

the gateway

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unresolved- the tenure debate

What had shaped up to be a battle between pro- and anti-tenure forces, turned out to be a mild-mannered, if long-winded, discussion of the how rather than the why of tenure.

Adjourned in the middle of an amendment to an amendment, the outcome of yesterday's GFC tenure debate awaits a second special meeting which will vote on remaining amendments and the main motion.

Under discussion were the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on tenure. The committee had recommended that the current two-year probationary period followed by consideration for tenure be replaced by two kinds of appointment.

The "normal" appointment proposed would be one "without



Fil Fraser from the Senate

term," or what a number of GFC members chose to call "instant tenure." The second type of position, term appointment, would be filled for a period "not over three years," and would not carry the expectation of permanent or without-term appointment.

The first twenty minutes of the meeting were taken up with procedural jousting before what many anticipated would prove to be the "main event".

The Council voted against seating the two recently elected student arts reps as the move would have required making an exception to the rules governing special meetings.

A move by B.M. Barker, associate professor of law, to have all votes conducted by a show of hands was also defeated.

University president Max Wyman, who relinquished the chair to v-p planning and development W.D. Neal, in order to participate in the proceedings, opened the actual debate with a high-powered prepared statement in defense of tenure.

Those who argue against tenure "are saying that an institution reserves the right to arbitrary dismissal, without due process, without a fair hearing, and without just cause," Wyman contended.

He compared tenure with other guarantees of job security outside the university.

E. E. Daniel of pharmacology followed Wyman's statement with a series of questions about the status of the term appointees, a question which was to prove one of the chief concerns of the discussion.

Daniel and others after him maintained that appointees to term positions would form a "second class of academic citizens," leaving them subject to the "worst abuses which are now practiced at the expense of non-tenured staff."

Student reps Frans Slatter, Wayne Madden and Patrick Delaney all took strong anti-tenure positions. Slatter maintained that "the university is totally dependent on society and cannot protect any measure of academic freedom against that society."

"Any academic freedom we have is protected because people of the province want it protected," Slatter argued. He was sharply critical in his questioning of Jack Masson, an assistant professor in political science,

who appeared before the GFC on his own behalf.

Masson, who related that he had taught at an institution where an avowed atheist was dismissed for that reason, characterized opponents of tenure as "neo-fascists." He warned against an attitude of "it can't happen here."

In another of the representations by non GFC members, Fil Fraser, chairman of the university Senate task force on tenure, said that people in the community contacted by the task force were surprised that tenure was an issue on campus.

"Tenure is not a very big issue with them," Fraser said. "People across the river felt that professors ought to have some measure of job security."

Delaney asserted that while academic freedom may have been important in the past, "It's not now. And to say in 20 years it might be... is not adequate."

Burton Smith, associate professor of history, challenged Delaney and others who had charged incompetence to "point these people out."

He also observed that in his experience, "academic freedom is most important--not to protect us from people across the river--but to protect us from ourselves."

Also differing with Delaney, student law rep Rob Curtis maintained that students do not want to abolish tenure. Rather, he said, they want to participate in decisions regarding appointment, tenure and promotion.

Curtis proposed that the present tenure procedure be modified to provide for probationary periods after tenure is granted, should profs be

found wanting in periodic reviews of their performance. They could be reinstated to full tenured positions after the probationary period.

Considering amendments proposed to the committee report, chairman Neal ruled out those proposed by Delaney and F.B. Cookson, professor of anatomy, because he ruled that they were in conflict with the intent of the main motion.

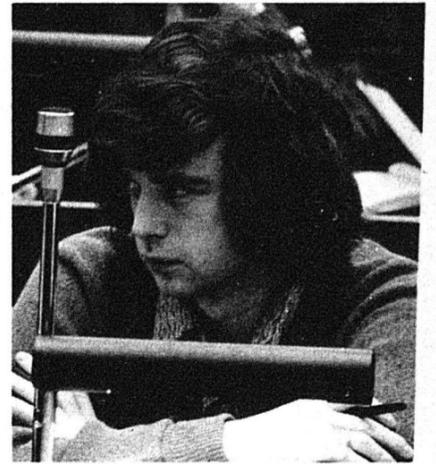
E.E. Daniel challenged the ruling on the Cookson amendment, but lost the challenge vote 34-54.

The 5 p.m. adjournment time was reached midway through the debate on amendments proposed by the academic staff association. Only one of the four amendments submitted has been acted upon.



Rob Curtis, student law rep

This, carried by a 74-10 vote, made the establishment of procedures for appointment, review, renewal and dismissal of academic staff a matter to be decided between the staff association and the board of governors, "after receiving recommendations, if any, from the GFC."



Gerry Riskin at his first GFC meeting

Speakers opposed to the amendment argued that the GFC would be abrogating its responsibilities if it was to make these procedures "simply a matter of collective bargaining," as Curtis phrased it.

The force of the amendments is still dependent on the passage of the main motion at the second special meeting, the meeting time of which was not set by today's meeting.

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'token radical' sues Worth



those of us with long memories will recall reading in the Journal

Stein claims it was an accumulation of incidents which climaxed at the "Congress on the Future of Education", held at the Hotel Macdonald in December, 1970.

The Worth Commission had called together about 300 business and professional leaders in the province to discuss the future of education. Stein says the conference was "structured to be a major showpiece of the commission, not intended for the free exchange of ideas".

It was, in Stein's words, "a whole three day extravaganza, with thousands of dollars spent on research at public expense".

"I was hired as a left-wing theoretician who could relate to the students but as soon as I took some action I was out on my ear", says Allan Stein, who was dropped from the Worth Commission in December 1970.

He is suing the commission as a result of the circumstances under which he was fired. While he declined to say anything about the actual firing, he did discuss some of the reasons he speculates were behind his removal.

It was not because he was charged with growing marijuana outside the city--he was cleared of the charge, as

The result was that Stein decided to hold an "anti-conference", inviting the people among the 300 delegates who also didn't like the way things were going. To his surprise, 75 of these showed up, and his already precarious position was worsened--he was dropped from the Worth Commission.

Besides the anti-conference, which he says was "the specific activity which pissed them off", Stein claims that he and the other members of the commission had "vastly different philosophies of what education was all about in the first place and how to go about studying it."

Stein speculated that the trial will begin during the week of December 11.

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