

# Ombudservice calls Council irresponsible

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She called for the "censure" of certain members of the delegation.

After interviewing all but one Nominating Committee member, the Ombudspersons, Gayle Morris and Don McGarvey could not prove whether committee members were biased or not, but expressed hope that McGrath won the nomination because of her qualifications rather than any biases on the committee.

The Ombudspersons also concluded that McGrath's CFS report should have not had any bearing on her nomination since "it is within the rights of a student to criticize any SU Executive member, providing it is not defamatory."

Finally, they felt that "questioning (McGrath) on her political affiliation was "irrelevant" due to the nature of the Academic Commissioner post.

The Ombudspersons recommended the matter go back to council. They recommended no further action be taken on the matter until it is dealt with in council.

McGrath welcomed the report, which was released Tuesday.

"It's pretty strong and it's pretty clear in stating Students' Council was acting irregularly," she said.

"Hopefully, Students' Council knows why the Ombudservice was set up and follows its recommendations."

She said if council chooses to ignore the report, it would be "an indication that (it is) willing to act unilaterally with no respect for due process."

Hodgins was much less enthusiastic.

"It's interesting," he said. "I'm not sure what to think."

Hodgins did answer the Ombudspersons' charges that Nominating Committee did not provide council

with adequate information on each of the candidates.

"The Nominating Committee did its usual preparation," he said. "In the past there had been extensive written documents on Academic Affairs Commissioner candidates, but nobody has ever expressed desire to see them."

Hodgins said council has full power to ignore the Ombudspersons' report, but "that's up to

council to decide."

However, VP Academic Donna Kassian disagrees.

"We could have improved on the written documentation (to council)."

She said it was "unfortunate" the Ombudspersons felt that if their recommendations were not followed, the service would seem a mockery.

Kassian said proper documenta-

tion of the Academic Affairs Commissioner candidates will be presented and reviewed again in Nominating Committee Thursday.

She added there will be different people sitting on Nominating Committee "because there won't be as many proxies."

The case was the first the Ombudservice has reported on since it opened in the spring of 1983.



McGrath: "Students' Council was acting irregularly" Photo Bill St. John

## Helping students

by Neal Watson

If the registration ordeal has you going crazy or you just need a fellow student to talk to, the office of Student Help is for you.

Student Help is a volunteer organization, located in SUB, providing students with information on academic matters ranging from registration to exam deferrals and grievance procedures. But more than that, Student Help offers a counselling service where students can talk out personal problems with fellow students.

James Olchowy, the director of Student Help, says his staff are not pure counsellors but concerned students who are "easy people to talk to." Olchowy says he was elected to his position after serving two years as a volunteer counsellor.

Olchowy says the student counsellors are trained by professionals, but if they feel they are not equipped to handle a problem, they will refer the student to someone who can.

Much of the service the centre provides is informational, and Student Help maintains a close liaison with university groups, including clinical services, the ombudsperson and many of the clubs on campus.

At present, Student Help is operating with a reduced staff, but Olchowy says his organization is recruiting volunteers. Olchowy says Student Help is a good organization for students who want to help others.

For interested students, applications are available at the office of Student Help in SUB.



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