

"Screwed again" say former council presidents

"We've been screwed again!" said former, acting SRC president Alistair Robertson.

"We've been screwed again!" said past SRC president Geoff Green.

"We've been screwed again!" said Lawson Hunter, chairman of council meetings and a former SRC president.

This was the reaction when council heard, Sunday night, the administration's behavior toward a joint council-senate brief on student representation on the senate.

A ten-man committee, five from council and five from the senate have been discussing the question since October.

Committee co-chairman John Dawes, a council business rep, told council a brief was to have been submitted to the Feb. 12 senate meeting.

But the brief wasn't submitted in time and the senate didn't consider it at that meeting. Hunter accused senate chairman Colin Mackay of deliberately scuttling the brief.

Later, Hunter, one of the committee's student reps, shocked other student reps, Dawes and arts rep Debbie Lyons, as well as the rest of council.

He informed them that the five senate members on the committee; senate secretary Dugald Blue, Mackay's executive assistant Peter Kent and profs Leckie, Lane and McKeown; had been called to a meeting with Mackay and law prof George McAllister to discuss the brief.

The meeting was held Feb. 10. Mackay told the Brunswickan on Feb. 12 that he hadn't read the brief yet.

The student representatives had understood that it was a joint committee, and that all the committee members were to be present whenever the brief was discussed.

Mackay and Blue later apologized for alling the meeting but said they hadn't been able to contact the student reps.

Miss Lyons called it "a slap in the face" of council.

Dawes said that Hunter and Kent were to prepare the brief for submission to the senate. Hunter reported that he and Kent had prepared a rough draft. Then Kent was to prepare the final brief, check it with Hunter and submit it to the senate.

Hunter said that Blue told him the brief wasn't presented because it hadn't been prepared on time.

Dawes said at the council meeting that he and Blue as co-chairmen should take the blame. He said it was the responsibility of the whole committee.

He announced Tuesday that the senate would discuss the brief March 4, the latest possible date, according to him.

"The brief will be presented to the council by all the members of the committee at next Sunday's council meeting," he said.

Robertson angrily declared that council was getting the shaft.

"This has negated five months work. It has fallen through malice or inefficiency of committee members. We have been deceived intentionally or unintentionally. We should speak out and not be silent," he said.

"This affects the election of student senators. It may delay representation on the senate until next year and we may lose representation on the nominating committee for administration president."

Hunter then suggested that the fault may lie outside the committee, with administration president Colin Mackay.

"Mackay deliberately scuttled the brief. It was only a six-page document. If I had

known that the only objection to not discussing it at the last senate meeting was the brief not being prepared on time, I would have made sure myself that senate members had a copy of it beforehand.

"It was important and should have been dealt with.

"They acted in bad faith. They did us in. We should urge an immediate meeting so that we'll have senate representation this spring."

"The chairman and secretary of the senate are hedging," said Robertson. "This refusal to discuss the brief is inconsistent with Mackay's policy last fall when he urged that senate representation be settled as soon as possible."

Robertson pointed out that Dawes was assuming that Mackay and Blue were acting in good faith.

"I have given up that assumption," said Robertson.

"I am convinced that the matter will be delayed and delayed. These people are deceitful, evasive and hypocritical. The administration no longer wants to deal with the student council in the proper manner. Council should disassociate itself from the administration because they were dealing in bad faith."

Hunter said that McAllister

was at last week's meeting because he had written the university act.

"The senate members were deliberately called in so that Mackay and McAllister could shoot down the brief.

"The senate had agreed that there would be only one committee, a joint student-senate committee, and that the brief should only be discussed with the whole committee present."

Hunter said the senate representatives to the committee were chastised by Mackay and McAllister for agreeing to seven student representatives on the senate and having open senate meetings.

Dawes said he still had good faith in the senate members of the committee. Hunter said it didn't make any difference.

"The senate will stall until it's too late in the year to act on the brief's recommendations."

One council member said it was "a flagrant insult."

Dawes said the students should be informed of this matter. "Mackay knew it was a joint committee. He should have called the whole committee to the meeting."

After the meeting he said that he wanted the representation settled soon but that he was losing hope.

ATTEMPTS

From page 1

cheaper to leave the motion alone."

Murphy said that the student administrative council at University of Toronto had already given him \$150 to help pay legal fees.

But staff members of The Varsity, student paper at U of T said this wasn't so. They pointed out that SAC was slashing budgets, not allocating further funds.

The SRC administrative board decided Tuesday night to pay one half of Murphy's fees up to \$3,000. The board said this decision must be approved at Sunday's SRC meeting.

Alistair Robertson said a precedent has already been set for helping people in financial difficulty. Last year Clive Roberts ran up an \$8,000 bill when he brought the Trinidad-Tobago Steel Band to New Brunswick. Council paid \$2,000 toward the bill.

"In the past the SRC has handed out money gaily and students have never objected," he said.

"I suggest the merits this time are a good deal sounder.

"There's a strong possibility the SRC is liable for the whole sum of money."

Hamilton pointed out that council could only maintain representivity if the motion were rescinded.

"If the motion is made null and void there will not be a second petition, and if it isn't, you'll have to go to the people (referendum) and it will really be in your hands."

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