

Grads need government funds

Construction on a graduate students' centre in the old power plant may begin by February if cost-sharing proposals between the university and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) are approved.

However, if the provincial government doesn't provide the university with enough money to cover half the costs of building renovations, the centre may be delayed as much as three years, GSA president John Cherwonogrodzki said Wednesday.

The GSA began discussions with the university in 1973 about the possibility of locating a grad centre in the old power plant,

located between Tory and Chemistry buildings.

"The graduate students were concerned because their facilities were scattered across campus," said Cherwonogrodzki, and in 1975 GSA fees were voted to be increased by \$20 in preparation for obtaining such a centre in the power plant."

The 3,000 grad students on campus currently have office space for their association in Assiniboine Hall, a conference area in Tory and a social gathering space for 100 people in the Grad House in North Garneau.

Renovations to the power

plant would provide them with a 4,000 sq.ft. restaurant and lounge area with a capacity for 200 people, as well as office space, kitchen facilities and a games area.

The basement of the building would be made into two large art studios for the university's department of art and design, and an area for water cooling and maintenance corridors to other buildings.

But no renovations will take place until funding arrangements are finalized, likely within the next two months.

Estimates for renovation costs range between \$350,000

and over \$1,000,000 but officials say the cost will likely be around \$500,000. Before renovations can begin, university officials say they will have to obtain capital funding from the provincial government, but they say it is unlikely they will obtain the money in the next budget year because of the Loughheed government's freeze on building capital.

And the GSA says it will have trouble obtaining enough funding to begin renovations on its own.

"That's why the grad fees were increased by \$20, beginning this year," Cherwonogrodzki

said, "so that we could have enough collateral to obtain a large enough loan if necessary, to begin renovations on the plant."

But he said there have been problems in financing and there is a possibility they will not be able to go ahead on the project without the university's cooperation.

Even if money is found, plans for the renovations must proceed through detailed drawings and officials say Feb. 1 is the very earliest date renovations may begin, with the centre being completed about a year from then.

Council votes support of FAS

by David Oke

Despite opposition, Students' Council voted Monday to support U of A membership in the Alberta Federation of Students, (FAS), to be decided in a referendum October 6.

For the past year, students at the U of A have been represented in FAS at a fee of 25 cents per member student. FAS is an organization designed to lobby the provincial government on student issues.

The Oct. 6 referendum is asking U of A students if they wish to have permanent membership in this body at a fee of 50 cents per capita to be added on to the existing SU fees.

The motion of endorsement proposed by Arts rep Ken Reynolds, was met with skepticism by Students' Council. Nursing rep Brenda Olynick said "Members of my faculty have views on this issue and I'd rather postpone taking a stand until I know what they want." Other representatives expressed similar concerns.

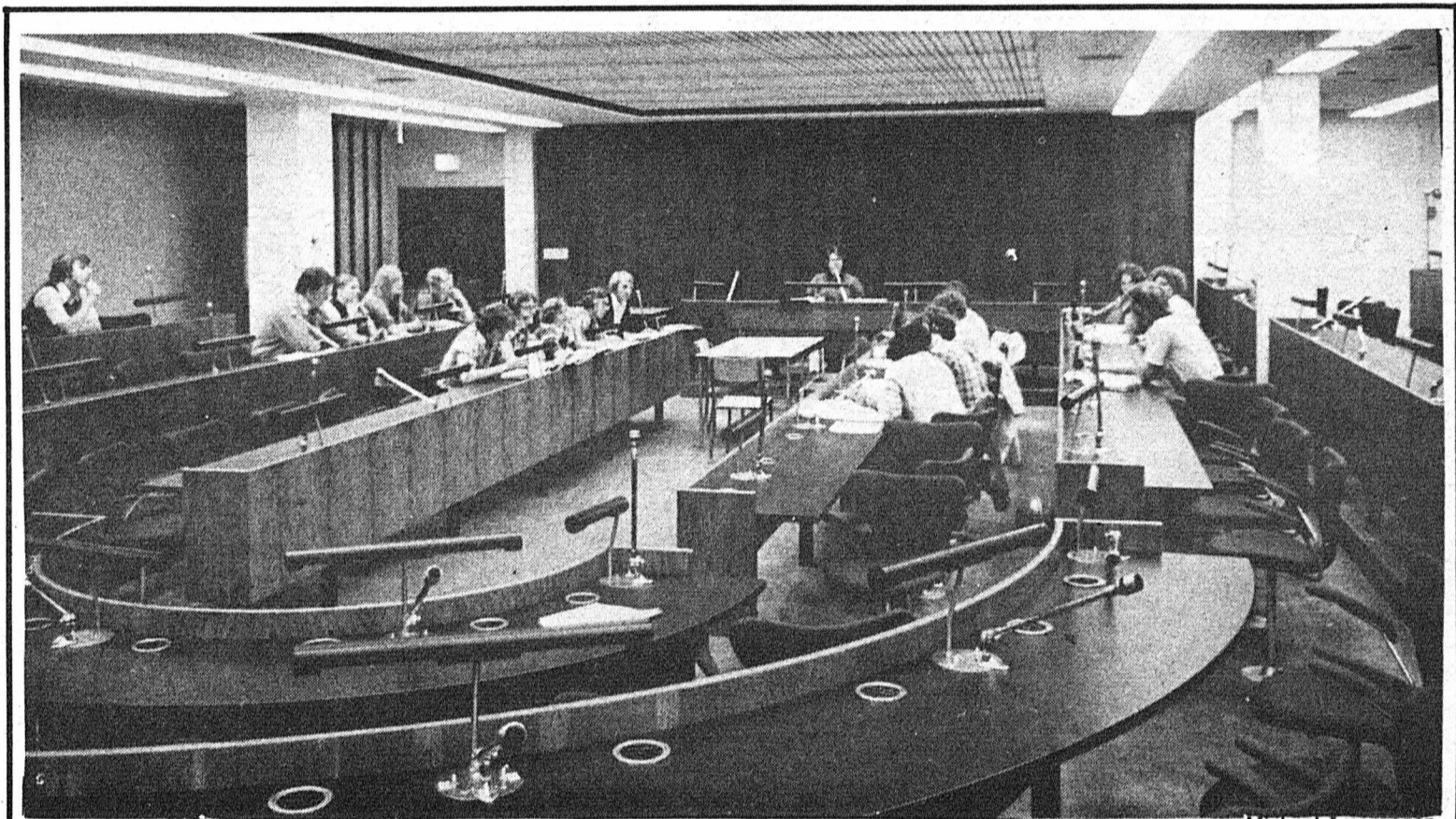
SU president Len Zoeteman wondered if council could take a stand when individual representatives didn't have one.

To familiarize students with FAS, council plans an "informational campaign" before the referendum. Other Council members, especially Jan Grude (SU vp services) and Howard Hoggins (SU vp executive), felt that by taking a stand, council would prejudice this information campaign.

Eileen Gillese, (SU vp finance and administration) felt students would think Council was trying to "pull the wool over students' eyes. Students might become suspicious of what we want and vote against the referendum."

However, many councillors cited FAS position and research papers as being helpful to the status of students of Alberta, generally, and asked support for the politically-oriented student federation.

And, when the dust had settled, Council decided 10 to 5 to publicly support membership in FAS.



Eighteen of twenty-seven student councillors debate in near-empty chambers Mon. night only to move into Closed Session as debate entered the realm of "politics" (see news analysis p. 2 and editorial p. 4).

Although not many spectators showed up to listen, Students' Council kicked media out of GFC chambers to debate a motion on whether or not to

support the "Edmonton 61." Council allowed reporters back into their meeting to listen to debate supporting 1) entry into FAS, 2) purchase of two \$570 medals for outstanding students, and 3) purchase of a \$7,500 mini-computer to help out the screwed-up accounting system the SU has worked under for the past five years. Council stories pages 1, 2, 3, and 13.

Michael Amerongen

GE and GM largest polluters

NEW YORK (ENS/CUP) - The largest pollution penalties in history have been handed down to two of the biggest corporations.

In New York, General Electric has been fined \$4 million for dumping an estimated 500,000 pounds of toxic PCB chemicals into the Upper Hudson River. In an agreement which neither exonerates nor blames the company, GE agreed to pay \$3 million

in fines and \$1 million for cleaning up the river, while the State of New York contributes \$3 million to the clean-up project.

PCB's cause cancer in laboratory animals and have resulted in a variety of illnesses for GE workers.

In Alaska, the Exxon corporation was fined \$100,000 for dumping a half-million gallons of polluted water from drilling operations into the Beaufort Sea.

National Student Day education, not protest

National Student Day, Tuesday, November 9, is intended to be a day of education on the issues, not a day of protest.

A meeting to plan National Student Day (NSD) for the U of A was held in SUB Wednesday. Noel Jantzie, Provincial Co-ordinator for NSD, Brian Mason,

Exec Sec. of FAS, and Len Zoeteman, SU pres. were present to co-ordinate efforts for this campus.

The idea of NSD originally came from a national NUS conference held in May in Winnipeg. November 9 was designated as the day for a concentrated information campaign for students across the nation.

The issues of housing for students, employment before and after graduation, cut-backs in education, student aid, and tuition fee hikes will be explored by means of posters, pamphlets and seminars.

Len Zoeteman assured the meeting that verbal and financial support will come from Student Council for NSD.

Seventeen of the 28 councillors that were present at Monday's council meeting were invited to the NSD meeting but only two councillors and the pres. chose to attend.

All those interested in student issues and the planning of NSD are invited to the next meeting. It will happen Wednesday, Sept. 29 at noon in Room 142 SUB.

U to destroy green space

by Shawn McCarthy

A temporary parking lot will be constructed in an area of playing fields south of Corbett Hall, if the decision by the Board of Governors Building Committee is approved by the Board of Governors.

The Committee passed a motion to allow the University Hospital to construct their parking lot to compensate for space lost due to major construction planned for the Hospital. Construction will take away approximately 600 parking spaces. In negotiations with Ron

Phillips, University vp planning and development, Hospital officials made the field south of Corbett hall their first choice for the lot. Phillips agreed to free the western portion of the field for 350 parking spaces and proposed this to the committee.

Despite protests by Joe McGhie, committee member, that this area is a major recreation area for students and local residents, the building committee passed the motion to allow the parking space. The committee did, however, include the stipulation that this decision be reviewed in three years. At that

point, the Hospital must restore the lawn area if temporary parking is no longer needed.

Phillips explained that the project will operate at any cost to the university. Any costs will be recovered in rental fees to the Hospital.

He also indicated that the baseball diamond on the east side of the field will receive a backstop and other improvements.

The parking lot will be constructed next spring if the Hospital gets provincial government approval to start construction.