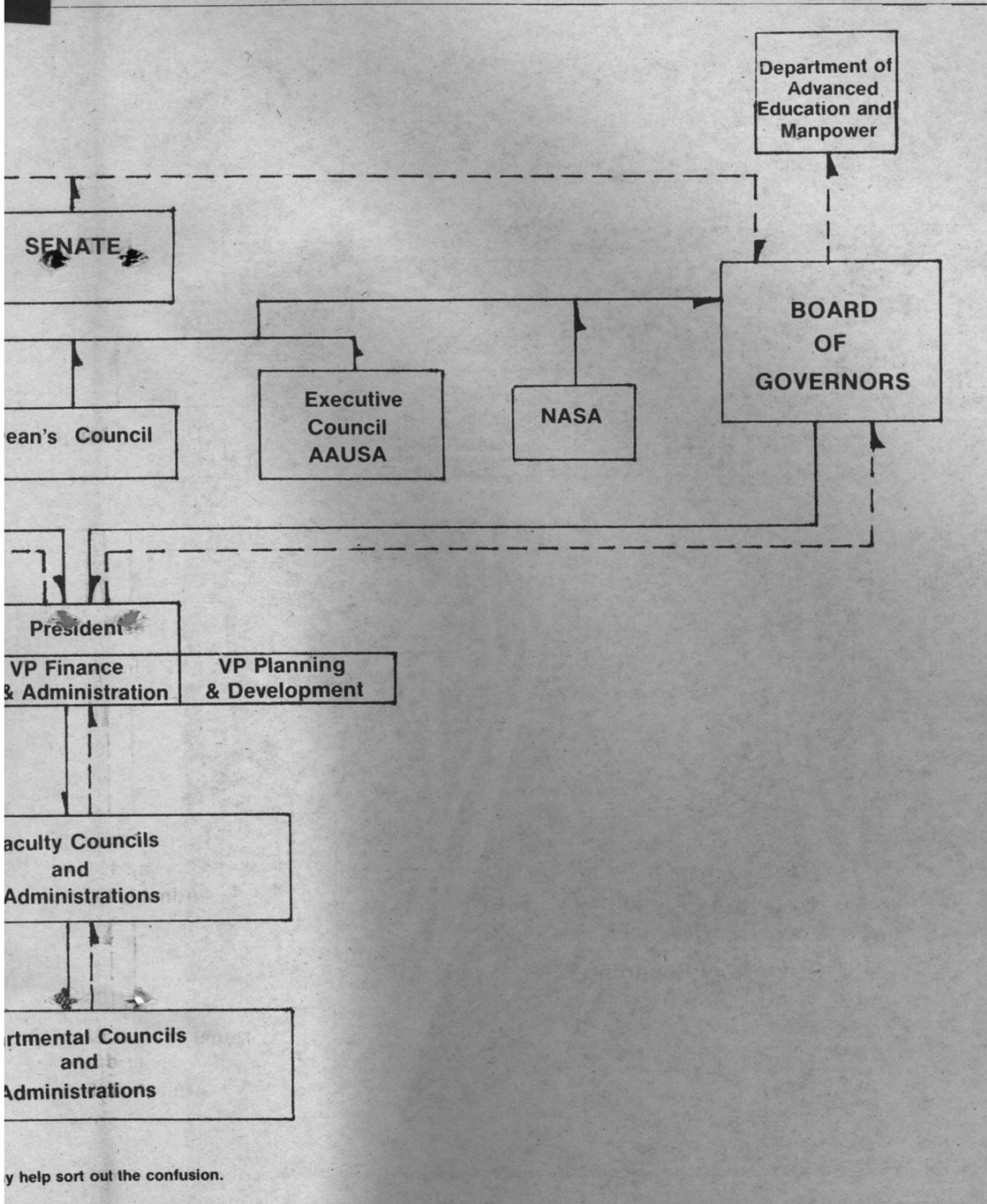


the university explained



In this issue of the Gateway, and in the upcoming year, you're going to hear a lot about the SU, GFC, B of G, the Senate, and numerous other organizations. To the uninitiated, these groups can sound like a bunch of interchangeable letters. All of these organizations, however, are important because they all make decisions that will influence you as an ordinary student. The articles on these pages are an attempt to help you untangle the various groups, and to make their functions clearer to you.

The ABCs of U government

The governance of a university has aptly been described as an effort at organized anarchy.

The University of Alberta is no different.

The University of Alberta is administered at two levels. At the top are the Board of Governors (B of G) and the General Faculties Council (GFC). Underneath these two bodies are departmental and faculty councils, which translate B of G and GFC policy into action.

Under the provincial government's Universities Act, the Board of Governors has power over the university's finances, grounds and physical assets. The B of G consists of

eight government appointees, two members of the Alumni Association, two members of the Senate (including the chancellor), two members of the academic staff, two undergraduate students, a graduate student, the president of the university and the B of G chairman, who is appointed by the provincial cabinet.

General Faculties Council is responsible for academic and student affairs; thus, it makes

regulations concerning almost every facet of the university. It is composed of 19 deans, the president and vice-presidents of the university, 40 undergraduate students, 14 graduate students and about 56 staff members.

The Senate, the chief advisory body in the university, is made up largely of people from outside the university, but includes four undergraduate students, a number of staff members and graduate students. The Senate has the power to confer honorary degrees, and it produces task-force reports which often substantially influence university policies.

Faculty administrations are responsible for implementing policies approved at the B of G and GFC. They decide what courses will be taught, allocate funds and determine student regulations. All the academic staff in the faculty, some students and the faculty administrative officers are members.

Influencing the decisions of these bodies are student council, the Association of Academic Staff, (AASUA) and the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA).

Bhattacharya VP Academic

Eyes glazed by a two-hour committee meeting and a late night of students' union work, vice president academic Chanchal Bhattacharya explained that he is students' chief representative on academic affairs to both the students' union and the university administration.

The majority of his time is taken up by the preparation and presentation of policy to committees.

This year he plans to be especially involved with the Student Bill of Rights, and with changes to the procedure by

which students can appeal grades.

Student input can help make changes in the university bureaucracy, he says, as long as it is well documented.

And with two years' experience on General Faculties Council (GFC), Chanchal, a second-year Commerce student, should be able to co-ordinate enough research to solve many students' problems.

Past vp academics have instigated such helpful services as the exam registry and freshmen writing seminars.

Frank VP External

The university can be an isolated place.

But there is a student on campus who spearheads the attempt to change all that.

Tema Frank, students' union vice-president external, handles relations between the student body and the outside world.

Tema plans to concentrate on two main areas this year. She will be the official contact with the provincial government and will try to influence their funding policy.

Her second major concern will be the Vietnamese boat family the SU is planning to sponsor. Tema, a third-year commerce student, will be responsible for the fund raising campaign.

But though the work load is heavy, (Tema is on a lot of committees) the rewards are "very tangible" she says. "I'm really hoping I can make some changes."

