

Campus Planner States Views

Whether we like it or not this University faces a period of very rapid expansion: in the number of students and faculty members and, therefore, in physical facilities.

During the next few years we must provide, on an almost frightening scale, classrooms and offices, laboratories with their specialized furnishings and equipment, library books, accommodation for eating and sleeping, study and recreation.

All this will, of course, mean expenditures of very large capital sums and a commitment to much increased operating expenses. Unless students are to be denied the education they deserve and the country needs, these physical facilities must be provided; but it is essential that money spent for this purpose be wisely spent.

This is the responsibility of the Campus Planning Committee.

CREATE CAMPUSES

We plan for the immediate needs and the distant ones, striving to create campuses here and in Calgary in which we can take pride, and to provide facilities which will adequately meet the needs of the University and give us the best value for the money spent.

In this attempt to get the best value for the building dollar, we seek on the one hand and the opinions of those who will eventually use the building and on the other hand the advice of those elsewhere who have designed buildings for similar purposes and having lived and worked in them, can speak with authority—often much feeling—of mistakes they have made and the lessons they have learned.

We are convinced that serious mistakes can be avoided and a great deal of money saved by thus taking advantage of the experience of others.

ENCOURAGE VISITS

At an early stage in the planning of a new building we encourage members of the building planning committee to visit other university campuses to inspect buildings and to discuss them with those who have built them and who work in them; and throughout the planning we make use of the advice of highly qualified consultants.

In the planning of the libraries for Edmonton and Calgary, for example, the Librarian and members of his staff were sent to inspect libraries and consult with librarians at other universities, and in designing our own libraries we had the benefit not only of the information gathered in this way but of the advice of the leading library consultant on this continent.

The Campus Planning Committee and the Board of Governors, and I believe the Provincial Government, is convinced that this investment of time and energy and money was exceedingly worthwhile.

Just as the university must expand, so must the Students' Union. We are delighted that the students realize this themselves and took the initiative in planning an extension of the Union facilities.

COMMITTEES RELATED

Since the Students' Union extension will be built on the University campus and will be part of the facilities of the University, the Students' Union Planning Committee is related to the Campus Planning Committee in the same way as the building committee for any other new building on the campus.

The chairman of the committee is, for example, a full voting member of the Campus Planning Committee at any meeting where matters pertaining to his project are discussed.

We are very pleased that the SUB Expansion Committee is a strong and active one and that it is taking seriously its responsibilities to plan

carefully and wisely.

The visits of the chairman to other universities to see Union Buildings and to discuss planning with Union Directors has clearly been of great value to the committee.

We hope that other members of the committee and indeed of the student body will seize such opportunities as may arise to inspect Union buildings elsewhere and to pass on what they have learned to the SUB Expansion Committee.

You may be sure that members of the Campus Planning Committee will be doing this. We are increasingly becoming expert at taking "busman's holidays".

EXPANSION MUST COME

I am convinced that much enlarged Students' Union facilities must be—and will be—provided at this University and that the SUB Expansion Committee (with such help as the Campus Planning Committee can give it) has an opportunity to plan facilities for which succeeding generations of students will be very grateful and from which they will derive great benefit.

I wish for the committee a good supply of imagination, enthusiasm, energy and patience and I hope they receive continuing encouragement and support from those whose needs and desires they are trying to satisfy.

Dr. L. H. Cragg,
Vice-President,
Chairman, Campus
Planning, Committee

Five To Oregon

Five University of Alberta students will represent campus problems and ideas at a conference of over 50 U.S. and Canadian schools in Oregon next month.

Some 250 students are expected to attend the Region 11 Conference of the international Association of College Unions at the University of Oregon at Eugene November 1-3.

The five from U of A make up the largest delegation this campus has ever sent to the regional conference. The biggest reason for sending this larger group is the relationship of the conference to this year's SUB Expansion project.

They will help a committee responsible for conducting basic surveys and analyses of student needs, and for translating them into a detailed proposal for the building.

The detailed proposal, to be submitted through Students' Council to the Campus Planning Committee, will be the basic outline of facilities, areas, functions and relationships on which architectural designing and working drawings can be based.

SEVERAL TOPICS

The conference helps in two ways. First, specific sessions in the program consider problems to be answered by the committee. For example, sessions will cover subjects like "Analysis of the Role of the College Union," "Planning, Financing and Building the Union," "Food Service," "Students' Role in Union Operation," "Financing Operation and Program."

Other sessions consider problems related to the planning job. These cover topics such as "Married Students," "Graduate Students," "Student Personnel Recruiting," "Public Affairs," and "Master Scheduling." Between formal sessions, Alberta delegates will have a chance to discuss problems in more specific terms with a tremendous variety of students—thus having the opportunity to find new ideas worth testing back home.

The second major contribution the conference will make will be in terms of its site.

This conference will be housed in the new Student Union of the University of Oregon—not an entirely new structure, but like ours, a dramatically expanded building.

Local people will be able to show Alberta planners what was added—and why. Almost as important, they will be able to help with technical problems.

The delegation, of course, will not be an Expansion Committee delegation. Only two of the delegates are specifically representing the committee as planners. The other three will be representatives of Students' Union, looking to the entire conference for what it offers to the range of Alberta problems.

In other words, where things are to be learned about parking hundreds of commuter's cars, they will as far as possible be learned.

The council delegates are Coordinator John Burns, Secretary-Treasurer Iain Macdonald, and Law Representative Pat Bentley. However, both Macdonald and Bentley are Expansion committee members, and can approach the conference from a double viewpoint.

Attending for the Expansion committee will be Finance sub-committee chairman Don Gardner and Arts and Science Rep Wes Cragg, committee vice-chairman and chairman of the Cultural subcommittee.

There is one final political consideration which the five-man delegation will be able to push. This stems from the fact that Region XI is so big, that it has so many schools, and that most of these are U.S. members.

CANADIAN STAND

This is a threefold problem.

First, ACU does not use a travel pool system to equalize travel expenses of delegates. It costs \$125 per delegate just to travel to Oregon. Canadian schools last year took up the cry to institute a travel pool, so that cost of transporting delegates from places as far removed as Alberta and Saskatchewan would be reduced.

Second, because conferences are usually held in the U.S., it is easy for schools to send as many as ten delegates for the cost of Alberta's usual three. Canadian voices are thus fewer and harder to hear.

Third, Alberta delegates expect to learn and share a great deal in discussion with student leaders from U.S. universities. Such campuses as UCLA, USC, Berkeley, Stanford, University of Washington, Washington State University and Oregon State University will have delegates in attendance.

With extra strength for lobbying and debate, with such evidence of interest and an attitude of meaning business, Canadians stand to benefit a great deal from ACU participation. But weeds have to be cleared out if the flowers are to appear.

PROBLEMS

A few basic problems will have to be resolved by SUB expansion committee and Students' Council before overall effectiveness is achieved in this year's expansion planning project.

The first problem: guidance and supervision from experienced people.

While the student committee now working on the project is capable of getting specific jobs done, there is always the problem, because of lack of experience, that something vital will be overlooked.

We are not speaking of anything as simple as leaving out washrooms on every floor except the basement, but things like guaranteeing the usefulness of the building to every student who pays fees for using it.

EXPERIENCED PERSONS

There are experienced resource persons who are members of the administration: people like President Johns, Vice-President Cragg, Provost Ryan, Superintendent of Buildings Brooker, Engineering Dean Govier—all these have had considerable experience with getting other buildings on campus.

But SUB isn't like any other building on campus.

For one thing, it probably has to operate longer hours than any other buildings. In some unions in the U.S., three complete shifts of employees work seven days a week keeping things running.

Another thing, its job is not like that of other buildings. It helps teach people things, but not in lectures. It's not the same as Phys Ed Building, because people don't swing from bars and things like that.

The problem is first to find people experienced in the right kind of thing—and to try to find one of this group who has the time to spend guiding the project.

IMPORT PROBLEMS

Importing a consultant from the States leads to other problems. In the U.S., students' union buildings are planned and administered from the top down—the administration does the job for the students.

At Alberta, the situation by tradition is different.

For some reason sociological or psychological, there has evolved at U of A a concept of autonomy in student affairs very difficult to find elsewhere in North America.

Students at U. of A. traditionally have the attitude that their problems are their own responsibilities; the administration of the University has co-operated by adopting a generally permissive attitude so long as students seem to be running their show responsibly.

The problem now is to find a person (or persons) capable of giving the expansion project its required guidance and depth of consideration in planning without in the process overthrowing the entire working order of our student government system—simply by trying to take over and boss what is primarily a student initiated and directed responsibility.

Does anybody know this man?

RESPONSIBLE FOR LEARNING

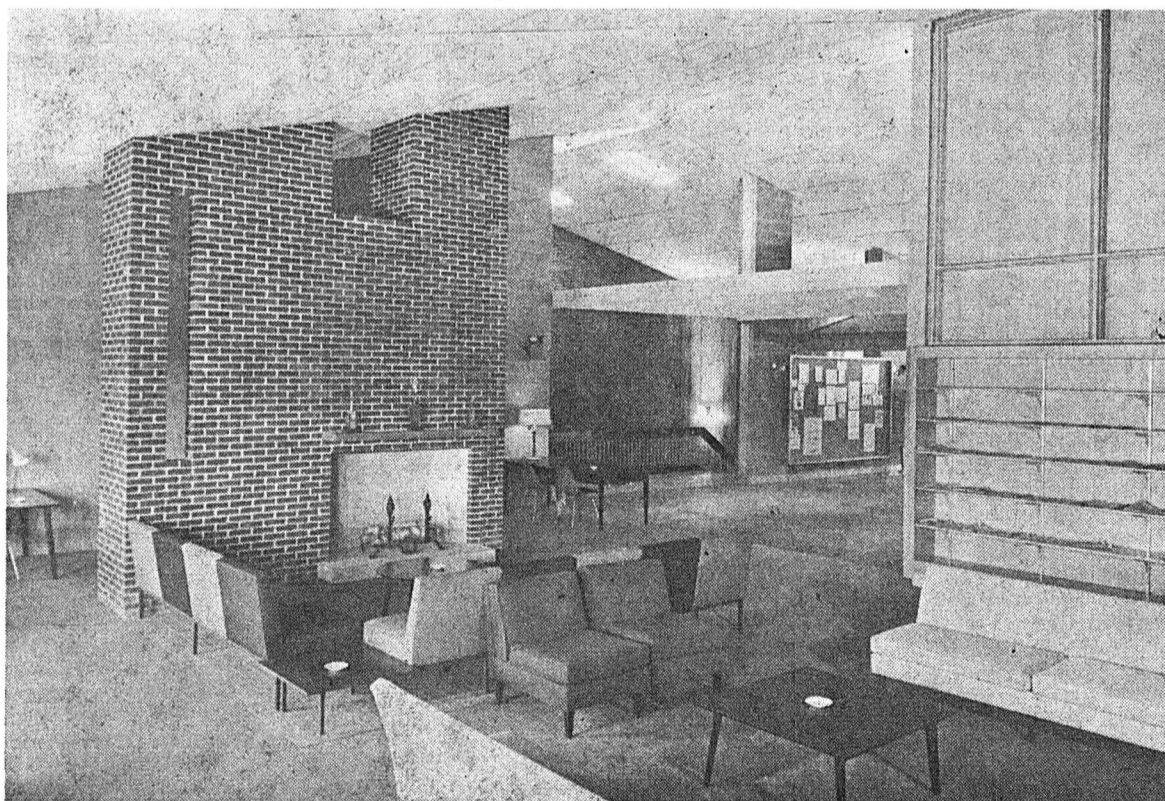
He would have to be responsible for learning or knowing as much as possible about the general union planning and operating situation throughout the world—as well as thoroughly sympathetic to the local conditions.

The new building will probably require specialized attention. It will have to produce some revenue. Students' fees have been hiked just to pay for construction of the building, to guarantee whatever loan is required.

During the life of the loan—be it 15, 20 or 25 years—money must come from somewhere to keep the building functioning day after day.

A director would be responsible for ensuring the financial longevity of the building after he had helped the student committee guarantee its general usefulness as well.

The problem is immediate: it will have to be solved soon.



LOUNGING CAN BE FUN—Students like their lounge at Durham's University of New Hampshire. They like it so much they won't go inside. It's a real cultural showpiece. Too bad lounges can't be both lookable and liveable . . .