

Why Are We Doing This?

All too often, the only time students hear from the Students' Union is during elections or referenda, when tempers are high and objectivity is low.

To counter this trend, we will be running a general information campaign throughout this week.

The reasons for this campaign are two-fold. First, we would like to inform students of what we have done over the last eight months. Second, we hope

to hear your ideas on how we can serve you better.

To this end, we will be speaking in classrooms; answering questions; sitting at booths; and until Friday, we will also be distributing questionnaires to get your feed-back.

If you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions on

improving your Students' Union, please let us know.

We hope that the success of this campaign will prompt similar events on an annual basis.

Make It Better..... Make It Yours!

PRESIDENT Robert Greenhill

The duties of President are wide-ranging. My major task is, as chair of executive committee, to oversee the operation of the Students' Union and to implement directives given by Students' Council. As the Vice-Presidents' reports show, we have had a successful year in every area.

Our debt has been eliminated, CJSR has gone FM, the theatre has been renovated, clubs space has been built, a typing service will be operating in January, and a Student-Ombudsman will soon be in place.

At the external level, we have joined the Canadian Federation of Students as the largest member and have worked closely with other institutions in Alberta to publicize the problems of underfunding. Many of these areas will be dealt with below in my and my colleagues reports but suffice it to say that this has been a banner year for Students' Union.

Our Long Range Planning Committee has become more important as, financially secure at last, we plan for the future. Two of our major tasks have been a major review of our Students' Orientation Services (SORSE) and an examination of our use of space within SUB.

Finance Committee - composed of the President, the V.P. Finance, the V.P. Internal, the Business Manager and the Finance Manager - is an unofficial but very useful committee. Although it has no formal decision making ability, it ensures smooth communication and cooperation between executive and management. In this way we have avoided much of executive-management strife which plagued the SU in the past.

One of the President's most important roles is to inform the public and lobby the government on education issues. This summer it became clear that

the Earth Sciences Building is a dangerous fire trap. To focus attention on the problem we held press conferences, lobbied our M.L.A.s and met a number of times with the Minister of Advanced Education. The government recently announced that the University will receive the money needed for renovations.

One of the most challenging tasks of the President is to sit on the Board of Governors. Responsible for the overall operation of the University, the Board wields enormous power on such topics as budgets, University policy, and tuition fees. Working with representatives of the public, the faculty and administration who sit on the Board has been, for me, particularly rewarding.

With January, executive elections are only a month away. We are in the process of overhauling our old, outdated, and unclear election regulations. We should have a new set of rules in place this Spring which will do much to improve the atmosphere in which elections are run.

Over the next few months I will be concentrating on two projects. The first will be to work on a University planning group which will, among other things, be examining what size our University should be.

My other project will be to prepare my office for next year's executive. By working closely with whoever is elected in February we can ensure that, by May 1, when they take office, they are completely prepared.

Over the past eighteen months I have had the pleasure of working with two fine executives, and of seeing our combined efforts pay off in a number of areas. I look forward to leaving with our successors one of the finest student associations in the country.

The past eight months have been quite eventful in the area of Finance and Administration.

For the first time in seven years, the Students' Union is no longer in debt to the University. We have operated for two consecutive years, showing surplus budgets.

These surpluses were significant enough to erase our debt to the University as well as to provide us with a \$250,000 allotment at the end of this fiscal year (March 31, 1984). These surplus budgets are the results of many changes which have made the Students' Union more fiscally responsible and accountable for its expenditures.

The job of Vice-President (Finance & Administration) is one which has various responsibilities.

With regards to student clubs and organizations, the V.P. (Finance & Administration) sits as the chairperson on the Administration Board, allocating \$10,000 in grants, per year, to deserving organizations applying for financial assistance. This Board also decides on non-budgeted expenditures which should be made, and numerous other financial matters facing the Students' Union, including the approval of budgets.

There are numerous other Boards within the framework of the S.U. which the V.P. (Finance & Administration) also sits on, but the position also requires a person to act as a link with the University Administration on issues which involve this area. This year, we have been working on a master agreement with the University Administration which would clearly define many previously obscure issues such as a caretaking agreement and a utilities charge agreement.

Stuart MacKay (S.U. Researcher) and myself are also working

on an old problem - the fee for service which the University charges us for certain transactions. Hopefully, this will be resolved shortly, to the benefit of both parties involved.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is another Committee which I'm required to sit on. Through this committee, I am in the process of doing a report on the ways and means of the Students' Union reacquiring rental space which the University holds for five year periods. I hope to initiate financial policy which will make it possible for us to use this space for student concerns rather than Administration space. Needless to say, if we are going to forego future revenues, we had better start planning for it now.

This year, for the first time ever, we have allocated \$150,000 of our final budget surplus to the SUB Building Reserve. This is a reserve fund which was set up two years ago, and requires that \$3.50/student per year be allotted to it so sufficient capital would be on hand to provide renovations to SUB when necessary. This year alone we spent more than \$350,000 on renovations in SUB. Obviously, a reserve fund is necessary as we would not have been able to implement these renovations, and we would have been faced with closing parts of SUB; such as SUB Theatre.

Finally, the major role played by the V.P. President Finance & Administration is to act as the chief financial officer and to oversee the operations of nine business areas and twenty-four student service areas. It is my pleasure to inform students that their business areas, including RATT and Dewey's, collectively contributed nearly \$300,000 to our coffers. This money is used to provide student services, including the Gateway, S.O.R.S.E. and numerous registries, in excess of what students pay in fees.

Some of the major projects I will be undertaking shortly include the negotiation of our contract with C.U.P.E., and also the 1984-85 preliminary budget.

VP Finance & Administration Greg McLean

There are three major areas of responsibility in the Vice President Internal's portfolio. One is the effective running of Student Union services, another is being the member of the Executive responsible for assisting the registered clubs of the Students' Union, and the third is to ensure the smooth operation of the Students' Union Building.

I will briefly summarize the highlights in these various areas since I took office and add what I'd like to do in each in the future.

SERVICES

The following areas have seen changes over the last year that hopefully will improve the quality of the services offered.

CABARETS

A new cabaret policy allows organizations to run their own cabaret entirely, or to request co-sponsorship with the Students' Union.

TYPING SERVICE

A brand new service soon to be open in Room 280 of SUB in which students can either pay to have assignments typed for them, or, they can rent a typewriter and type themselves.

CJSR

The student run radio station will now be heard city-wide as CJSR goes FM this month. Listen for them on 88.5 on your FM dial.

EXAM REGISTRY

More space has allowed the exam registry to improve the turnaround time from when an exam is ordered to when it can be picked up. Look for a permanent location to be moved to the second floor of SUB in the near future - right now it is Room 145.

CFS-SERVICES

Canada's national student organization offers many services students here can use. Among them include STUDENT DISCOUNT CARD which will be available in the very near future and allows discounts on retail items nationally; TRAVEL CUTS, the centre for student discount travel. Ask them about student discounts on air travel (Main Floor SUB), and working abroad during the summer months.

SPEAKER SERIES

This is the service I hope to have in operation in the very near future. I plan on offering a series of educational and entertaining speakers at little or no cost to students.

CLUBS

Likely the greatest benefit to many clubs will come in mid-February when approximately 20 new offices will open in the basement of SUB. Other programs offered to clubs include a regular series of clubs council meetings in which clubs suggest ways to improve our services and in which a seminar or workshop is offered to clubs in order that they may improve their operations. Clubs can also obtain a mailbox and many administrative supplies through the Students' Union.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

The construction of new meeting rooms along with the club space will allow more organizations to use SUB for their activities. We also offer licensed rooms for groups wishing socials.

More space for club tables in the main lobby of SUB has allowed more student groups to attract new student members.

On a concluding note, the Long-Range Planning Committee has been reactivated in order to continually review the entire operations of the Students' Union. This should allow an ongoing improvement in all the services the Students' Union offers.

VP Internal Affairs Peter Block

This year, I've tried a number of different ideas, designed to aid and represent students, such as:

STUDENTS' FINANCE BOARD

1. A Student Loan Process Flow Chart designed to help students better understand the loan process, and the time involved to process a loan application - distributed from Access Centre, 1st floor Administration Building, U of A and the Student Finance Board (SFB), 10th floor, Baker Centre.

2. A series of public service announcements in May, June and July to give students information on how to apply for a loan; how and when to consolidate; the current interest rate; and general information on student aid.

3. Better the communication ties to the SFB to keep this office better informed on programs and policies and to better help students with student loan problems.

4. Representing student views at SFB meetings regarding changes to information booklets and bettering the Loan/Remission system with a revised remission program proposal.

PARKING REGISTRY

This year, I've tried to establish a pool of parking spaces in the driveways of homes in the Windsor community. We are hoping to expand the service into other communities for January, 1984.

GOVERNMENT

1. Meetings with the Minister of Advanced Education to inform him of student concerns.

2. Meetings before government committees to relay student concerns.

3. Meeting with a number of MLA's to inform them of the needs of the University and students.

4. Establishing a meeting, in February, before the entire Education Caucus of Government to present our ideas for a new remission program.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

1. The Board has run information weeks on Central America and Disabled Students to try and inform students of issues and problems in these areas.

2. Granted \$2,850 out of an allotted \$4,000 to clubs to help them operate throughout the year.

3. Reviewing what role, if any, international politics should play in Students' Council.

EUGENE BRODY BOARD

1. Granted \$7,100 to worthy projects of a charitable, cultural or relief nature.

VP External Andrew Watts

The Vice President Academic represents students on University wide committees that make decisions about entrance requirements, quotas, testing procedures, and other academic matters. Another committee somehow delegated to the VP Academic is that of the University Athletics Board (UAB) where the athletics budget is discussed. Within the Students' Union the VP chairs the Academic Affairs Board and co-ordinates both the General Faculties Council, Student Caucus and the Council of Faculty Associations.

Along with these prescribed obligations I have held a number of other responsibilities at the direction of Students' Council and Executive Committee. These have included work with the Anti-Cutbacks Team, an introduction of a Student Ombudsman in late January, a review of the fee arrangement of Faculte St. Jean, representing the Students' Union at 2 meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students and other committees not so worthy of note.

During the first half of my term a lot of work was done on the Anti-Cutbacks Team and Week of Action, Oct. 3-7. During that week the chairperson of CFS was on campus, a cutbacks tour for media was held and information was given out on student issues. ACT also opened and staffed a Student Aid Clinic to help students get over student loan red tape.

Work on the student ombudsman was initiated during the summer and the first student ombudsman will materialize on campus at the end of January. The service will assist students with academic appeals and grievances as well as complaints against the Students' Union.

The Academic Affairs Board grants money to faculty associations and departmental clubs and reviews all kinds of academic matters. Close to \$10,000 of AAB's \$23,000 budget has been granted and I hope that campus groups will take advantage of the remaining Student Union funds.

Student representation at General Faculties Council is near the all-time high. The caucus has been active on entrance requirements being raised and issues involving mature students.

Many challenges remain ahead in my portfolio including the University's long-range plans and future entrance requirement changes. The Academic Affairs Board will take a more active role in dealing with clubs, faculty associations, and University affairs.

I especially enjoy trouble shooting for students and helping them find their way through the University bureaucracy.

VP Academic Barbara Donaldson