

# Graduate Student Association would like autonomy

By TOM BENJAMIN

The Graduate Student Association would like to have financial autonomy from the SRC, said Nhu Bick Le, graduate student representative to the SRC.

"The financial organization of the SRC has not allowed the Graduate Student Association to flourish," said Le.

He stated that while the GSA is a very fluctuating organization, it has demonstrated a tremendous effort to organize itself.

"We would like the association to be strong, to have the power to deal with various problems concerning graduate students, and to have

control of funds not subordinate to the SRC," said Le.

Le stated that the GSA has had problems getting money because of tight control by the SRC. He cited for example the case last year of a graduate student who was a regional representative for the Canadian Union of Graduate Students. That student was unable to obtain SRC funds to attend a CUGS conference, said Le.

Le also stressed the fact that while it looks like a financial problem on the surface, there are deeper reasons for conflict.

"Graduate students are of a different nature than undergraduates. Their lines of interest are

academically different from those of undergraduates," he said.

Most graduate students have teaching and marking duties, said Le.

Many graduate students are married, and therefore have a different social life than most undergraduates, he said. They cannot benefit as much from SRC social functions, said Le. They also require different housing than single students, yet they have no voice in the making of housing decisions, he said.

He mentioned a report submitted to the SRC in January of 1973 by an executive sub-committee of the GSA.

"The conclusion of the committee was that partial autonomy may be the best for the GSA at this time, considering the structure of the organization," he said.

Le said the association would like to receive a lump sum from the SRC each year.

"What we would do with the money would be our own business. We are old enough to take care of ourselves," he said.

Le explained that his association would like control of ten dollars of the SRC fees paid by each member of the GSA. The association has approximately 400 members.

He said the SRC would be in no danger of setting a precedent for other organizations by allowing this action, as the association is in a different context than undergraduate organizations.

"The SRC has nothing to lose," he said.

Le mentioned studies taken by his organization and himself, which proved a general movement of graduate student associations across Canada towards greater autonomy from undergraduate student councils.

"However, there would be disadvantages in leaving the SRC. The best action would be for the GSA to operate parallel to the SRC," said Le.

SRC comptroller Fud Steeves agreed that the priorities of graduate students are different than those of other students.

However, he said he did not feel that it was feasible to give them financial autonomy from the SRC.

## Governor surprised students don't use voice

Dr. B.L. Jewett, a member of the University of New Brunswick Board of Governors, expressed surprise that UNB students aren't exercising their voice in administrative decisions which affect them.

Speaking more "as the father of five children who have gone through the University" than as a 19-year veteran of the board, the 53-year-old surgeon outlined Tuesday where students should show more activism.

He stressed the universities need to take on a more practical role and termed the motive of a university education as being the basis for further learning and experience recognition as "ridiculous."

"A student expects a return for his money. The 500 staying away (stop-outs) demonstrated some of the irrelevancies of our educational system to the needs of our society," he said. The doctor suggested more practical courses

similar to business administration and used hotel management as an example.

He stated university graduates need more practical training and added employers were finding many deficient and inexperienced. "The university would be much farther ahead in knowing where the graduate is deficient."

He reported the remedy would no doubt come from input by both the private sector and the civil service and from students. "The students now have representation on the board of governors and on the senate—I'm really surprised they aren't putting more input into it."


Jewett also pointed out the need for standardization of marking procedures. "This is another area where the students could put more into the university. For example, if a professor never gives a mark above 75 percent, I think this is perfectly all right. But there should be an asterisk or some note to the effect on the transcript that this

professor never marks higher than 75.

"A student voice in this area is so necessary, otherwise it's never brought up," he explained.

Another need for student opinion, he said, concerned re-marking exam papers. "I'm surprised the students haven't brought this up, if you ask for a re-mark then to my mind the same teacher shouldn't mark it. That's like asking a doctor to do a consultation on his own case. The very reason the student asked for the remark was that he was dissatisfied with the marker."

Jewett, one of the few who urged student participation on the senate before the 1963 Baker Commission, said "I'm not seeing the questions being brought up by the students which are so relevant to them—one of the big reasons for the presence of students on the board of governors is to get the students' side."



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