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RISKIN'S WRIST SLAPPED

By George W. Mantor

Executive concerns about certain actions of the Students' Union president led last night to a motion in council by vice-president academic Patrick Delaney and engineering rep Howie Christensen, which would give better direction to the council executive and clarify areas of responsibility.

The motion, in four parts, read as follows

1. All press releases must have the approval of a majority of the council executive;
2. All policy statements must have prior approval of council;
3. All purchase orders must be approved by a majority of the executive and must have the approval of the vice president of finance and administration,
4. Any action taken in an area delegated to another member of the executive must have approval of the executive member involved.

In response, Gerald Riskin, SU president and primary target of the motion, stated that he agreed in principle but that there was at least one area that would be in direct conflict with the constitution's by-laws.

Later in the discussion which followed, Riskin said of the motion, "I think it will help the executive."

Other members of council discussed the motion in a flip way and Saffron Shandro read a seven-page speech which he had prepared in advance. Whether he favoured the motion or opposed it was not clear.

The most eloquent directive of the discussion came from Delaney. "I am concerned with the light-hearted way in which this motion is being taken," he said. "I did not intend for it to be adopted in principle."

"I am sick and tired of finding out things after the fact and then having to answer to those who elected me," he continued. "I consider this to be the most serious issue I have looked at since I was elected. I am concerned for the total image we project and I feel that right now that image isn't very good."

"I brought this motion to council because I am seriously concerned about these matters," he concluded.

Susan Bennett, nursing rep, supported Delaney. "As councillors, we must recognize our responsibility and take this motion seriously," she warned. "If we continue to laugh, I am certain that we will be the target of the students' laughter. I am certain there are some who are already laughing."

Howie Christensen, seconder of the motion, commented "most students certainly are not getting anything for their \$31 SU fees. In fact, 95% of them could get exactly what they get here for a nickel downtown."

Dent rep John Krell felt that "more than a mild rebuff is needed for the irresponsible actions of the president."



SU president Gerry Riskin and council speaker Stephen Snyder at Monday night's council meeting.

"Our credibility is certainly being strained. How can we ask for a \$3 students' union fee increase when unnecessary spending is now a matter of record?" he wondered.

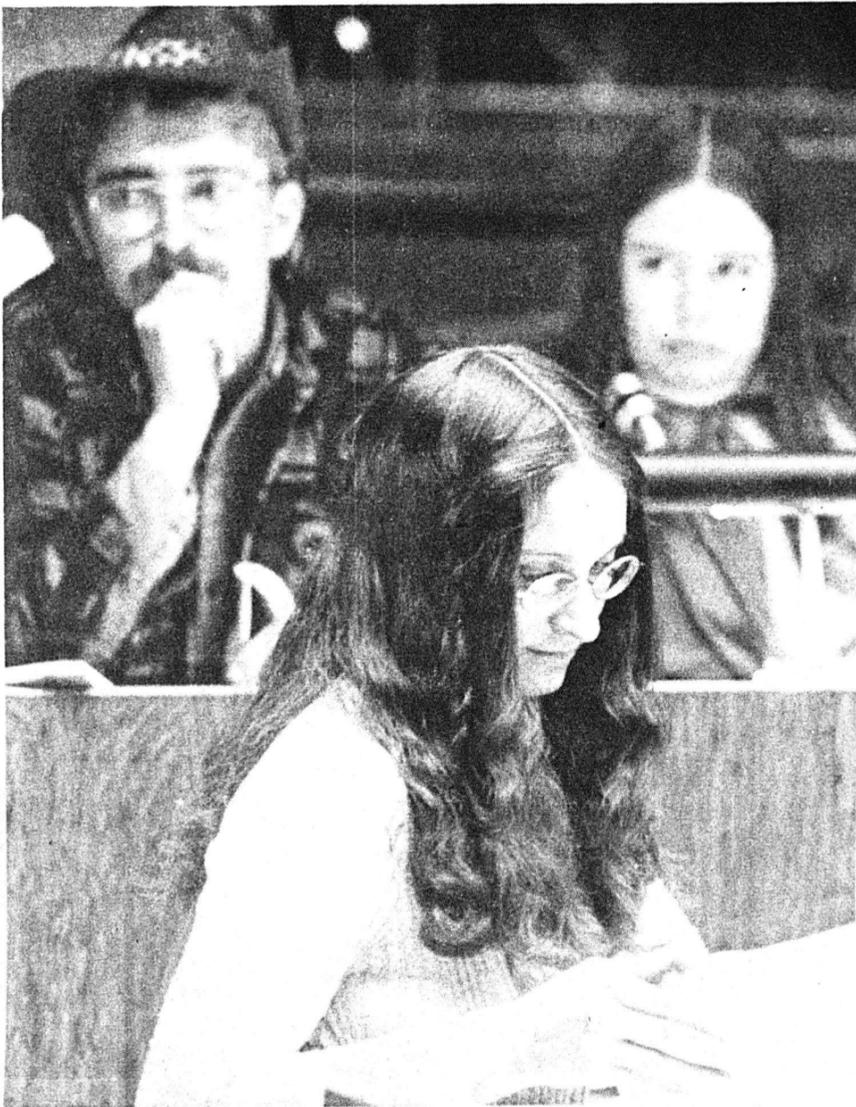
In a roll call vote, Riskin himself voted in favour of the motion; it carried unanimously.

A second motion by Beth Kuhnke, vice president services, asked that by-law changes to accommodate the previous motion be made as soon as possible. Delaney said that he wanted this done by the next council meeting. The motion also carried.

In a closed executive meeting which preceded the council meeting,

one member of the executive was reported to have asked for Riskin's resignation. Riskin declined and the four-point motion resulted.

Interviewed after the meeting, Gary West, vice president, finance and administration, voiced his satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting. "We have accomplished what we intended. Perhaps this is the beginning of a pattern of council involvement and direction toward the executive," he commented. "To my knowledge, no one in the past has ever made a proposal in council to parallel this one."



VP services Beth Kuhnke (front) consults notes as arts reps Mark Priegart and Chris Bearchell follow council discussion.

UAB probe ordered

University president Max Wyman has been instructed by the GFC executive to investigate actions taken by the University Athletic Board.

The executive Monday called for the investigation of a letter sent to it by Harold Cliff, chairman of the UAB, which questioned the validity of the identity card distributed by the Graduate Student Association to its members.

Cliff's suggestion that cards had been given to non-students was termed a "spurious insinuation", by GSA president Mahomed Ali Adam in a letter of response to the UAB chairman's allegations.

While the executive refused to become involved in the long simmering dispute between the students' union and the grad student association, it felt that responsibility for the erroneous information contained in Cliff's letter should be ascertained.

John Milligan, assistant athletic director, who represented the UAB at the meeting, explained that the letter from Cliff had been requested by SU president Gerry Riskin, who sits as a member of the board.

David MacMurray, graduate student representative on the executive,

charged that the UAB had attempted to deceive the executive.

He also asked why the GSA had not been informed of the UAB's concern, and why they had not been sent a copy of the letter to the executive, though Riskin had been sent such a copy.

The UAB "acting on a suggestion of Riskin that GSA cards had been freely distributed," Milligan said. The only concern of the UAB, he assured the executive, was that part-time students who had not paid the \$8 UAB fee be clearly identified by the cards.

An earlier proposal by Grant Davy of the department of political science, that the executive simply send the letter back to the board as not being within the GFC's jurisdiction, was rejected, by a two vote margin.

The president is to report his findings to the executive as soon as possible.

Acting on an earlier protest from SU vice-president academic Patrick Delaney, the executive decided to give student representatives on the GFC the right to register during the first hour of the first day of registration.

The executives of the SU and the GSA were given permission to register on the Friday before registration week.