

Director not informed; questions secretive aspect

Student Union Building director Kevin McKinney said he is confused, and a bit upset about the proposal to bring the operation of the SUB under the jurisdiction of the Students Representative Council.

Although he was never officially presented with the proposal, McKinney described a "series of clandestine meetings held during November and December" to discuss the move.

He said the proposal would allow the student councils of UNB and STU to share bookkeeping and management functions, and take over direct supervision of the SUB.

The impetus for the move, said McKinney, came from Wayne Charters, financial consultant for UNB's SRC. Charters, who will resign this spring, "recommended

restructuring the whole organization."

The present organization for running the SUB was set up when the building first opened in 1964, serving UNB, STU and Teachers College. The three institutions shared the control over the building.

An arrangement was made with the administration of UNB, which agreed to pay 50 per cent of the capital cost of the building. The students were to pay the remainder, but the administration took out a loan, with the agreement that the students pay off the loan at a rate of \$15 per year per student.

The loan was made through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Bank of Montreal with a floating interest rate at .5 per cent above the prime lending rate.

McKinney said it will be "another 10 years before the debt the students owe the university is paid off."

He said the members of student government "seem to think they can stop paying the \$15 per year."

If the payments stop the university could take over the building.

A "controlling body", the SUB Board of Directors, was formed to run the building when it first opened.

Most student union buildings in Canada are run by a SUB operation committee.

McKinney said he was a bit confused about the proposal to disband the board, as he wasn't consulted until recently, but the "clandestine aspect had me a bit upset."

"My main concern is that the students benefit in the end," he said.

He said he doesn't understand the motivation behind the original proposal of UNB's SRC to dissolve the SUB Board of Directors.

The SRC is now proposing that

its executive be appointed to the board. At present the board is composed of 6 UNB students, 3 from STU, and two members of UNB's administration. The SRC's proposal would place its four executive members on the board, and fill the other two seats with councillors.

"This would give them more direct control over the SUB," said McKinney, "but it brings in a

negative aspect - people who can make contributions to the operation of the SUB may not be elected to the SRC."

He said he suggested a compromise that would leave seats open on the board for students not sitting on the SRC.

"Right now the STU people are really pissed off...they feel they're being deceived," said McKinney.

"I'm pissed off about it myself." "Untruths were passed on to the STU people," he said, with "an attempt to lead them down the garden path."

McKinney, who has held his position for six years, said the proposal is counter-productive because it is tying up everyone's time.

"It's reaching the point where it's really getting foolish," he said.

Chisholm felt STU 'shafted'

Involvement by the UNB and St. Thomas Student Councils in the control of the Student Union Building Board of Directors is not supported by the St. Thomas Council. STU Student Union President Brian Chisholm says the SUB Board cannot be dominated by the two SRCs because of the possibility of a power struggle between student bodies.

The SUB Board consists of six UNB students and three St. Thomas students appointed by the respective Councils; the Board members are not answerable to the SRCs. Chisholm feels keeping this neutrality is a must.

"Peter Galoska's (UNB SRC President) reason for wanting the Councils to control the SUB is that other universities across the country do so; but here there are two universities sharing the facilities and the only answer is a neutral body. Once the SRCs are involved there is bound to be a power struggle. I can't foresee anything but friction for each Council would be trying to get the best for their students. I cannot follow the SRC involvement as long as there are two universities", Chisholm explained.

At their regular meeting this

week the St. Thomas Council passed the following motion in conjunction with Chisholm's view:

"Be it resolved that the St. Thomas Student Representative Council stand in opposition to any action placing direct SRC control in the operation of the SUB Board of Directors thereby jeopardizing necessary autonomy of that body."

Chisholm said he feels STU has nothing to gain by the venture and all to lose. "UNB would have the majority out of necessity and that can lead to nothing but domination. I am very satisfied with the present board structure."

Chisholm said when Peter Galoska approached him with the idea of the two Councils' involvement in the running of the SUB, he felt the proposal was very open but with an "aura of mystery". He was told by Galoska that nobody was to know about the discussions. All the meetings, he explained, were secret and the documents marked confidential. He was also told not to speak to Counsel Peter Forbes.

"In the beginning I did not know what their motivation was for this proposed involvement but as a representative of St. Thomas I was willing to go along with the initial

idea. But it got to the point where we had ourselves in up to our necks. We were being misled by Peter either deliberately or possibly out of ignorance on his part of the situation."

Chisholm said the whole issue concerning the SUB and the SRC is much more complex than can be imagined and he also conceded that there are some good points about the proposal but as "long as the SRCs are in charge, no way."

He added that if the UNB Council decides to try to go ahead with obtaining "control" of the SUB, St. Thomas' only hope is to appeal to the UNB administration."

He also said he feels the original proposal was promoted by "personality conflicts between the SUB Board and the UNB SRC."

"I must admit that it will be awhile before we can get back with UNB on a co-operative basis," he said.

A SUB Board member from St. Thomas added that he sees no need "for the use of university politics for secret underhanded politics. And it is definitely coming out at UNB from the top. The issue should be blown up to the point that people see this."

Peter Galoska supports autonomy

A number of UNB student government members had studied a proposal to disband the Student Union Building directors' board, said president Peter Galoska, but "the direction we're now moving in is to preserve SUB autonomy."

The group-including Galoska, St. Thomas president Brian Chisholm, UNB SRC comptroller Chris Gilliss and his assistant Rod Doherty and student senator Warren McKenzie--did not contact

the board immediately, he said, since they wanted "to think about" it first.

The original idea was designed to increase efficiency and expand the SUB management so director Kevin McKinney could delegate the enormous work load he has, said Galoska.

Once the proposal had been settled, he said, it would have been taken to the board.

Since the group studied the proposal during the Christmas holidays the board was not informed for two weeks. Galoska said there was no need for the board to be upset about not being informed since the group had to settle on what exactly was to be done about SUB management before they could be contacted.

Technical problems which were revealed after discussion with UNB president John Anderson and the withdrawal of STU from the discussion "started us thinking" about the proposal, said Galoska. The board was consulted and the

proposal under consideration involves the seating of two UNB SRC members on the board.

The group is working to preserve SUB autonomy, he said. The president--and ex-treasurer of the board--said a spirit of close co-operation exists between the two now. "I assure you discussion now involves the SUB, STU and UNB."

"If at any time we decide to move in the other direction (away from SUB autonomy)," said Galoska, "we'll move only with the approval of council."

Since all proposals are tentative and under negotiation, he said, it is difficult to say the group may not alter their thinking in the future.

Galoska said he thought of his campaign promise to delegate power when the proposal was being considered. However, he said delegation of power is done when things are going smoothly. "I have a responsibility to see projects come into effect and be successful."

Accumulation of power--such as in bringing the board under the SRC's management--was necessary, he said, to initiate projects.

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