

The Gateway



Malcom Fraser Photo

See this beautiful tree-lined avenue? It's in North Garneau, and if the greedy, encroaching university has its way, Garneau won't be as beautiful in the years to come. You see, the university has plans to pave the back yards of many North Garneau homes for use as parking lots? and eventually they're going to tear down the homes altogether. See story on page 12.

Students demand more AUCC reps

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) is, according to its information sheet, "a voluntary association of 64 Universities and colleges, including virtually all Canada's degree-granting institutions. It is supported solely by membership fees and exists to promote the development of higher education."

AUCC was traditionally an organization of university administrators but now has faculty and token student representation on its Board of Directors. There are three students on the 22-man board.

The delegations to the annual conference are chosen by the individual institutions and most now have student delegates.

AUCC has a working budget of \$600,000. Each member institution pays two dollars per student for membership in the organization.

It provides a forum for administrators to discuss current educational problems and to try to advise the governments. It also maintains a fairly extensive research library.

Ottawa (CUP) -- It appears that student politicians in Ottawa for the annual meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) will really have accomplished very little when it's all over.

The Student Council representatives were in Ottawa last week mapping out strategy to be used in dealing with the AUCC.

The chief aim of the student politicians was to increase student representation on the AUCC board of Directors.

A motion passed by the Association's plenary last Wednesday (Nov.3) increased the number of board seats from 22 to 25, six will be open to members-at-large of the Association.

Last year, three students were placed on the board by the tacit agreement of AUCC officials and student leaders. This year students are pushing for the election of five student representatives to bring the total representation on the board to six.

The student caucus presented five names to the nominations committee which will make the decisions on how many students allowed to sit on the board.

The decision of the nomination committee is usually ratified with little interference by the plenary of the Association.

The student caucus, composed predominantly of student council presidents and executive members will forward a proposal to the full session of the Association, that the Student Advisory Committee be expanded in both size and function.

The proposal asks that the committee be granted at least a \$10,000 budget and it be made responsible for the establishment of a student research program. It also asks that seven regional student representatives and one graduate student rep, as well as all student members of the board of directors, should compose the committee.

Other proposals that will be presented to the delegates include:

AUCC employ a full-time information officer to deal with areas of student concern.

The AUCC support the recommendations contained in the committee on Youth Report, dealing with student aid and university financing.

The AUCC also support the recommendations of the Youth Report on attaining universal accessibility to Canadian post-secondary institutions.

The caucus of student representatives was organized by the executive of the student union of the University of Alberta and started Friday, October 29.

Not much was done in the way of formulating a cohesive analysis of the problems facing students and student politicians, although delegates agreed they should meet again next May in Windsor.

Also over the weekend, there were vague rumblings of forming some manner of national student association, but no formal action was taken.

Perhaps the most important product of the caucus meetings

and the AUCC conference itself was the realization of the student politicians that participation in the affairs of the AUCC--which is now generally being called a "Club of Administrators"--is really playing into the Association's hands.

"What's going on here," one student representative said, "is a massive process of co-operation. Our presence and participation in their meetings and their structures gives the AUCC the opportunity to claim that it is democratic and representative of the university community. No qualitative changes in the university are going to come about from our presence here; the university administrators realize that they can make good use of us to give the AUCC a democratic legitimacy it doesn't have."

The meeting ended Thursday with elections to the board of directors and the adoption of the recommendations of commissions on various aspects of university operation.