

## WHAT IS NFCUS?

N.F.C.U.S. or the National Federation of Canadian University Students is the title given to those Canadian Universities who have grouped themselves into a national organization for purposes of mutual benefit and improved student conditions on a national level.

Its object as stated by the constitution is, "To promote in every way possible a better understanding among all Canadian University students, a greater degree of co-operation and correlation among all Canadian Universities for the effective promotion of student interests and to provide a means for developing international relationships with student groups in other countries."

Although there has been some exchange of views and ideas with the National Student Association of the United States, the international activities of N.F.C.U.S. have been decidedly limited, chiefly due to the domination of the student world in Europe and Asia by the International Union of Students, whose strength is drawn chiefly from "iron curtain" countries and those who are sympathetic toward Communist ideals. N.F.C.U.S. has declined to enter this latter organization feeling that more could be accomplished by working independently of it or by the possible formation of a western union. As yet there has been no definite action toward the formation of such a group.

Every student of each member University of N.F.C.U.S. is automatically a member of the organization. Government of the body is in the hands of the National Executive, consisting of a National president, a secretary treasurer, and four vice presidents who represent the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, and the West, together with the local committees at each University, of which the chairman is chosen by the respective Students' Councils.

N.F.C.U.S. is a non political, non religious organization. Its official languages are French and English, all Conference reports and periodical bulletins being published in both languages.

N.F.C.U.S. projects have been, with the exception of the Canadian-American student exchange pin, all on a national level.

One of the most important tasks ever undertaken by the Federation has been that of attempting to procure Federal aid for higher education. A brief was presented to the Royal Commission on the development in Arts, letters and sciences, in January of 1950. The Commission was very pleased with the brief; and most sympathetic toward the need for Federal aid as requested. Although little definite action has been taken along these lines as yet the brief has indeed paved the way for further steps, and shows great promise for the future.

One of the most successful projects has been the Regional Student Exchange Plan, whereby, under the auspices of the Federation, students leave their own Universities and take their Junior year at another University. This scheme has certainly done a great deal to further understanding between the various members of N.F.C.U.S., in addition to a very satisfactory method for the exchange of ideas along the lines of student interest.

Considerable research has been done along the lines of the high cost of texts to students, and one University has succeeded in having the cost of texts from one publisher cut by ten per cent.

It is hoped that this year a travel agency will be established for University Students, which would enable those so desiring, to have arrangements made and simplified for them in addition to the possibility of reduced rates. Last year the University of Manitoba printed a very helpful booklet entitled "So you're going to Europe", this proved so popular that plans are underway for its re-publication.

N.F.C.U.S. itself plans on the printing of a year-book this year with material received from all the member universities, and compiled at a central point. Plans are also being made for a national radio program.

The federation purposes to hold a National Seminar this coming summer in the Province of Quebec, with an educational program of subjects of interest to every citizen of Canada. Through such projects as this, N.F.C.U.S. is trying to do its part to help achieve perfect harmony among all Canadians.

This year it has been decided to open a permanent National Office with a perm-

## WHAT IS ISS?

I.S.S. stands for the International Student Service of Canada, the only national university organization linking students, faculty, and graduates.

### I.S.S. Aims

- To provide a fruitful channel of international contact for Canadian Universities
- To promote international understanding at the most effective level — the university
- To raise funds for student relief and university reconstruction in Europe and Asia.

### I.S.S. Projects

1. Twenty-six D.P. students are now studying at Canadian universities. They were selected by and are the responsibility of I.S.S. and are supported by I.S.S. funds raised on Canadian campus. Ten such students have already passed through Canadian colleges.

2. Three I.S.S. Summer Seminars have been held (the first in the British zone of Germany in 1948; the second in the Netherlands in 1949; the third in France in 1950.) These were entirely the effort of I.S.S. with the cooperation and financial support of the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO and the provincial governments of Canada. 150 Canadian students studied for the summer with students and professors of seventeen other countries. Funds raised on Canadian campus by I.S.S. committees did not finance any portion of the seminars.

3. University and Student Relief—over \$150,000 has been raised on Canadian campus since 1940 for books, clothing, medical supplies and food distributed abroad on the basis of need by World Student Relief. Medical supplies and books are still urgently needed if students and professors are to remain at their studies. T.B. and other diseases continue to increase in both Europe and Asia due to malnutrition, overcrowding, lack of heat and clothing. I.S.S. considers it a vital part of its tradition to encourage Canadian students and professors to give to the relief of others so long as the need exists.

4. Correspondence Exchanges with students throughout the world.

5. I.S.S. operates a University Information Service and carries out in cooperation with UNESCO and other International institutes of higher education research into university problems.

### I.S.S. Local Committee

Membership on I.S.S. campus committees is completely voluntary, dependent only upon the desire to further the above projects and aims of I.S.S. In many Canadian colleges, students taking post-graduate courses are excluded from any campus affairs, but I.S.S. makes no such restriction. The university faculty is represented in every local I.S.S. committee by at least one professor. The activities of local committees are directed mainly to publicizing I.S.S. and organizing the annual campaign for funds.

### I.S.S. National Administrative Committee

This Committee is composed of 14 members. Three of these are students; the remainder are faculty members from nearby universities and interested outsiders. The Committee's function is to supervise the everyday workings of the Secretariat within the framework of policy decisions laid down by the National Conference.

### I.S.S. National Conference

The conference is held early in each academic year to map out the organization's general activities. Two delegates, one student and one professor, attend from each I.S.S. university, and both have one vote.

### I.S.S. Secretariat

This is the executive branch of Canadian I.S.S., consisting at the moment of a National Secretary, and International Secretary, and two stenographers. These four full-time employees carry on I.S.S.'s everyday business, subject to the supervision of the Administrative Council and ultimately, the national conference.

anent secretary treasurer. With an innovation such as this the plans of the Federation should be carried out more quickly and with greater efficiency.

## Proposed ISS - NFCUS Amalgamation Arouses Wide Interest

Any attempt to present the pros and cons of the proposed I.S.S.-N.F.C.U.S. amalgamation is necessarily biased, and I do not claim to be free from it. Therefore, I suggest that you read this article with an eye for bias; then read and evaluate as much other material as possible.

The merger was first conceived in Toronto, and first discussed publicly at the I.S.S. seminar held this summer in France. Attending the seminar were Bill Turner of Toronto and Denis Lazure of Laval, who later attended the Communist I.U.S. conference in Prague. The idea of amalgamation appealed to them, and they had it in their minds during the Prague sessions.

At that conference, Turner and Lazure saw clearly the zeal with which the Communist half of the world was carrying on its program of propaganda and relief.

Shocked by what they saw, Turner and Lazure felt that Canadian students should lend their support in an organized fashion to combatting the Communist objectives. More than ever the idea of I.S.S.-N.F.C.U.S. affiliation appealed to them, since it would give Canadian students the mechanism with which to carry on the combat.

They presented their findings to the national conference of N.F.C.U.S., held this September in Quebec. The conference was impressed and it was suggested that the two organizations either amalgamate or work toward closer cooperation.

From there on the picture becomes confused. N.F.C.U.S. consulted representatives of I.S.S. in Toronto, and the question of amalgamation was discussed. The national conference of N.F.C.U.S. had been held a month previously; the national conference of I.S.S. was yet to be held.

The first meeting between N.F.C.U.S. and I.S.S. officials took place October 6 in Toronto, and a second was held October 16th. Nothing was settled; individual members of the I.S.S. Administrative Committee did, however, express their personal favour of the plan.

Between October 16th and October 21st, there was insufficient time for the national committee to inform local I.S.S. committees of the N.F.C.U.S. proposal at any length, and consequently the great majority of I.S.S. delegates arrived at the conference with only vague notions of the problems involved. Many arrived with straight biases dictated by the success of N.F.C.U.S. committees on their own campus.

Thus the national I.S.S. conference achieved little in the way of progress toward a merger. The delegates could only agree that the subject would bear consideration, and to this end they appointed a Continuing Committee to lay plans and present alternatives to a subsequent national conference. N.F.C.U.S. had drafted a

proposed constitution for an entirely new organization, using the best features of both existing ones, but few of the delegates saw the draft, and fewer still would have accepted it because it side-stepped the real issues.

The picture is further confused when it is pointed out that N.F.C.U.S. will reorganize and pursue an international policy anyway, if no merger or closer cooperation takes place. The proponents of this idea point out that a relief organization set up by the I.U.S. conference at Prague has every intention of getting quickly into business in Southeast Asia, and that we will lose all chances of acting there ourselves if we do not move quickly.

And so the basic mechanical issues are these:

(1) How will the new organization be financed? Some universities are opposed to any levy such as is now imposed by N.F.C.U.S. and will be even more opposed should the new organization require a further raise in fees. I.S.S. committees, on the other hand, conduct campaigns for their funds, and are in no way obligated to contribute to the support of the national office if their campaign receipts will not finance the contribution. Thus, all I.S.S. projects requiring the support of the individual university are on an entirely voluntary basis with respect to finances.

(2) What about those universities who are not now members of I.S.S. or N.F.C.U.S.? These are few in number but some have no wish to adopt policies of the organization to which they do not belong. Provision must be made for these universities if we wish to have a strong organization.

(3) How can the representative feature of N.F.C.U.S. be reconciled with the strictly voluntary membership of some I.S.S. committees, and the quasi-voluntary membership of others? One of the strongest features of N.F.C.U.S. is that it can truly claim to be representative of Canadian student opinion, and can justly call on every Canadian student to support its policies. Paradoxically enough, however, the voluntary feature of many I.S.S. committees is their strongest point.

(4) Will faculty representation be maintained in the new organization? If so, to what extent? Here the proposed constitution did have something to say. The new constitution and the present I.S.S. organization compare this way:

### NEW ORGANIZATION

#### National Committee:

Executive Committee—undergraduate President, one undergrad Vice-President and one faculty Vice-President.

National Affairs Commission—4 regional student representatives; no faculty

International Affairs Commission—20 members; 10 undergraduate, 10 faculty, graduate, outside.

#### Regional Committee:

none provided for

#### Local Committees:

Ten members at least. One faculty member to four student members

#### National Conference:

Schools over 1000—Three delegates

Schools under 1000—2 delegates

One of these to be faculty.

Voting to be done by one student delegate.

#### I.S.S.

#### National Committee: (Administrative)

Fourteen members; three students, eleven faculty, graduate, or outside. — A representative national committee is elected on a regional basis, but is actually not used — the conference fulfills its function.

#### Regional Committee:

Constitution generally provides for two students, one graduate, and one faculty member. In practice, the committees meet only haphazardly.

#### Local Committees:

Any number of members; usually one faculty representative.

#### National Conference:

One faculty and one student delegate, each voting. Disparities not strictly remedied.

At present, of course, N.F.C.U.S. has no faculty representation excepting that which may be exerted through individual Students' Councils. The question remains, however, can I.S.S. safely sacrifice even some of this faculty guidance which has been another of its strongest features?

These then, are the basic problems of amalgamation as I see them, and they should not be obscured in the dust of haste to do something greater than I.S.S. is now accomplishing internationally. Nor should this haste blind the new organization to its commitments in the national student field.

#### Advantages:

The proposed amalgamation does, of course, have several advantages. These are, in part:

(1) The avoidance of duplication:

(a) In national conferences

(b) In national offices

(c) In money raising

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