

Cabaret policy is "only fair"

by Richard Watts

Objections still exist to the new Students' Union cabaret policy in which the SU formally agrees to absorb 35 per cent of a cabaret's financial loss.

Under the new policy the SU signs a contract with a club who wishes to hold a cabaret. The SU formally agrees to co-sponsor the cabaret in Dinwoodie Lounge in SUB and take 35 per cent of the cabaret's profits and bear 35 per cent of the loss of any unsuccessful cabaret.

"It's only fair," said Ray Conway, SU VP Internal, if we make 35 per cent of the profits then we should take 35 per cent of the losses."

Dwayne Chomyn, Students' Council Arts Representative says the word fair does not apply in this case.

Chomyn explained that if a cabaret fails and loses money then it is

probably the fault of the club, for failing to provide enough advance publicity, or poor organization at the cabaret.

If the SU absorbs 35 per cent of a cabaret's loss it is in fact a grant of more money to the club who held the unsuccessful cabaret. Compared with another club who holds a financially successful cabaret, absorbing 35% of the loss is an additional grant to the club whose cabaret lost money, explained Chomyn.

A member of the Building Services Board which deals with the internal operations of SUB such as Dinwoodie Lounge, Tim Sayers, also disagrees with the new policy.

Sayers says the new policy allows a club to incur for the SU an unlimited liability which makes it more difficult to draw up a budget.

It also does not take into account

that the SU deserves a risk premium for providing the use of Dinwoodie Lounge as well as extending credit for cabaret expenses, explained Sayers.

In addition the new policy increases the attractiveness of more risky events, for example, less well-known or more expensive bands.

Conway says such fears are unjustified since the SU safeguards its position by screening the clubs who wish to hold a cabaret to ensure the club is capable of putting on a successful cabaret.

Conway also says the SU provides trained personnel such as the SU promotions manager to help the club hold a good cabaret.

Sayers wanted the SU to adopt a policy in which the loss absorbed by the SU could not exceed \$350.

Since this is also the rent the SU

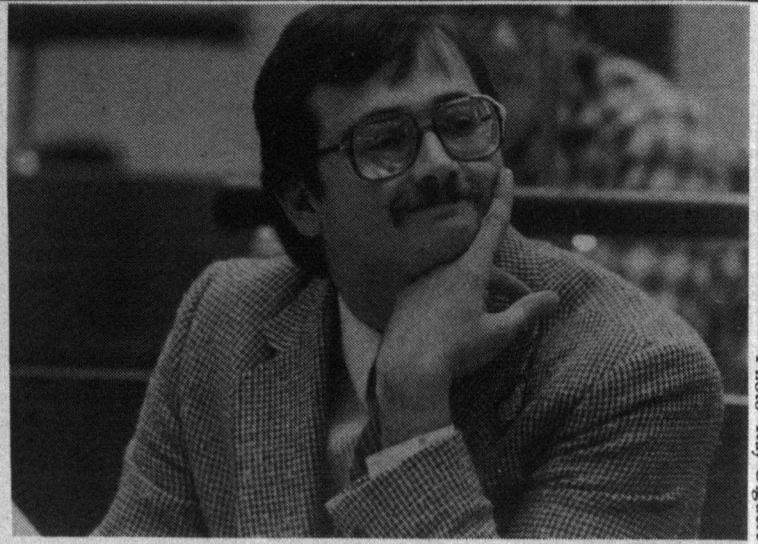


Photo: Ray Giguere

Ray Conway, the cutest little SU VP internal in town, says the new policy is fairer:

charges for the use of Dinwoodie Lounge the SU would not exactly lose money and it would also provide a figure to make budgetting easier.

Conway rejects this idea, saying the only alternative would be for the SU to absorb all the potential loss in order to do more for the clubs.

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4
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