

Forbes gets \$800 increase

By DOUG VARTY
Staff Writer

A motion made at the Dec. 3 regular meeting of the Student Representative Council has resulted in the granting of a 36 per cent increase in the annual legal retainer paid by the Student Union to SRC lawyer Peter Forbes. This represents an increase from \$2200 to \$3000.

According to outgoing SRC President David Bartlett, Forbes, appearing at the Council meeting, justified the raise by pointing out that the minimum per hour rate for hiring a lawyer is \$50.00. Bartlett said Forbes indicated that since September of 1979, he has provided approximately \$6,500 of legal services. By retaining a lawyer, Bartlett said the SRC is assured of getting legal advice when it is needed at no additional cost. Occasionally, said Bartlett, some additional costs will be incurred, as in

the case of Forbes preparation of incorporation documents for Campus Services Ltd. (CSL) and CHSR. He added that Forbes does this work at a rate which is lower than that charged by a lawyer who is not being retained.

The request for an increase was originally made to the Administrative Board but was forwarded, without a recommendation, to the SRC for their consideration. The motion to grant the increase, moved by Donald Andrew and seconded by Bartlett, was passed by an 11-0-3 vote. Despite the lopsidedness of the tally, at least two people present are apparently not entirely satisfied with the present situation. Both Bartlett and Vice-President Chris Earl indicated that some sort of review would be conducted.

"It's time we looked around to see if there is a better deal," said Earl. Since Forbes was first hired in 1975 at the cost of \$1600, fees have

remained fairly static, going to \$1500 in 1976, to \$1600 in 1977, to \$1800 in 1978, to \$2200 in 1979, finally arriving at the \$3000 mark in December. Prior to 1975, the SRC did not retain a lawyer, and legal fees per year were one or two hundred dollars.

Bartlett noted that Forbes is not hired exclusively for SRC purposes saying he is available to "make nasty phone calls or write letters for students." He stressed the fact that Forbes will not make court appearances on behalf of students unless they are willing to pay for the service.

Bartlett attributed the rapid rise in cost to the fact that Forbes was fresh out of law school when first hired and as such took more time to complete a given amount of work than would be required for a more experienced lawyer.



Peter Forbes



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Richardson resigns

Assistant SUB Director George Richardson has resigned, effective Jan. 1. The SUB Board accepted his resignation at their regular meeting held in November. Richardson has been assistant director since April 1978 and has resigned to undertake BBA studies on campus. He indicated that he still intends to work part-time as a SUB staffer.

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The SUB cafeteria has undergone a facelift

DWAYNE MCLAUGHLIN Photo

Happy new year and welcome back!