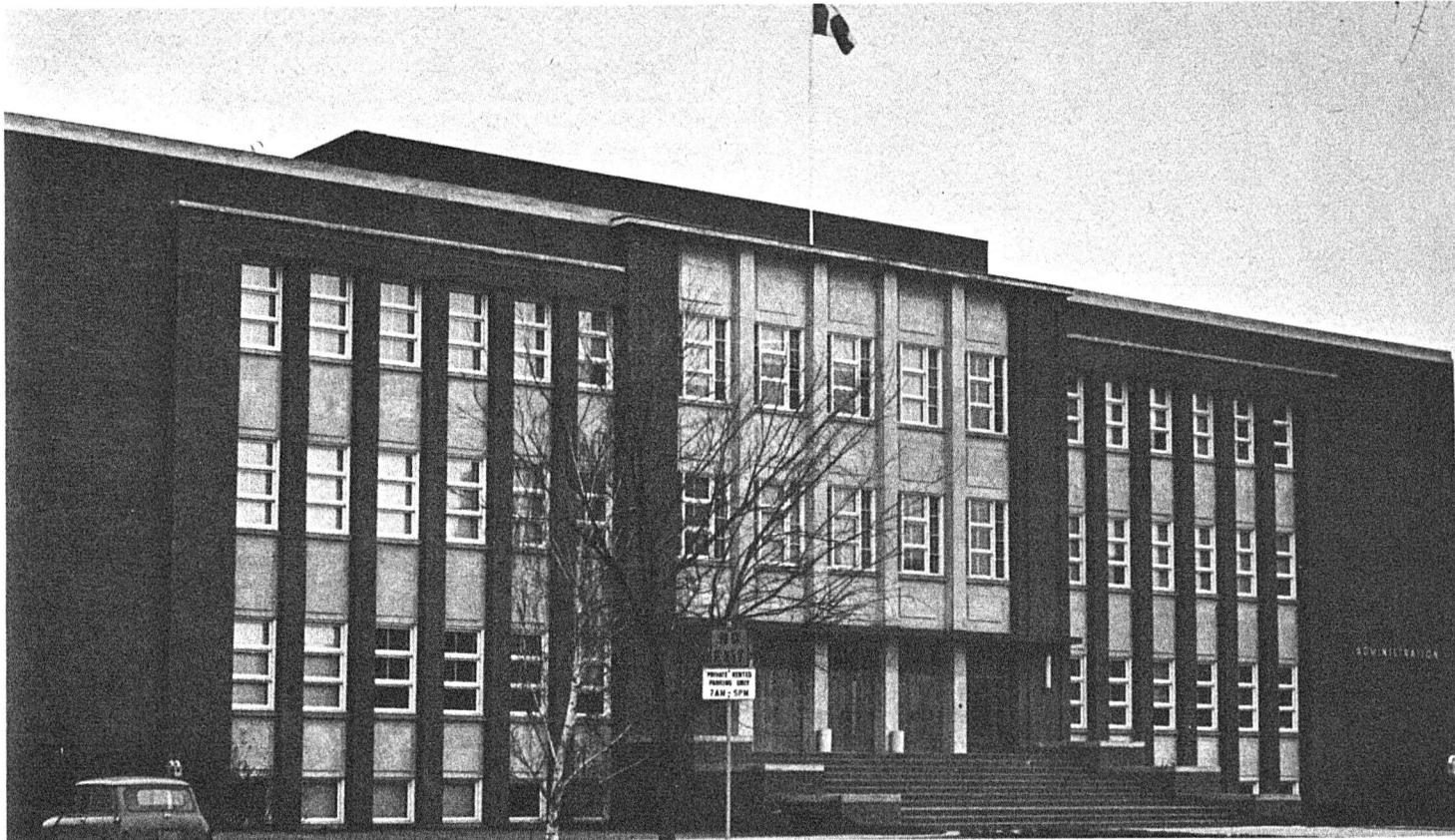


at the university

and the quest for 'student power'



But does anyone here have anything to say, and is anyone really listening?

Staid old U of A usually quiet but students do have their say

Take one part student, one part teacher and one part knowledge; tie them together with red tape and you have, in a tidy package, the university.

This concept of university organization works fine until students demand a share in university administration. Some universities have found it impossible to reconcile the conflicting demands of student activists and university bureaucrats. The neat package begins to fall apart.

Evidence the row at Sir George Williams University a few weeks ago. Students had to have a sit-down strike in order to change bookstore policy. They have no representation on either their bookstore committee or their general faculty council.

The U of A has been relatively free of problems in this area (colour is conservative), yet students do have a significant voice in the administration.

At the top of university administration is the Board of Governors. Quoting from the '67-'68 student handbook, "The Board of Governors has ultimate authority in the affairs of the university, although there are certain restrictions on the ways in which it can exercise this authority." The B of G makes binding legal decisions on problems pre-packaged for it by the General Faculty Council.

SEAT REJECTED

There are no student representatives on the B of G. At the last meeting of students' council a motion was passed stating, "The Students' Council wishes to take the position that it does not want to have representation on the Board of Governors at this time."

The General Faculty Council has a more comprehensive scope of powers than the B of G but has less authority. According to students' union treasurer Phil Ponting GFC is "where the action is." Provost A. A. Ryan agreed with

this analysis saying the GFC was "the most powerful, most important body."

As of this year, students have three representatives on GFC. They are: students' union president Al Anderson, Marilyn Pilkington, arts 4, and Jan Vaneldik, grad student. The first motion they introduced, to extend the Christmas holidays, was passed unanimously. The second motion they introduced, the establishment of an Academic Grievance Committee, was left as a matter between the students' union and the individual faculties.

The Senate is the other major administrative body. Under the rather ambiguous aim "to enhance the usefulness of the university", the Senate studies general problems affecting the university.

Students have always had representatives on the Senate. The present representatives are Al Anderson, representing the Students' Union, and Jan Vaneldik, representing graduate students. Anderson is on the Selection Committee, a standing committee of the Senate. There are no other students on any of the five Senate subcommittees, but there is no obstacle to membership other than election by the Senate.

INROADS

Many of the inroads of student power into the administration have occurred in standing committees of the GFC and of the President of the University.

Students are represented on two of the thirteen committees of the GFC. These two are the Registration Week Committee and the Council on Student Affairs. The former is composed of about half students and half staff.

The latter council was established by the 1966 Universities Act. Its powers are described as "to exercise immediate jurisdiction over student affairs." There are four student members.

Students are on five of the 33 standing committees of the President. In addition there are two students on the Bookstore Committee, a standing committee of the Dean's Council.

Committees we are on include Housing and Food Services, Parking and Traffic, Student Health, Student Employment and Recreational Use of the Physical Education Building. Conspicuous by its absence in this list is the Campus Planning Committee. It has no student representative.

The Dean's Council is an advisory body to the president, the Board of Governors and the General Faculty Council. There are no student representatives on the Dean's Council. Such representation would require a revision of the 1966 Universities Act.

SATISFIED

No major changes are planned in student positions on administrative boards. In general both the faculty and students' councils are satisfied with the way things stand now.

One exception to this is the library committee. Students' council has indicated a desire to be on this committee although they have not formally applied for membership. Provost A. A. Ryan said the library committee has "resisted direct student representation." Students are represented on a subcommittee of the library committee dealing with student affairs, however.

On the campus Planning Committee, students have neither asked for nor received membership. However, one sub-committee of campus planning, that which planned and managed the construction of the new SUB, was entirely student run. The only staff member was the faculty advisor Provost A. A. Ryan.

Students' Council has shown an unwillingness to ask for more sweeping membership in university



THIS IS COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN A QUIETER MOMENT . . . or student power out to lunch

administrative bodies. Specifically, they rejected membership on the B of G by an almost unanimous vote.

It was felt that no student could spend the time required on paperwork. Also, a yearly changeover would mean a representative would spend most of his year familiarizing himself with the Board of Governors.

The opposition agreed with these points and proposed a student rector represent the students on B of G. This would give students a voice and a vote on the board. But the cost and feasibility of this setup were questioned.

It was pointed out that the B of G has invited students to attend where issues affecting them were being discussed. This was the case with the parking question.

A student vote in the B of G does not mean that much. It could easily be outvoted by the other board members. A student majority in the B of G is clearly out of the question.

Likewise a student majority on the GFC is totally unreasonable. An analogous situation would be a faculty majority on Students' Council. Any major staff-student clash in any sub-committee would be referred to B of G or GFC.

Obviously students must work

with the administration rather than in a power struggle against them to get their ideas adopted.

Students have shown ability and responsibility in administrative committees. They managed the committee on the new SUB entirely by themselves and obtained what most will agree are commendable results.

Student attendance on these committees is generally better than the staff's. This means that if students have equal representation on a committee they very often have a voting majority.

It is often the faculty rather than the students which advocates student membership. GFC membership was offered to Students' Council this year before they had decided whether they wanted it. The resolution requesting student membership was passed unanimously in GFC. There was a drive two years ago for GFC membership by students' council. This was rejected that year by the GFC and the following year by the students' council.

What all this boils down to is the administration is satisfied with things as they are and students' council is satisfied or is not willing to go to war with the administration to change anything.

By GLENN CHERITON