

WUS means World University Service



Let's get a few facts about WUSC straight

By SYLVIA VAN KIRK

What is WUSC?

There seems to be general confusion as to just what WUSC is, what happened at its last national assembly in September, and what the attitude of the students' council is towards WUSC. Let's get a few facts straight.

Firstly, WUSC stands for the World University Service of Canada. The World University Service was inaugurated by students and professors in Geneva in 1920.

Its initial aims were to publicize the urgent needs of students and professors in many European countries suffering from the results of World War I and to provide various forms of assistance.

By 1926 the most urgent relief problems had been met but there remained among the thousands of students and professors who had been involved, a desire to maintain contact and to work together to seek solutions to university problems and to tackle other emergencies which might arise. This was the beginning of WUS as we know it today and it has continually expanded to include the university communities of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The official statutes of WUS state that its work is based on a concern for:

- A. the sincere and objective search for truth, which implies:
1. creative thinking and a critical, many-sided approach.
 2. resistance to all external pressure liable to hinder freedom of study, teaching or research.

B. the training of men and women with a wide and coherent view of human culture and a sense of their responsibilities within society, which implies:

1. a proper balance between professional training and true learning.
2. an active concern for the needs and problems of contemporary society.

C. the achievement of a spirit of community in the university, which implies:

1. that no one be placed at a disadvantage in seeking entrance to the university or in participating in university life on account of race, nationality, sex, social or economic condition, or political or religious conviction.
2. that the fullest development of members of the university community be ensured through promoting and strengthening the community life among students, student representatives, teachers, and administrators, and between the university community itself and the whole of society, of which it forms a part.
3. that a spirit of real understanding and collaboration be fostered among the university communities of all nations, thus contributing to social justice and international peace.

These are idealistic, but essentially meaningless words unless they are translated into a concrete program. The World University Service of Canada attempts to further the aims of the world

organization by a three-fold program:

1. projects designed to arouse the interest of Canadian students and faculty members in the problems and aspirations of the university community around the world (i.e. the national seminar held here in September entitled Revolution in the University).
2. projects which provide a service to members of Canadian universities, particularly in the sphere of international exchanges.
3. projects which raise funds and gifts-in-kind for the International Programme of Action (i.e. SHARE campaign and book drives).

So what's the problem? What went on at the national assembly that was so earth-shaking? There was a general feeling among the delegates at the assembly that WUSC was not in fact successfully fulfilling the aims of the international organization. Scarcely any attention was being given to the development of relevant educational programs, because WUSC was devoting all its time to fund-raising.

It was with the intention of correcting this failing that the resolution was passed to give "top priority to developing an international political consciousness in the university community" and fund-raising was de-emphasized. But this does not mean that all fund-raising projects will be abolished—you can't have an educational program without funds to finance it.

Contrary to rumors there definitely will be a Treasure Van sale on the U of A campus this year. But it was decided that the time has come to drop Treasure Van as a national WUS project.

But Treasure Van cannot be abolished overnight; it is estimated that the process will take at least two years. The stock for the 1968 sale was purchased long before these resolutions were passed.

What about SHARE? There is a SHARE campaign going on on this campus right now. The purpose of the SHARE campaign is to finance WUS' International Programme of Action which finances self-help projects in universities all over the world. No one said it wasn't necessary to raise funds. What was being criticized was not SHARE itself but some of the present methods of fund raising and people failed to make this distinction.

Is students' council contemplating the desirability of withdrawing from WUSC? Definitely not. It is entirely consistent with its position on CUS and related matters, to remain within WUSC. Council feels that because it was elected by the student body to represent the students, councillors have no right to impose their own political views upon the students by taking partisan political stands which do not represent the majority of the students' feelings.

The local WUSC Committee is appointed, not elected. As a member of WUS it feels a responsibility to take stands on matters which are its direct concern, but it does

this as WUS and does not purport to represent or commit students and professors on the campus to this stand. Students' council unanimously passed the following resolution on WUSC at its meeting on Sept. 9:

That the students' council reaffirm its support of the World University Service with the following understandings:

1. that in 1968-69 WUSC is emphasizing programs which will develop an international political consciousness in the university community.
2. that WUSC will work to stimulate public concern, but will not take partisan political stands on domestic or international issues.
3. that when stands are taken by the WUSC national committee it is understood that these stands do not necessarily commit member campuses.

WUSC has taken this new orientation in an effort to become a more relevant and meaningful university organization. But it can do nothing without the active support of concerned students and faculty. Think about it.

Sylvia Van Kirk, appointed as WUSC chairman by students' council, was a delegate to the WUS national assembly, held at U of A this year. She is in the grad studies program, majoring in history.

W.U.S. SEMINAR
REVOLUTION
 AND THE
UNIVERSITY

Lister Hall **September 3-5**
Sessions Start at 9:30 and 1:30
 Further Information at Students' Union Reception Desk
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