

CFS delegates to have their say

OTTAWA (CUP) — It's an age-old problem in Canadian politics: how do you organize something nationally without alienating local groups strongly protective of their autonomy?

That problem confronted the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) when delegates to its national conference sat down in May to plan a National Week of Information on education underfunding.

On the one hand, they wanted to organize a series of events that would be coherent while focussing on a list of specific national issues. On the other hand, they wanted to allow individual student councils to focus on whatever local issues they thought were important.

Their answer to this sticky problem was to agree to focus their activities during the Oct. 12 to 15 week on five "burning issues".

But the five issues, aid, employment, Established Programs Financing, national skills training and student rights — are not really issues, they are categories of issues. Within these categories CFS members are free to pick and choose those they want to organize around.

The theme of underfunding is supposed to be the glue that will

cement all these issues into a coherent national campaign.

One student union leader agreed that giving individual councils that much leeway could lead to a loss of focus, but he defended it on the grounds that it was politically necessary and a good principle to respect councils' autonomy.

Andy Knight, president of the McMaster University Students' Union, said CFS could not tell individual student councils what issues to focus on because the membership in the organization is so diverse.

"You'd be surprised at how much disagreement there is at conferences over what is an issue on your campus and not on my campus," said Knight. He said CFS will allow McMaster to focus more on issues affecting foreign students while Laurentian University in Sudbury will concentrate on bank policy towards student loans.

"We're respecting the differences of the various member organizations," said Knight.

He admitted that in tolerating this diversity there was a danger that the common basis for having a national organization might be eroded, but "if you tell councils they have to focus on one

or two issues they might not participate. At least this way they'll be involved. It's better than nothing."

The degree of decentralization shows up again in how the Week of Information is perceived

as fitting in with longer-term strategy.

"The week will be information-oriented, providing the background work to get students involved," said Diane Flaherty, executive officer of CFS.

Lenka Russ, vice president of the Douglas College Student Society, said conditions in B.C. post-secondary institutions are so bad this year that students are more in the mood for public protest.

Carleton peace study

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University may soon be one of several Ontario universities offering peace studies programs.

The program is an alternative to defense research carried out at many Canadian universities. Peace studies address the logistical problems of disarmament: how to lessen international tensions, dismantle nuclear stockpiles and dispose of the materials.

"A lot of people say it is not good enough to cut defense research without offering an alternative," said Carleton University students association (CUSA) v.p. Catherine

Glen, "and this is an alternative, and a viable one."

Initiatives for peace studies programs are underway at McMaster University, the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto.

At U of T, the president has appointed the President of University College, Dr. Peter Richardson, to be chair of peace studies. Richardson will head a drive for funds for the program and will begin work on a curriculum.

A program at Mennonite-Conrad Greble College in Waterloo was the first peace

studies program in Ontario and it remains the only one that has a student enrollment.

The impetus behind much of the peace studies initiative in Ontario has come from Science for Peace, an organization of scientists, academics, and students, said Canadian Federation of Students Ontario Information Officer Wally Brooker.

"Science professors and students would rather study peace than arms. That is what Science for Peace is all about," said Brooker.

Selection process revised

by Allison Annesley

The selection process for the Dean of Students was revised by Executive General Faculties Council, Monday afternoon.

The committee for selection has been altered to decrease the ratio of students to faculty and administration to a possible six out of eight, to three.

SU president Robert Greenhill is concerned about lesser student input in the selection of what is supposed to be the chief link between the student body and the university administration. Says Greenhill, "COSS (Council on Student Services) is less than ten years old and

has unfortunately not been used to its full potential. I think the role of the Dean of Students is changing and we need someone to take the helm and get COSS going."

Greenhill adds that, "The relations between the student body and the Dean will not start on the right track if students have no say in choosing the Dean. It's a situation that's gone through the bureaucracy in an attempt to standardize procedure, and in the process the uniqueness of the position has been forgotten."

The responsibilities of the Dean of Students are currently being carried out by Acting Dean Sartoris. As such, he has jurisdic-

tion over: the Office of Student Affairs, Student Awards, Student Counselling Services, Native Affairs, and assistance to the Deans for Residence.

The new selection committee will consist of:
 -the university vp academic
 -one faculty member from COSS
 -one administration member chosen from among the directors of Student Affairs, Student Awards, and Native Affairs
 -one member of the Graduate Students' Association
 -two graduate students, one each chosen by the SU and the Lister Hall Students' Association
 -two GFC faculty members

FAS gets respect

Don Millar of the Federation of Alberta Students says the organization is well on the road to recovery.

This comes after several years in which member institutions questioned the operation and usefulness of FAS.

Says FAS president, "The Federation has been having some problems as our grass roots base of support has been withering away."

In December the students at the University of Calgary go to a referendum to decide whether to support the fee increase from \$1.50 to \$3.50 (something the U of A approved two years ago).

"In essence a 'no' vote for a fee increase means a 'no' vote for Federation membership but I think the people at Calgary are really supportive of us," says Millar.

Millar says that during the last few years member institutions began to feel that their input into the decision-making at FAS was less than adequate.

"There were some serious

problems with the Federation; the executive was making decisions that should have had input from the members," says Millar.

For instance last year's march on the legislature was organized by FAS without any input from the members.

"But that situation has changed now. At our last conference all the executive members of the Federation kind of hung back and the delegates realized that they were the ones making the decisions," says Millar.

At a special general meeting last month the FAS delegates restructured the voting structure. Previously the voting was done on the principle of one delegate, one vote. The University of Calgary delegation wanted "weighted voting which would have seen the community colleges outnumbered."

A compromise was eventually reached that major policy decisions require fifty percent approval of both the member colleges and of the universities.

Attempted Humor

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By Abner Malle



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- inventive
- inspiring
- captivating
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You should actually be working as a _____ which would give you the acclaim you deserve.

If I could, I would raise your salary to \$ _____

I sure wish I had the money to treat you to: (Check one)

- a beer
- lunch at Ho-Ho
- coffee
- the courtesan of your choice.

I most admire you: (Check one)

- mind
- soul
- wife
- sabbaticals.

I would class you as being par with: (Check one)

- Plato
- Winston Churchill
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Please accept my enclosed cash donation of \$ _____, a symbol of my admiration. signed, _____

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