

The sixty per cent solution ?



At an "emergency" meeting of the Students' Representative Council last week they "corrected an oversight" in the new union regulations. This "correction" stipulates importance that are to be brought to referendum, when so designated by a 2/3 of the SRC, must be voted on by 2/3 of the student body to make the referendum result valid.

The primary motive behind this change was to prevent the Hildebrand petition to make union fees optional from being successful if voted by a small number of students. A laudable thought, no doubt. This is probably something that should be down on paper in some form. But NOT this form.

One councillor said "If you find a cancer, you cut it out." A more accurate analogy to what this regulation does is, "Cancer? Shoot the patient!"

The first argument against the new regulation is that 2/3 of the students are not very likely to vote on anything. For instance - Be It Resolved That: The student union be permitted to detonate a thermonuclear device in the vicinity of the SUB. Be it further resolved that should this be unsuccessful in stirring student interest that CSL be granted \$2 million to think of a better idea. Would YOU vote on it?(be honest now).

The second, and much more serious problem, is that this SRC does not seem to realize the effect of making a constitutional

rule. They say, "Well of course WE wouldn't do something like that!" when confronted with a hypothetical consequence of the rules they make. And usually, of course, they wouldn't. But that is not the point. The point is that as time goes on things are interpreted differently by people. "Substantial importance", in other words is simply too vague. This could mean anything to 2/3 of a hypothetical Council in a hypothetical mood.

And, although this Council would never stoop to this, an SRC could just conceivably effectively block something ten percent of the students want to take a referendum vote on. In fact, this same hypothetical SRC, given present trends, could be 2/3 elected by acclamation.

A third point is that, under the new regulations, 34 percent of the student body can change the constitution provided 66 percent of the students turn out and vote. However, if 55 percent of us vote a particular way on a referendum but only 60 percent of us turn out, then the referendum fails. Thus the new regulation defies all rationality. But you try to explain that to the SRC. Good luck!

Therefore, as it stands, the Council can now judge something "better" than a substantial percentage of the students as to its importance. Since they regard by-laws and regulations so casually, it shouldn't be too hard to get it changed. Maybe if we made them a substantial bribe.

'Where does our money go?'

Who will answer?

"Where does our money go" was the title of the gathering of heavyweight administrators and students. The purpose was to allow some questions from students as to the running of this university and the residence system in particular.

All in all the presentations on the part of the three principle administrators, the president, the comptroller, and the vice-president were straightforward and to the point. When the questions were asked from the floor,

however, some of the answers were just a little too slick for us simple students.

The real question that all students want the answer to is, "How much do you guess the fees will go up?" We can appreciate that the tuition fees are as yet unknown, but it is hard to believe that the residence fees cannot be estimated at this point.

The vice president, when asked this question, repeatedly chose to side step it by saying that they 'could go up, or could go down'

depending on the university's willingness to allow the deficit to creep up.

Without wishing to pick on the vice president, The Brunswickan would suggest that this sort of thing is what causes problems between students and the administration in the first place. The real principle here is if more of us were involved in the knowledge of the decision making processes, the university would be a happier place.

The Brunswickan would like to

thank president Anderson and company for making a very real effort to communicate some of the problems encountered in running this university to students.

The Brunswickan would also like to agree with Dr. Anderson in confirming the very important fact that a degree from UNB is listed in the top ten in Canada (number six by one report). This, no doubt expresses the feeling shared by the nearly six thousand students here at UNB that we are indeed among the top ten.

the brunswickan
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