

UNB CUS CHAIRMAN tells about CUS...

by RUSSELL HAYNES

I hope this will help clear up any lingering doubts which you may have as to what CUS is, what it does, and why it does it.

Even with the half dozen universities which have dropped their association with CUS there are still 41 "left". Together these universities represent 125,000 students, or, 90% of all full-time university students in Canada. CUS is a union of the student councils of these universities, not of CUS committees. It is the students' representative council which enters or leaves the organization. It does not seem to be realized here at UNB that the SRC is responsible for CUS both at the local and national levels.

The SRC sets the policy which the delegates to the yearly national Congress which establishes CUS national policy on all matters. CUS committees are set up to conduct the local affairs of CUS, to coordinate local participation in national projects

and to advise local students' councils on all matters.

The basic concern of CUS was expressed in the CUS constitution adopted in 1926. It is "To promote a better understanding, surpassing both geography and language, among all Canadian university students, and to promote greater co-operation and correlation among student government bodies, in order to watch the progress of student interests and academic freedom..."

The chief role of CUS is to promote the material and intellectual interests of Canada's students; which leads to the attempt by CUS to campaign for the extension of social justice within the framework of higher education. The fundamental policy has been that, if Canada's interest are to be served best, the university must be made accessible to all, having regard only to objective standards of ability, irrespective of economic circumstances.

A second role is based on the promise that in unity, there is

strength. CUS attempts to serve as a bond uniting students' representative councils across Canada; a body by which differing opinions may be better understood and appreciated, and a common base for action formulated.

Although Quebec now has its own "CUS", namely UGEC, CUS cooperated with it to the extent that the policies of both organizations are very similar. They are, hence, not mutually antagonistic. Both organizations hold firm to the premise that students in institutions of higher learning have a legitimate concern with all of the issues which affect them in their roles as students.

The following is an outline of CUS's policies in detail:

Universal Accessibility has as its motivating philosophy the belief that education is a right rather than a privilege. CUS believes that from both economic and sociological points of view, society and the individual stand to benefit greatly from higher education. Why? The greater number of qualified highly educated persons in a country, the higher their skill and knowledge. To insure Canada a supply of skilled personnel, be they arts men or engineers, it is necessary to eliminate several artificial barriers to education. There must be a starting point, and this has been the attempt to eliminate all tuition fees. Tuition fees were singled out as the first step in making education a right because these are the most common and most readily visible barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education. Other barriers such as lack of parental encouragement or lack of motivation are not so easily attacked. If the prime financial barrier — tuition fees — were eliminated, these secondary restrictions might be reduced, because a person's attitude is inevitably moulded by financial consideration. Universal Accessibility is not a campaign to bring more people to university,

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The Canadian Student is a member of a society who is intensively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge and truth says CUC. — from 'The Manitoban', Winnipeg.