

# Meeting of Council

## The Council in brief

- What Thursday October 3rd's three and a half hour Student's Council Meeting accomplished:
- Sarah Connor seated as Education Rep. Elected by acclamation.
- Bookstore Committee Report adopted.
- Committee to report on University financial priorities established.
- Vice-Presidential Elections to be held October 18. Nominations close October 11.
- Report of Committee on Reorganization of Council adopted.
- S.U.B. Operating Policy adopted.
- Vacancies on Committees of Athletics and Cultural Affairs filled. Vanacies on parking committee not filled.
- Grants Committee Vacancies filled.
- Grad Society quorum reduced from twenty-five per cent to 25 persons.
- Course Evaluation Report presented.
- Committee to investigate aims, functions, and policy of The Dalhousie Gazette established.
- Feasibility study of setting up an FM station on Campus to be carried out by President was passed.
- Positions of Research and Project Assistant to the President established.



## Council Reorganization Adopted

In order to alleviate some of the Student Council's administrative work load, and allow members more time for policy discussion, the Council passed unanimously at its last meeting a series of motions to effect a general reorganization for this purpose.

Four secretariats have been established, namely a S.U.B. activities including the allocation of rooms and resources, an Information Services Secretariat to assess and improve the Council's public image, an Internal Affairs Secretariat to act as liason between the Council and all campus organizations, and a Political Affairs Secretariat to be responsible among other things for the functions previously ascribed to the CUS Committee and the CUSO Committee.

Council also adopted unanimously a motion to reassess these changes in the light of their usefulness and effectiveness after implementation, at some meeting prior to vacating office this year.

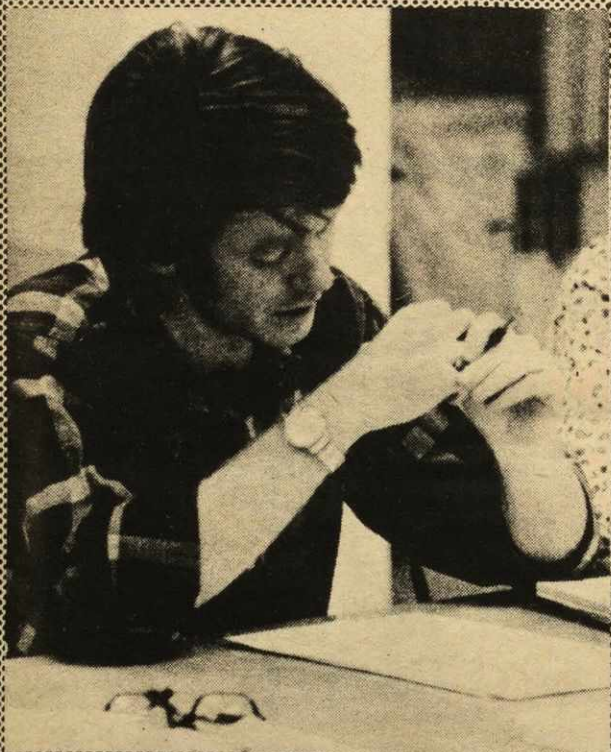
Stories by Steve Kimber  
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## Bookstore Committee Reports

The committee organized by Council to look into the policies surrounding the sales of textbooks on campus reported its findings to last week's Council meeting.

Dave Bell reported to Council that the bookstore is run "on an essentially break-even basis" with a twenty per cent markup to cover operating expenses. But the report noted that the Bookstore marks up prices a further 10% on American titles to cover the exchange rate, and Bell told council that this was not in line with the policy of other local bookstores. Council then adopted a motion to seek adjustment of "the Bookstore's selling price on American texts so as to eliminate the exchange differential." As well the Committee recommended and Council adopted unanimously a motion to ask the Administration to offset the profits from non-text product lines in University bookstores against the operating costs of the bookstore.

The Committee having fulfill its terms of reference was then dissolved.



## Vice - Pres. Election October 18

The Vice-President cannot be elected by acclamation, or so Council decided last week after a review of constitutional fine points arising out of the resignation of Vice President Jim Barlow during the summer months.

When nominations closed, only one paper had been submitted, that by Vice President pro tempore Pam Etter. The constitution states however, that this position cannot be filled by acclamation. After obtaining legal advice on the problem, Council decided unanimously to re-open the nominations which now close October 11th. The election has therefore been slated for one week later, in hopes a second candidate will declare his intention to run.

## Why Books cost so much

The next time you elate over the fact that you saved fifty per cent on that second-hand book you just bought, think about the fact that you are contributing to a cycle which keeps book prices on new texts so high. Reasons for this cycle was explained to Council last week by Student Union Administrator John Graham.

When a new book is prescribed by a professor for his course, the publisher can expect a high volume of sales during that first year. However, with the availability of second hand books during the second year, the publishers sales volume dips to about forty per cent of first year sales. In subsequent years the volume of sales decreases further, until the publisher decides it's time for a new edition of the text book. This new edition then goes through the same cycle all over again, and again, and again.

The subject was brought up during discussion of a report by the Council's Bookstore Committee.

## University Priorities Study

"We cannot correct anything," Randy Smith told Council last week, "not the residence situation, not the bookstore, in short, nothing; until we have participation in the allocation of the financial resources of this university." Smith's plea for Council action came on a motion to set up a committee to examine the financial priorities of the university. Saying that this committee will be "striking at the heart of the question," he claimed that participation by students in establishing priorities would give students "a voice with impact."

The call for such a committee came after investigations by the Bookstore Committee of the university's financial books revealed information regarding the priorities laid down by the Dalhousie Board of Governors. As an example, the relationship between Dalhousie and Kings financially was brought up. Council adopted the motion setting up the committee without a dissenting vote.

Its members who will report back to Council after their deliberations include four Council members Dave Bell, Geri Sadoway, Bob Daley, and Peter Cook, among with member-at-large John Cameron.

During the discussion on the motion President Smith informed Council that the University's books were available for examination by the Student Body in the Council offices in the Arts Annex during regular business hours.

## Council Probe of Gazette

A three member Committee of Student Council to investigate the goals, purposes, and objectives of a campus newspaper, specifically the Dalhousie Gazette was named by Council last week. Under the Chairmanship of Bruce Gillis, member-at-large, the committee will do an intensive wide-ranging investigation of the concept of a Campus newspaper.

The committee will attempt to gain opinions from experienced journalists, study other campus newspapers, and endeavour to find out what Dalhousie students want in their newspaper. Other members of the study group besides Gillis, are Geri Sadoway and Mike Daley.

In proposing the study Gillis pointed out that there was widespread discontent among students concerning the quality and objectivity of the Gazette. Randall Smith, commenting on the proposal to this reporter said: "I don't give a tinker's damn what anybody says - The Gazette STINKS."

Commenting on the Council's decision, Ken Clare, the Gazette's Editor-In-Chief said: "The whole discussion was just a play to the gallery to liven up what was otherwise a horribly dull Council meeting. However, we welcome the study - we have been negligent in the past in not instructing the Student Council of the role and philosophy of a campus newspaper. Our negligence was quite obvious at last night's meeting."

