

Or is it worth more than \$16,000 in salaries . . .

# A year with Student Council

by Glenn Wanamaker

It's been a rather slow summer in Student Council affairs, but while people were burying their heads in books last April, Council was putting together what was probably its best performance of the season.

The evening began tamely, but before it was over in the wee small hours of the morning, many members of the Student Union had received pay increases and summer jobs, and two important issues were compromised into uselessness.

The first discussion of the Honoria Report on salaries and Honoria for Student Union executives and organization heads was tossed around for quite awhile, before it was decided to let a committee study it. Then it was suggested that any Council member stay after the regular meeting to informally discuss it. These decisions were all carried in motion form.

The regular Council, about three hours later, delegated its powers to the Summer Council, which then decided to deal with the Honoria Report right away. Two reps, Mike Evans (Science) and Ken MacDougall (Arts), protested the meeting on the grounds that it was unconstitutional and therefore invalid. They refused to vote on any of the motions. Nevertheless, the players played on and this is what happened:

**The President** is to receive an honorarium of full tuition (\$745-Law), \$150 a week from May 15 — August 31 (\$2400), \$200 a month from March 1 — May 15 and from Sept. 1 — March 1 (or \$3000), the use of an expense account amounting to \$160 (to be returned if not used). Total monies excluding expense account: \$6,145. No increase in salaries but another \$110 has been added to his expense account.

**Vice-President:** Receives an honorarium of 3/4 tuition (\$540), \$100 a month from March 1 — May 15 and from September 1 — March 1 (\$850), and if in town during the summer (Joan MacKeigan was), \$60 per month (\$210). Total: \$1600. This is an increase of \$440 a year.

**Treasurer:** Receives an honorarium of 3/4 tuition (\$540), \$100 a month from March 1 — May 15 and from September 1 — February 27 (\$850), \$240 for the summer. Total: \$1,630. This is an increase of \$470 a year.

**Student Council Chairman** receives a \$100 honorarium — no change.

**Student Council Recording Secretary** will receive \$6 per Council meeting and \$4 per

Council Executive meeting. This will most likely be an increase over the previous flat \$100 honorarium.

The three Secretariats, Internal Affairs, Communications and SUB Affairs all receive equal salaries and honoraria: Honorarium of 1/2 tuition (\$360 each), \$60 a month from date of assuming office to May 15 and from September 1 — March 1 (\$450 each). SUB Affairs and Internal Affairs have been receiving \$60 a month this summer contrary to what was passed at the meeting. It was originally supposed to be \$40 a month. Total for each during the summer: \$450. The Assistant SUB Affairs Secretary also receives \$50 per month during his term or about \$450. This past summer the SUB Affairs Secretary has received an extra \$40 a month to put out the student handbook or \$140. Thus the total for the Secretariats excluding the handbook salary: \$3,780. This is an increase of \$2000.

**The GAZETTE:** The editor receives an honorarium of full tuition (\$720). This year there are two editors so it is divided. They each receive \$15 per issue (24 issues x \$30 is \$720) and there is \$30 per issue staff salaries (\$720). This past summer two people worked for ten weeks for a total of \$800. Total: \$2,900. These monies, excluding summer work, have not yet been reviewed by Council.

**Photography:** The Director receives an honorarium of \$400 and each department who "so deserves to the satisfaction" of the Communications Secretary, Vice-President and Treasurer will receive a salary of \$50. These salaries have not yet been reviewed by Council.

**Pharos:** The editor receives an honorarium of \$300 and a salary of \$300 when the book is delivered and deadlines are met. Total: \$600.

**Grand total** in straight salaries and honoraria (not including SUB staff or Dal Radio): \$17,155.00.

As you can see, the total is enormous, but one would certainly not be impressed with this fact by watching Student Council members ram the proposals through as if they were playing Monopoly. That's our money they're playing with, and even though, admission to their game is free, the production costs are high.

The failure of Council to do anything effective other than pass the budgets, was exemplified that same evening with its handling of two motions. One



student council limbers up for the coming year?

bob jeffries/dal photo

of them was a motion to "strongly oppose any raise in tuition and...support a boycott of classes if the tuition is raised".

Tuition has not been raised but there was still a slim possibility. Before this came to a vote, an amendment was made in the motion to the effect that residence fees be included in the protest. This was defeated.

The original motion was carried, with four opposed including President Brian Smith. His opposition was significant in several respects. First, in his campaign for reelection last February, he stated to student body meeting that he would personally "lead" a boycott of classes if tuition was raised.

Second, the motion was fairly sure to carry and thus, with his vote of opposition, he could not be fingered by the administration for initiating the action. He was merely carrying out the wishes of the elected Council. In a way, perhaps it's too bad that tuition fees were not increased.

The other issue brought forward was that concerning the Sociology Course Union dispute with Professor Nick Poushinsky. It seemed clear that in the half hour debate before a motion was voted upon,

the Council members were, for the most part, almost totally unfamiliar with the circumstances surrounding the dispute.

Their ignorance was reflected in the motion: to send a letter to Vice President Andy MacKay, requesting that he "investigate the charges laid against Professor Poushinsky by the students of Sociology...Also that a second letter be sent to President Hicks, requesting that he lend his assistance..."

There had already been a

report, essentially made by MacKay's next door neighbour, Dean of Arts and Science, Guy MacLean. This report ignored many of the issues and was not accepted by the Course Union. It was very poor action on a basically important issue.

And this is the same Council that will effectively be doing nothing until next February, unless the token effort put forward by 25% of the students is radically redirected, by all students, towards drastic change.

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