



Mike Evans Science Rep.

On his job:

"I am definitely not representing the science students. I was on Council last year and this year I am facing the same problems. However, this year I have an office in the Life Sciences Centre in Room 660 of the Biology Department."

On his role in student government:

Under the present system, student reps have no power at all. The individual Council member has a tough time to find out what is going on. There is a lack of information from the Executive. The majority of power lies with the Executive and, to lesser extent, the various committees which have been set up. The work that Council does is not really relevant. In many cases, the Ombudsman is better suited to handle a student's problem than the Council.

Further comments on Council:

The present system isn't working. An attempt should be made to look into new forms of government. There should be more of a delegation of power. Council doesn't have too much power. Reps are more or less a rubber stamp to ratify what the Executive brings up. Personalities often get in the way. There is a permanent clash between the "shit-disturbers" and other members of the Council. A polarization has occurred which makes it difficult to solve problems. However, the Council is basically conservative and I think this should be changed. Then again, the whole campus is basically conservative. Many students don't care that the President gets as much money as he does. Question: Should the President be getting as much money as he does? Answer: Definitely not.

My whole theory of student government is that the members should get involved because they want to. Enhancements and incentives shouldn't be needed — other than a token like free tuition. A different system of government is needed which might be able to avoid the creation of "Top Dogs" who run the whole show. There have been times when the Executive assumes the direction they want to, and disregards the Council completely. I think that student government is at its "greatest heights" with the management of the Union's finances and the Student Union Building. Also, the administration is more inclined to listen to Brian Smith than the Students' Council.



Peter Dwyer — Arts Rep.

On his role and Student Council:

Dwyer says there's a definite difference between the real and the ideal situation as it exists on Council now.

"Judging from conversations with other members, I have reason to believe that there's something fundamentally wrong with the present state of affairs of student government. I analyzed them in terms of class because I'm always conscious of that."

"I came to the conclusion that one cannot represent anybody but one's own type of individual. As for challenging the status quo — they (Council reps) are the status quo. Their presence in Student Council reinforces the status quo."

He sees as paradoxical the Council reps' choice of either sticking their necks out or reinforcing the state of affairs. Many times Council has been presented with an issue and placed on the hot-spot. The question becomes, says Dwyer, will they "go against the university and faculty or work with it."

It is the structure that is at fault, he believes. "You could permit piecemeal reforms, introducing checks into the system, and getting more people input and not representative input." But he favours a mass union of students. This would mean "having faith in the individual as master." He also says that those "Who are milking the Union should be kicked out."

Role of the Student Union within the University:

"The realities of Student Union functions are very detrimental to the educational future and mental-well being of students. The Union is not very conscious of the future outside the university — it's just concerned with the day-to-day needs and internal bureaucracy."

"The university is the lifeblood of the economic system. Basically, students do not realize this aim of the university and they believe any conscious moves are in their interest."

"The Student Union has failed to inform nor has it any intention to inform students of this relationship, or of the conscious moves and implications of moves on the part of the university."



Art Turner — Howe Hall

Role:

Turner feels he represents his constituents better than most others because he is in a lot closer touch. He has lived in Howe Hall for four years and says that he gets most of his feedback through informal means. The "mood" of the students, he feels, is a good indicator of how they feel about issues generally.

On Council:

"Undoubtedly it is one of the most unrepresentative bodies, with the exception of a few hard-working reps. But most them, representatives, they are not." He says Council needs revamping to be realistic and representative of students.

"There are a lot of deadheads on Council now. We should reduce the numbers on Council to be more effective. We have to get people to represent their students and to do things."

Role of the Student Union in the University:

The purpose of the Union, says Turner, is to provide students with a life other than academics. The Union's functions should be minimal, just "to keep the university from shafting students."

"We don't have the right to interfere with the university government," he says, "though we should have a say in what we are taught."

"Students should have an effective say, but to be equal presents a conflict as someone has to have the upperhand. We should have a great say, but not the final word — that should remain with the university."



Barry Ward — Commerce Rep.

Barry Ward is the Commerce representative on Student Council.

On his role on the Student Council:

"Theoretically, it is my job to represent the students. This is fairly easy with the Commerce faculty because it is a small close-knit group. Actually this can be difficult, because the majority of students are apathetic politically."

Role of Student Council:

"The Council's job is to exercise some control on the executive. This role could be enhanced by a group of standing committees that would refer the findings of their studies to Council."

On changes in the Student Council Structure:

"The executive could be structured to three Vice-presidents. There is a need for some alternative student government."

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