

What really happened in that eventful week

Much of what has happened in sociology has been clouded and distorted and the Tuesday meeting called by the Students Emergency Action Committee did little to direct people down the correct path.

The following is an account of the occurrences written for *The Gateway* by the new executive committee. It is factual and solid. It is consistent with all information we have gathered in this matter.

During the last 18 months the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta has expanded considerably in size of faculty and students. In the course of this expansion the problems of handling increased numbers of people have become acute. While administratively the responsibility for the department is in the hands of the departmental head, he has been advised by an elective Executive Committee of the staff.

Differences of opinion have always been encouraged within the department. For some months now, however, they were transformed into personal acrimony. The ensuing effects threatened the existence of the department. Since the election of the Executive Committee last spring, it has failed to provide the leadership and the guidance necessary for the effective running of the department.

On Nov. 18, 1968, the Head of the Department was presented with a petition signed by 18 (about three-quarters) of his staff, including a majority of the Executive Committee and all the senior professors, requesting that the existing Executive Committee be disbanded and a new one formed. After brief discussion in a faculty meeting the petition was acted upon and carried. At that point six junior members of the staff walked out of the meeting.

It is unfortunate that this entirely internal affair within the

department has taken place at a time when there is considerable student unrest on Canadian campuses. Although the decision within the department had nothing to do with student participation, the change in the Executive Committee has been misrepresented and misinterpreted by those who objected to the change.

It is true that some graduate students within the department are concerned over certain aspects of the graduate program, and these aspects have been under review for some time. However, the disruption and organizational paralysis have interfered with the effective review and functioning of the academic program of the department.

The new Executive Committee formed on Nov. 18, 1968, is attempting to resolve these issues, and to find ways of involving graduate and undergraduate students in the policy decisions of the department. It has already offered the graduate students two seats on the Executive with full voting powers, an offer rejected by the students on Nov. 27, and since repeated to them. However, graduate students have been represented during this year on various committees in the department where their work has been appreciated, and the new Executive has been attempting to find further ways to involve them more effectively in the organization of their program.

A documentary account

On Nov. 18, 1968, the Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta was presented with a petition signed by 18 of his staff (or about three-quarters of the staff), including a majority of the Executive Committee elected in the spring of 1968 and all of the senior staff, requesting that existing Executive Committee be disbanded and a new one formed.

This matter was brought up and discussed at the staff meeting held on Nov. 18, 1968. The following events occurred at that meeting:

1. A motion was made and seconded to disband the existing Executive Committee.
2. After a brief discussion, a motion to table the motion of disbanding was made. A brief discussion ensued and the motion to table was defeated (13-7).
3. Returning to the first motion of disbanding the Executive Committee, the faculty carried some discussion and it was moved that vote on the question take place. The motion was carried (13-3; 3 abstentions).
4. When request for extended debate of this item was denied by the Chair, after a single round, in view of the fact that these items had been discussed by all members for several days prior to the faculty meeting, six junior members of the faculty walked out of the meeting.
5. The question was put to vote and carried.
6. A motion to elect a new Executive Committee was made, discussed, and carried.
7. A motion to empower the new Executive Committee to act on behalf of the department for an interim period of not longer than March 15, 1969, was made, discussed, and carried.
8. Following these decisions the Head read the following to the new Executive Committee for consideration: Contact immediately the students to request from them two members to sit on the interim Department Executive Committee, with equal status and full rights in the total decision-making process. Deliberations and proposals by this expanded Executive Committee on department re-organization are to be sent to the department faculty and to the Department Graduate Student Association for their respective ratification. Reports, written and/or open meetings, be planned by the Executive to develop and maintain enlightened involvement of students and staff.

Executive Committee,
Department of Sociology



—photo by Glenn Cheriton

ARE SOCIAL CREDITS NOW MOVING UP FROM THE MINORS? . . . And if so will they lower the drinking age? Actually, it's tough holding a leadership convention during Hockey Night in Canada. The Bruins are taking the lead from Edgar Gerhart with the Maple Leafs chose up there behind. Somehow, despite 33½ years of devoted service to Alberta, the wires got crossed on the Social Credit Leadership Convention tote board in the Jubilee Auditorium where the convention is being held. Thank you Mr. Manning, and we'll vote for the Maple Leafs.

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McGill struggle over Poli sci faculty cedes to student demands "A clear Poli Sci Association victory"

MONTREAL (CUP)—The 10-day strike of McGill political science students ended two p.m. Thursday after the faculty virtually capitulated to student demands in the third round of negotiations Wednesday.

While some 300 students observed proceedings on closed circuit television, department chairman, J. R. Mallory announced faculty was prepared to allow two student seats on the key appointments committee. All committee decisions will be sent back to the department council, a body with one-third student representation.

The faculty will leave selection of the student representatives to the Political Science Association, the union of political science students at McGill. Until Wednesday, faculty had insisted the students be at the graduate level and that decisions of the appointments committee be final. Mallory also announced faculty had agreed that future changes in the constitution of the department council would be made by "a simple majority, which must contain both a majority of faculty and a majority of students on the section." The faculty had previously insisted that a two-thirds vote be necessary for constitution-

al changes, because as faculty hawk Michael Brecher put it during round two Tuesday, "I want to be sure that the students can never force a change that is opposed by a majority of faculty". Although this is still the situation, it now works both ways.

The students would have preferred a simple majority but seem willing to let that go.

Arnold August, head of the PSA negotiating team, said the faculty statement represented "A clear PSA victory". He said faculty had been forced to acknowledge that right of students to make meaningful decisions, and to determine the intellectual competence of those who teach them.

As well, he said, they had acknowledged the PSA's basic philosophical position: that intellectual orientation towards issues of social relevance be an essential criterion in the hiring of professors.

August pledged to keep up the fight for parity and promised the political science classroom would never be the same: "The spirit and intellectual environment of the Leacock Fourth Floor (where strikers have been occupying political science offices and hold-

ing daily educational seminars) must be carried into the classroom".

The only thing clearer than the PSA victory was the defeat of the former majority faction within the faculty referred to by the students as the "Brecher Empire" (or alternatively as "Brecher's Babies", "Brecher's Bastards").

The faculty hawks had held a consistent hard line until Wednesday, maintaining that students and faculty were "unequal in interests, unequal in rights, and unequal in competence" when it came to faculty appointments.

In fact, after Tuesday's negotiating sessions, Brecher remarked to a colleague: "I'll kill myself before I give in on any of this". He was uncharacteristically subdued at the Wednesday session.

Faculty moderates had been willing all along to end the strike at any cost. Pressured from above to end the strike before the crisis spread to other areas of the university, faculty members like Mallory and Saul Frankel were probably prepared to concede to the students from the beginning.

But when Mallory capitulated he had lecturer Stan Gray, who unequivocally supported the student position all along, sitting at his side.