

# Midterm Executive Report WHAT HAS BEEN AND WHAT WILL BE

The members of the Dalhousie Student Union executive were asked to submit reports to the council at the beginning of this academic year. The reports were supposed to outline most of the major activity of the first half of Council's term and any additional plans that were forthcoming. The reports totalled about forty-five pages. Reprinted below is an outline of the major points of each report. The outline was drawn up by Student Union President Dan O'Connor. The Gazette has added a few minor additions and clarifications to bring the outline up to date. (In Italics) To get a clearer idea of what progress the students can expect, we also include a list of priorities accepted by the Executive at a recent meeting. They appear in order below:

1. the student union referendum fee in October
2. employment policies and procedure
3. housing
4. renewing the financial administration and control system
5. entertainment policy and procedures
6. reviving the arts and science societies
7. accelerating work on an F.M. radio station
8. reopening the Cultural Display Area and reviving D.M.D.S.

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CONTACT: CATHERINE DYKE

**Lecture series** — a committee has been formed to consider suggested topics. Co-operation with the Entertainment Director is being improved, and several proposals are already being put into effect.

*Some of the possible speakers and topics are Angela Davis, Margaret Atwood, and Caribbean Development.*

**Children** — a priority has always been assistance for underprivileged children. A new way of fulfilling this goal may be a programme of summer field trips. This has been done on an experimental basis. *Outreach Tutoring is still operating on a \$1600. grant from the Council.*

**Affiliations** — close contact with the community organizations of which we are members has been maintained. MOVE is a particularly good source of ideas and information.

**Boycotts** — the rationale and scope of our participation in national and international boycotts is being reviewed. *Catherine has submitted to council a list for consideration.*

## CARLETON STREET CAMPUS CONTACT: LORNE RICHARDSON

**Council Task Force** — the representatives of students on the Carleton campus have been formed as a task force to work on improvement of the Union's role as it affects their constituents. The task force has begun preliminary research and consideration. It should be active during the coming year.

**Facilities** — the bookstore has moved to serve this campus more efficiently. Through the bookstore committee this progress should be consolidated. Union offices and lounge are a larger question. Through the task force work will be done to discover the needs and wants, analyze the alternatives and suggest methods of financing.

**Vice-President** — the Vice-President this year has the special responsibility of overseeing and co-ordinating Union activity on the Carleton campus.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONTACT: RON MCCABE

**Housing research** — Dalhousie became the National Union of Students housing research centre in May. Since then considerable work has been done on a preliminary survey of the present situation.

**Inter-Atlantic co-operation** — Dalhousie and St. Mary's co-sponsored an Atlantic student unions conference in early July. It was an opportunity for the exchange of information and planning further action. U.N.B. is sponsoring a second conference, in late September, to carry on the work started in July.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS CONTACT: LORNE RICHARDSON

**Recognition of organizations** — work on the annual review of the recognized organizations is already well under way. This should leave more time to further develop other work with the organizations.

*Lorne sent out letters this summer asking societies to file their constitutions and current list of officers with the Student Union. The file is almost completed.*

**Conference** — there will be a conference in the fall for the societies, clubs, organizations, Student Union executive and senior members of staff, for an exchange of information and to plan future activity.

## STUDENT UNION BUILDING CONTACT: RICHARD HAUGEN

**Operating Policy** — the policy created six years ago still works well, and has only needed minor modification. Efforts are now concentrated on ensuring that it is followed.

**Inspection tour** — the SUB Affairs Secretary visited twelve American universities to compare their facilities and programmes with our own.

*A report on the tour and data collected are available through your council representative.*

**Maintenance** — if it is at all possible there will be a better system for making minor repairs to the building and its furnishings. In the long run this should reduce costs.

**Community utilization** — there has always been a fair degree of utilization of the building by groups from the surrounding community. As the cost of providing such a service increases, and as the limits of building use begin to appear, there will be a re-evaluation of this area with a view towards clarifying policy. *The executive has forwarded this problem to the SUB operations Committee.*

**SUB Affairs structure** — a review of the present structure as it compares to the 1968 proposals has been commenced. Changes are likely to be effected commencing with the 1975-76 Council term. The "Review" has been done informally between the President and the Treasurer. *Discussions have considered the abolition of the secretariate and the Retention of the committee.*

## INTERNAL MATTERS

**Major societies** — there will be an attempt to begin restoring the fourteen major societies and two residence councils to their original place of importance in the Student Union structure.

*The Student Union will offer the Residences Councils the opportunity to hold their elections simultaneously with Union elections and have offered to include the Residences Books in the Union Audit.*

**Culture, Drama, Music** — if time and funds permit, work will begin to rebuild the Union's role in these areas, after three or four barren years.

**Professionalism** — the Union remains conscious of the tension between demands for better service and its role as a training ground for students. Responsibility will continue to remain in as many student hands as possible.

## GRANTS CONTACT: BRUCE RUSSELL

**Procedure** — the Grants Committee intends to assume its constitutional duties by enforcing the six requirements for a grant applicant.

**Conference fund** — the transfer to separate consideration of money spent in Halifax-Dartmouth and money spent elsewhere will continue, but the Grants Committee will continue to administer its customary budget.

**Update calendar** — after an evaluation of its performance Update has been replaced by the Update calendar which will appear regularly in the Dalhousie Gazette.

**Enquiry Desk** — the Desk will be helped in its attempts to provide a complete source of information about campus and community events.

**Communications Department** — primarily through a revitalized Communications Board the department will attempt to function in a more efficient manner and to consider its function.

*So far this year the President has contacted the University of Manitoba, Saint Mary's Student Association and the CRTC. The last official report was submitted by Doug Barrett in 1973 no progress has been made since then.*

**F.M. Radio** — there will be more work on the possibilities on such a station in Halifax, with a basis of student support.

## ALLIANCES CONTACT: DAN O'CONNOR

**Dal/Tech** — on the student government level this merger has been put into effect to 90% of its extent.

**M.S.V.U.** — our agreement with the Mount Student Union is being placed on a clear, firm basis, to prevent some of the problems experienced in the last five years. *A draft prepared by Dan O'Connor has been presented to the Mount Saint Vincent Student Union and the Dalhousie Student Union Executive.*

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONTACT: BOB CLEMENTS

**Course monitoring** — this committee is being activated, and will seek to create awareness of its existence and purpose.

**Student representation** — work is starting to determine the extent to which student representation has been established at Dalhousie, and from there to make student participation in decision making more credible. *Bob Clements has sent letters to all departments requesting information on student representation.*

**Course evaluation** — the structure is being placed on a more firm basis. A study will determine the potential for expanding it into other faculties. *The committee is under an independent Chairman, John D'Orsay.*

## ENTERTAINMENT CONTACT: VIC GOLDMAN

**Prices** — a sudden increase in the cost of entertainers has forced an increase in the entrance price to entertainment events. Prices are generally back to the 1971 levels, and if there are high profits entrance prices will be adjusted downwards. *A price drop is now under consideration by the Executive.*

**Procedure and policy** — the Union is transferring from a part-time only staff to one that is centred around a full-time employee. Council will be asked to establish new procedures that provide for this, and to determine an explicit entertainment policy for the Union.

*The problems with this should be ironed by mid November.*

*This work will probably result in programming that is aimed at a larger portion of the Union membership. There may also be a greater role for the recognized organizations.*

**Special events** — the function and organization of the four special events is being re-evaluated. It is proposed that the Chairmen receive a token honoraria. *Dr. Hicks has proposed a meeting between University and Union officials to consider the report of the Orientation Chairman.*

**University government** — the proposal that some or all of the structure of the University's government be reviewed is still under consideration by student representatives on the Senate.

**Arts and Science** — for several years students in this faculty have suffered from the weakness of their society. The Union will initiate action to restore an Arts and Science Society which can coordinate activity within several recognized organizations. It also seems to be a necessary preliminary to completion of the establishment of student representation in the governing bodies of Arts and Science.

## BUDGET CONTACT: BARRY WARD

**Timing** — for 61 years the budget has been prepared in September and passed in October. Now that the Union operates throughout the year, the 1974-75 budget was prepared in April and passed in the summer, on an experimental basis. The changeover caused problems, but an analysis of the new system will probably result in its confirmation.

**Administration** — there have been problems in every department because there was no Treasurer for about four months of the last fiscal year. Many of these have been resolved, and the financial system seems to be working again.

**Anticipation of costs** — it is almost impossible to correctly anticipate costs, especially those of: liquor; furniture; labour; printing (especially paper); purchased services; hardware and technical equipment. An unusual amount of budget monitoring is necessary. *The problems basically were the effects of inflation over the summer and the fact that most people can't cope with the change in the system.*

**Grawood** — The Grawood Lounge is being modified to allow more professional service. It is not likely that another, larger lounge will be started until the Grawood proves that it has a long-term potential and the ability to repay its capital costs, two things which have yet to happen. *See story this issue.*

## OTHER SERVICES CONTACT: DAN O'CONNOR

**Housing** — a Housing Office sponsored by the University and the Union has been re-constituted. The increased level of activity will be maintained.

**Daycare** — CONTACT: MARTIN WARE research on experience here and elsewhere has started, but progress is difficult. The most optimistic estimate is that within five months a feasibility study can be completed.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATION CONTACT: DAN O'CONNOR

**University-community** — acting on a Student Union initiative the Senate has created a university-community committee which has been partly constituted and will soon have its first meeting.

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*At last Sunday's Council Meeting (15th) the Arts and Sciences representatives were asked to prepare a report leading to the establishment of the societies.*

## INFLATION

**User charges** — The Union charges those who use many of its services, so that those actually using the service bear part or all of its cost. The recent inflation has forced the increase of most of these charges. The alternative was a severe cutback in the number and scope of Union programmes.

**Union fee** — the Student Union fee has not been substantially altered for six years. In late October the students will be asked whether, for stated purposes, they wish the fee to be increased as of September, 1975.



Lorne Richardson