

Want parallel structures

Soc. students form union

By BARRY LERNER
Sociology undergraduates met last Thursday to form a course union designed to bring about a "more meaningful and less frustrating" undergraduate programme.

The association is open to any student who takes a course in sociology.

Organizers are attempting to set up a committee structure which

parallels that of the department. This will enable the students to discuss issues in their own committees, to decide which issues should be taken to the corresponding faculty committees and to properly prepare and present these issues with suggestions for implementation of action.

The sociology department has agreed to give the students about

15 seats on the faculty council which is the decision-making body in the department. This represents about one-half of the present number of faculty seats.

Organizers of the union claim that while the undergraduate is recognized as a member of the department, he has rarely been consulted in deciding policy and curriculum in the department.

They complain that this has resulted in a curriculum that is "not well integrated, meaningful or comprehensive in its approach."

The organization wants to make sociology a field of study and "an endeavor which can be a thinking experience" rather than "a stepping stone to a Bachelor certificate."

To achieve this end, they advocate less emphasis on grading, less emphasis on faculty publishing and more on teaching and a greater interaction between faculty and students.

Sociology chairman John O'Neill welcomed the formation of the new association.

He said that the department is interested in finding out the attitudes of students and in particular is interested in learning why there are not more four-year B.A. students studying the subject.

Mel Goldstein, one of the organizers, wants to set up some sort of undergraduate advisory to help students with their problems.

He also wants to hear of student problems arguing that the collective force of the association could do a better job of getting these problems solved. He argues for "integration rather than fragmentation."

Any sociology undergraduate interested in finding out more about the association is invited to attend a meeting today at 2 p.m. in S552 Ross.



TIM CLARK

At least one student believes in the old adage that nothing is safe (especially at York) unless it is nailed — or chained — down.

U of T asks for parity

TORONTO (CUP) — a University of Toronto referendum on student parity last week saw the largest turnout of student voters ever recorded at the Toronto campus.

The vote polled 47 per cent of arts and sciences students who voted by an eight to one margin to restructure the council of the Faculty of Arts and Science with equal staff/student representation. The parity arrangement would apply on both departmental and college levels.

On October 28, student members of the faculty council walked out in protest of the council's refusal to

accept a student motion for a restructuring committee.

The move was supported by the referendum in a five to one vote to boycott the meetings until a restructuring commission is constituted with student parity to report by March 1, 1970.

The faculty council now comprises 1300 faculty and 34 students. Its jurisdiction includes examination dates and policy, admission requirements, course contents, evaluation standards, petitions, and scholarships.

Of the 5,141 students who voted, only 633 opposed the parity approach.

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For bewildered students

Information centre established

By ANNAMARIA KOVACS
Bewildered, frustrated or just want to know what's happening where??? The recently formed Information Group across from the EXCALIBUR offices (S106) open 12 noon to 5 pm Monday to Friday is a fount of knowledge.

Information co-ordinates data from the colleges, all York departments and various other groups on campus.

Information has been at work for a few weeks on all facets of York, and can help students by giving out locations and information available in various offices, lists of faculty and lists of professors who are available for guidance.

If information is not on file In-

formation will get it. A student who receives advice should come back if he meets any problem so that the next student does not hit the same stumbling block.

Ron Russell one of the founders said "instead of crashing into walls we prefer to guide the student around them, i.e. go around the person who is not helpful — eventually departments should realize where blocks to communications exist."

Bob Harper on duty Monday said, "Information is for the students — a big complex like this university can be alienating and impersonal, we try to provide the personal touch."

Information is composed of

Sociology 359 (Formal Organizations) students. Course director Dr. Gottfried Paasche agrees students should learn how organizations are run in practice as well as in theory

The four students who initially started the centre have increased to sixteen in the two weeks since Information opened. Members hope to recruit students outside Soc. 359 and younger students so that work begun as an exercise can continue to provide service to York students in the future.

Faculty firings may now cause court actions

BURNABY (CUP) — Gordon Kaplan, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has proposed to Simon Fraser administration president Ken Strand that their "grave difference" could be settled in court.

The difference of opinion is over the validity of the Palmer committee and its verdict late in July. The committee decided that Strand was unable to show just cause in dismissing six political science, sociology and anthropology (PSA) department professors who struck the university in the fall of 1969 along with 1,500 students.

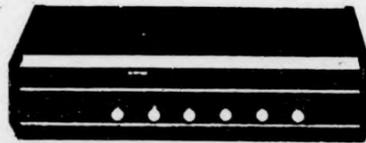
Strand ruled that the Palmer committee's decision was invalid. Two of the six professors, including world-renowned anthropologist Kathleen Aberle, were fired outright in mid-August, and the contract of a third expired a few weeks later. The other three are awaiting trial by new arbitration committees.

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