

students' union general elections

Branny Schepanovich

Branny is a second-year law student, who has served U of A students faithfully through the years in these and many other capacities: chairman, Discipline Interpretation and Enforcement Board; president, Golden Key Society; editor-in-chief, The Gateway and executive member, campus Liberal Club.

On Friday, you will select a student to be your spokesman next year with the faculty, administration, public and government of Alberta.

Your choice will determine the course which this students' union will take during the next 12 months. When you vote for me, you will be voting for experience, a platform based upon a sound philosophy of student government and a candidate who desires to carry YOUR ideas to the fore.

For it is you, the student, who has gained the right to control your activities over the years. But your ideas are useless unless you elect a strong president to fight for and protect your hard-won autonomy.

The new students' union building now under construction has been the result of you expressing your wishes through your government. During the ensuing months, this monument to student autonomy at U of A will go through its greatest crisis, for without careful planning, your new \$6 million home will be nothing more than an empty shell.

In years past, you have entrusted to your leaders the responsibility of conducting a successful lobby with the provincial government. Today, a newly-proposed, united Alberta Union of Students is being suggested as a means for telling the



BRANNY SCHEPANOVICH
... for SU president

provincial government for the first time that students are a responsible force which our young society must reckon with.

If elected, I would do my utmost to see that this new organization carries the torch of student responsibility to both the government and the community. I would not allow such an organization to become another powerless, useless board.

On our own campus, we must prepare for a new kind of student who will be attending U of A in years to come. This new student is a social activist—a person both dedicated and committed to the advancement of society.

When he comes, in large numbers, to our campus, we must have a place ready for him in student government and in our new union building. We must prepare for change.

I ask you to consider the following condensed platform, an expression of the philosophy I have outlined above:

● More autonomy for student clubs and encouragement of individual student initiative in on- and off-campus activities.

● Expansion of student health services to year-round coverage.

● Realignment of councillors' responsibilities to give residences direct representation on students' council.

● Student representation on the Board of Governors.

● Rectification of inequality in library privileges.

● An immediate start on Second Century Week plans.

● Earlier distribution of the student telephone directory.

● Opening of campus buildings on weekends for studying and recreation.

● Hold-the-line policy on tuition and union fees.

I ask you to give me the opportunity to carry out this program. I will not let you down.

Branny Schepanovich

Fraser Smith

A recent past-president of our Students' Union once presented a paper in which he stated his views as to the purpose of student government.

● To provide a student voice which will best represent the interest of the student majority.

● To provide adequate services and facilities according to student desires.

● To provide a situation in which persons attending university may have the opportunity to actively participate in organizations closely analogous to the democratic society in which we live.

I consider these ideas sound, and feel that they are in harmony with the principles and philosophy of our university. Accordingly, these points form the base upon which

I have built my platform for the coming election.

● Students' Union Fees—I suggest that it is unfair to students in Law, Medicine, Dentistry, B.Ed. after Degree, and B.Sc. Nursing that they should have to pay full Union fees for as long as 7 years. Preliminary research has indicated that something can be done about it, and I propose that it be done.

● Free Speech—There is an indication that there are persons, staff, students, and administration alike, who would permit restrictions on other persons and organizations as regards their right to be heard. We must ensure that we protect freedom of speech, even if we do not agree with what is being said.

● Fees and Residence Rates—The cost of higher education is causing some qualified high school graduates to avoid continuing their education. I feel we must work hard

to ensure that tuition and residence rates do not go up, rather, that they go down.

● Student - Administration Relationships—We have an enviable relationship with our administration, and I suggest that continued co-operation will protect this situation. We must, however, avoid paternalism by the administration, and we must continue our attempts to be involved in the government of our university if we believe that education is not academics alone.

● Students' Union Building—The new building will provide many services and facilities that we do not have on our campus at present. We must ensure that we are ready to use the building on the day it opens, and this means that we must keep developing the new clubs and boards which will be necessary to make it functional.

● Telephone Directory—I favor a proposal which involves the Students' Union publishing the telephone directory with photographs of all students. This has been done at Saskatoon, and the book can be



FRASER SMITH
... for SU president

delivered earlier than it was this year.

● Athletics—I suggest that the Students' Union should encourage the University Athletic Board and the administration to do the following:

—light the football field at night so that intramural football could be played in the evening.

—consider the immediate construction of another rink, a field house, and additional handball and squash courts.

These are some of the things that I would like to do for you, but wanting to do them is not enough by itself. The person who is given this responsibility by you, the voter, must also have the ability and experience to back up the desire. I offer you my experience in student government, student services, and student athletics, and if you feel that these qualifications and my platform will give you what you want for a president, then I ask for your support for the rest of the year.

Sincerely,
Fraser Smith

Stan Wolanski

"Students' council meetings in the last month have been the worst representation of student government that I can imagine." (Gateway reporter Lorraine Minich in The Gateway, Feb. 18, p. 4)

"The student movement which Mr. Kenniff (National CUS Chairman) purports to lead will never change until student politicians change their ways. For the things which student politicians so readily grasp in the fall soon become the things which they discard as soon as their term expires and elections again draw nigh." (Gateway editorial, Feb. 11, p. 4)

It's election time again, and the air is filled with the sound of blaaaugh. Campaign platitudes were flung with great abandon last year, and the two quotations above attest to the effect they had on students' council.

There are a great many things wrong with student government on this campus which must be corrected before any significant advances can be made.

One of the worst things wrong with student government is that it tends to be cliquish. The famed "100" we hear talked about during every students' union election campaign is not a myth.

Members of the clique deny its existence, and blame the lack of universal participation in students' union affairs on that notorious catch-all, *student apathy*.

But perhaps *student exasperation* is a more accurate term than *student apathy*. Perhaps qualified students are being kept out of responsible students' union positions because they do not belong to the right fraternity or do not have the right friends, while student government continues its meandering purposelessness.

Everyone fills out an IBM card during registration week, noting their interests in various fields. Are these cards ever used? Have you ever been contacted about some activity you indicated interest in?

To you I may just be another face spouting words. But if elected, I intend to be something unique in political circles—I intend to translate my campaign promises into action.

My past record, I believe, shows me to be a man of action. I have been the engineers' representative on council, vice-chairman of the SUB Planning Commission, and chairman and organizer of the SUB operations board. I have also served on many other students' union committees, and have been a president of the Engineering Student Society.

The biggest and most controversial plank of my platform is a complete reorganization of students' council representation.

I suggest there be 16 councillors elected by the student body as a whole. The council would appoint

four of its members to the executive at its first meeting.

The major reason for changing the structure, is that students' council is now undemocratic. Forty votes in the larger faculties are equivalent to one in the smaller faculties.

I have a number of ideas that I should like to see implemented next year.

● A referendum should be held to determine whether the student body desires representation on the General Faculty Council and/or the Board of Governors.

● The Gateway editor should not have a seat on council. The Canadian Press Association does not have a seat in Parliament.

● A national campaign should be formed to support having the costs of textbooks, instruments, and thesis materials, income tax deductible.

● The Graduate Students' Association should be supported in their bid for a social center.

If elected I would do my best to see that the ideas I have expressed are enacted next year.



STAN WOLANSKI
... for SU president