," says Bechtel.

"Groups like the Federation should have a (permanent) location," he adds. "It's the same for the Student Advocate. People should know where he is."



Office space is now at a premium for clubs in Students' Union Building.

Board toes line

term tuition policy should not be made until an access study is completed.

The Board favors such an access study, which would be completed by an independent third party.

The government, however, is against it. Horsman has been quoted elsewhere on such a study, calling it "...an airy, fairly mushy access thing that would be a waste of the taxpayer's dollars."

Farkas pointed out that students also face the possibility of massive cuts through EPF.

As well, she said, "Student aid in Alberta discriminates against those it was supposedly designed to assist."

"The only intelligent decision is to freeze tuition fees until an accessibility study is completed," she said.

Grad Student Association representative Niall Shanks argued that indexed tuition fees would limit university accessibility.

He referred to Britain where higher fees have led to a decrease in the numbers of working class students at university. He added that higher fees can destroy graduate programs, and limit even further the numbers of foreign students at university.

General Faculties Council representative Dr. Steve Hunka supported the students' position as well, saying that fees and accessibility were linked.

"It's relatively easy at this university to control the flow of incoming students," he said.

He said he realized the university was short of money, but pointed out that this was being discussed in a province where the government has a cash surplus something in excess of \$18 billion.

Hunka said that he would sooner see the proposed range for indexed tuition at 0 to 12 percent instead of 8 to 12 percent.

Mrs. Jean Forest, university Chancellor, opposed the indexing motion, saying that the Board should take a broader look at the fee structure and the factors influencing accessibility.

As well, she said that the fee ranges should be decided by the board in conjunction with the

minister.

Barry pointed out that under the present system the minister could initiate any policy he wished. At this point an audience member interrupted, asking why the Board wasn't pressuring the government.

Barry replied that it would join students in a march on the legislative as soon as students were willing to pay for a reasonable amount for their university.

University president Myer Horowitz delivered a lengthy speech outlining his reasons for supporting the indexing motion.

"The situation at the present time for all concerned is unacceptable," said Horowitz.

He said he would rather see small regular increases rather than large infrequent hikes. A rationale was needed, he said, "...rather than the continuing confusion at the present time."

He said the Board has been put into an "unfortunate box" where they have had to delete fifty academic positions in the last three years.

"No one has to work overtime to convince me that...there should be input from all sources," said Horowitz referring to the Board's inability to make final tuition policy.

He moved that the Board change its recommendation so that the Minister decided the

range and the Board made the final decision where tuition would fall into that range.

As well, he suggested that there be periodic reviews of tuition policy at five year intervals.

Dr. Bob Crawford, G.F.C. representative, agreed that "...the present system of funding is just not satisfactory."

He insisted that the Board must first deal with the short term problem of under-funding, and then tackle the long term social problem of accessibility.

Farkas replied, "The government should be approached more and more to make up the balance, not students."

Schlusser remarked, "I don't think it was ever our intention to use student fees to balance the budget."

Horowitz's amendment, which would have changed only method, not policy, was defeated by Chairman Schlusser's tie-breaking vote, 10-9.

Schlusser then moved another amendment, which called for changing the word 'index' to 'related to' since 'index' was too strong, he said.

The amendment was passed, but the essence of the basic motion was left intact. Student representatives, refused to compromise and voted against the amendment.

Thus, with one token concession, the indexing motion was put to a vote amid a chorus of boos and

catcalls from the audience. Twelve board members supported the proposal.

All students raised their arms when the nay vote was tallied, but they were overlooked by Board secretary Brian Silzer, recording the vote.

Schlusser remarked that the decision was not final and repeated that, "the provincial government in its wisdom shall

now decide" what the final policy will be.

The Anti-Cutbacks Team has announced that there will be a meeting to discuss ways of protesting continued government underfunding. All students, and especially those who attended the Board meeting, are asked to meet in the Music Listening Room in SUB on Wednesday October 7 at 4:30 p.m.

CANADIAN CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL



Short-Term Overseas Volunteer Work Program

Interested in fostering world-wide understanding by living in a developing country for four months working as a volunteer with local people in self-help projects? If so, contact Allan Meunier at 455-9856, evenings, or attend an information session on Wed. Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Edmonton Learner Centre, second floor, 10523-77 Ave. (enter from rear door).

Tuition Fees

If fees are still unpaid after October 15 a student's registration is subject to cancellation for non-payment of fees and the student to exclusion from classes.

Students who expect to pay their fees from federal and/or provincial government loans are referred to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or to Section 15.2 of the University Regulations and Information for Students Calendar.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.

Office of the Comptroller
The University of Alberta

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Big White, Kelowna - Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
Transportation - Diversified
Accommodation - Parmigan and Whitefoot Condos (on the mountain)
Cost:
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One Bdrm. (Four people) - \$399.00