

Brunswickan

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The Voice of UNB

Report On SRC Meeting

The planned Sunday night SRC meeting was replaced by a discussion. A few minutes before the meeting was to take place it was pointed out to the chairman that, according to Section XI, Article 5 of the SRC Constitution, the meeting was illegal at that time, because it had not been advertised at least three days in advance.

The agenda of the meeting was to have consisted of the following topics: open rooms, "Think Tank", the Brunswickan, Fall Elections, Constitution Committee and Finance Committee. Open rooms, the "Think Tank" and the Brunswickan were the only topics discussed.

Next weekends "Think Tank" was the first subject discussed. Sixty student leaders and Faculty members were invited to a hunting lodge in Durham to discuss the problems facing UNB students.

There were several proposals made concerning open rooms. These ranged from Wayne Beach's suggestion that the Council appoint three students to the proposed Committee, to what action might be taken should the committee fail.

Peter Blair introduced the final topic of the evening. He proposed that a motion be passed unofficially supporting the Brunswickan's aims and motives.

Storring - If this is a private conference for the S.R.C., what's all the discussion?

Adams - It's not a private meeting.

Storring - It's not an open meeting. We are certainly not responsible to Mr. Hunter...

Adams - — — — right you are ———
What do you think you are? ——— Some kind of private club?

Chairman - Nelson - do you want to leave?....

Adams - If you want to throw me out you'll have to call the student supervisor - and that's me.

sample of dialogue from last S.R.C. meeting

Comment On SRC Meeting

Last Sunday's SRC meeting revealed one thing — that the Council appears unable to make the system work. Certainly a chairman should know when a meeting can be called. If the meetings are to become an effective forum of ideas they must be more efficiently organized and the Council members must do a better job on their homework.

Proper form and procedure were notably absent at the meeting, and the entire Council seemed unable to behave in an appropriate manner: SRC President Beach was continually leaving his seat to gather support for his suggestions; someone addressing Peter Blair had to shout at him three times to interrupt Blair from one of his endless and noisy private meetings.

Chairman Asprey was of absolutely no help in improving matters. The chairman showed no sense of decorum; he referred to one speaker from the floor as the "character in the red sweater"; he also used the meeting to carry on his private gab sessions. He would speak unnecessarily and improperly, and then try to obscure his incompetence by saying: "I guess every one thinks I talk too much." The chairman even halted one debate by interjecting: "Don't try to speak on this again."

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Beach Makes Policy Statement

Over the past two years there has been a marked change in the emphasis that student councils have placed on various projects. The emphasis on social functions has been replaced by an emphasis on education, University government, and the future of the University. However there has been no official change in policy over the same period. As a result we run the risk of being very inconsistent in our programs. To emphasize the vagueness and inconsistency of our policy, we have only to look at the minutes of last spring's meetings; we passed motions on everything from advertising to student representation to open rooms and I believe we often contradicted ourselves indirectly.

I feel, at the beginning of this year, it is important that we establish priorities, areas of emphasis, and that we prepare a general policy statement that redefines our role on campus.

At present our role on campus is in a very fluid state — it is of course changing all the time, but I think that now we have a chance to shape it ourselves and we should do so before we get into the fall's programs. Otherwise I fear that our programs will simply be a garbled mess.

I don't think that this is necessary. I think we can achieve several important objectives this year. We have new resources at our disposal, more money, a business manager, and soon the new student centre. I think that these resources will enable us to take a new role on campus.

I believe that our role on campus can be split into four parts: policy making, initiation, direction, and administration.

The first part of our role, as I suggested, should be policy making. It is up to us to decide what needs to be done — and I am talking here mainly of things that don't exist at present. For example, we might decide that a Course Evaluation program is needed and then we would make several policy decisions about the evaluation such as whether their should be an anti-calendar and so on.

The second part of our role should, I believe, be initiation. First we decide what should be done and then we try to get it off the ground. For example, in the past, student housing projects were pushed along by council until they were on their feet. Hopefully, this year, we will be able to initiate and get off

the ground a complete, and sophisticated Course Evaluation Program.

I don't believe that we should be directly associated with such projects for too long; we should rather initiate them and get out as quickly as possible. Of course we should be willing to aid any program that is in difficulty. For example, the Co-op House and the Married Students' projects are on their feet now and we need to devote no more of our energy to them, but should they run into difficulty we would help.

I am not saying we should never interfere in any established program or organization. As the elected representatives of the students, it is our responsibility to assure that organizations are functioning in the best interests of the students. A sort of direction I believe is the third part of our role. For example, last spring we stepped into avert disaster with the Brunswickan and last fall we attempted to avert disaster with Winter Carnival. Too often, I think, student councils have neglected their responsibility in this area. They have thought that their authority has a financial or bureaucratic base when actually their authority rests on the fact that they were elected representatives.

However, we must be careful in dealing with organizations not to become involved in minor details; in Freshman Week, we should be concerned about whether there is initiation, not whether there are beanies. Along the same lines, we must deal tactfully with organizations making sure that they participate in decisions which affect them.

The fourth part of our role, is, I believe an administrative one. At present the student council is known by many students through its business office. We must assure that this office's function is to help organizations by co-ordinating their business dealings; it must never be a hindrance to them. If only to assure that accurate records are kept, I feel that all finances should flow through the office.

I could go on at great length discussing our role on campus and the various programs we will participate in next year but I would prefer to leave that to the think tank, which should give us all an excellent chance to get our thoughts straight . . .