

Medical rep to the students' council resigns in frustration at "egocentric, inefficient" members

When I was elected as med rep on council I ran on the platform of obtaining grad student status and withdrawing the Faculty of Medicine from students' council once we had obtained grad student status. Unfortunately the process is taking longer than expected; and because of recent moves by the executive of students' council, regulating the attendance of meetings (and being a fourth year medical student, I find it impossible to meet the demands), I must resign my position.

Leadbeater exhibits the "Little Man Syndrome"

This is unfortunate in two aspects: first it would have fulfilled my promise to my fellow students when the Faculties of Medicine, Law and Dentistry all obtained grad student status; and secondly I must withdraw from the Medical Students' Association where my true interests lie.

The reason medicine has a rep on council, now, is only because we are forced to pay into it; not because we think we can get anything out of it; there is no way that the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry or Law are going to benefit from being on council.

I had one more duty to fulfill,

the blood drive, which is now completed, and so I have no regrets at all about leaving council.

It is interesting to note how council can change the personality of people. Councillors tend to become unrepresentative egocentric, babbling, pseudophilosophical members of an unstructured but very obvious hierarchy that exists on council. Our president, when he becomes flustered, exhibits a good example of the "little man's syndrome." Ordinarily he is quite subtle, taking care not to overshoot his limits and grab more power than his councillors will allow. He is extremely efficient in getting things done his way, and destroying his competition; mainly through the hierarchy that exists. I have made three attempts to get our president to speak to the Medical Students' Association, but it appears he is avoiding us. Apparently he had a meeting with the law students, and does not want to hear any more of what the students think of him or council.

And then there is our most feminine member of the executive, our vice-president, who claims woman is identical to man physically, mentally and physically. She claims to be the champion of womanhood, but since she denies it exists, she cannot possibly represent it.

MSA is more effective than students' council

One cannot help but contrast a Medical Students' Association (MSA) meeting with a council meeting.

At an MSA meeting one cannot help but have a good feeling, a feeling of pride in the accomplishments of the MSA. Councillors are realistic, they discuss matters in simple and direct terms, the representatives represent and must answer to their classes, and all members are treated alike—things are actually done.

Students' council meetings are the complete reverse. Matters discussed are often totally irrelevant to the student body; councillors are at times unrealistic—spending money which is non-existent, and deciding matters council has no right to pass judgment on. Motions are made, amended, and more amendments made. Discussion is philosophic, complex, repetitive, and very unnecessary at times; far from the idea of an ideal council. The time spent on discussion of a motion is inversely related to the money granted for that motion. After each councillor's speech the president comments for or

against in order to re-emphasize his own ideas. Council is also inconsistent, deciding for educational priorities, and then instituting services (which I think we need more of anyway), and also bringing forward identical matters time after time until they are eventually passed (if the executive wants them to be passed).

The most sickening thing about council is that it is *unrepresentative* of that which it represents—the student body—and worse than that is that council is structured to remain unrepresentative, because once elected to office there is no way to remove a person from the executive or council as such, unless council is dissolved. The students' union is in debt for the next 20 years already, so there is no way we can possibly dissolve.

The solution I have for our faculty is grad student status—but we cannot all do this.

Response to questions is hilariously inconsistent

Before I close I must mention a few things I have observed which seem rather classic of people with power:

The very first meeting; the executive created two new full-time positions for two members of the executive; after this was passed they gave themselves a raise in pay.

The \$38,000 Gateway budget took 15 minutes to pass, but the \$150 registered club "X" request was argued for 90 minutes. The members were "taken apart bit

by bit" and if they do end up with the money (previous to the announcement that council is in the red), the individual usually leaves with his head hung low and wondering "was it all worth it?"

The response to questions from the audience are hilariously inconsistent. As long as the person is agreeing with council's or the executive's decision (or if a friend of the executive), he is met with great joy and pleasure. For the poor individual who disagrees, he is laughed at, yelled at, and eventually also wishes he had not bothered.

The way that council can generalize for all the students' union; council has decided that we support the Simon Fraser strikers, the eastern riots, the anti-war in Vietnam movement, they even try to dictate as to what we should hear in lectures.

I think in my six years of university this is the worst students' council of this era; and I think the whole problem revolves around the executive.

Here is my solution—*change*—find out who your representative is, find out his ideas, and make sure he does what you, the members of the student body, want. Also try to get to know who you elect, and make sure it is the correct person for the position. The only real way to control council is by electing it the way you want it. Go to the meetings and raise some questions—find out for yourself—I certainly have, and want no part of it.

I humbly resign.

Yours sincerely,
Rod Boychuk

Six student council reps blast Rod Boychuk for a lethargic performance at council meetings

Mr. Boychuk's resignation is an extremely timely event.

He has been present at seven meetings out of 21. At two of these meetings he left one hour after the meeting began, and at one he was one hour late. At two meetings he left after two hours, including the budget meeting which lasted nine and one-half hours. Council meetings are generally five hours in length. At three of the meetings he missed he had no alternate, and at ten of them David Block represented medicine. Thank you David, another fourth-year student who also finds time to be president of the Boyle Street Student Health Involvement Project, for representing medicine two years running.

Mr. Boychuk also mentions that council changed attendance

regulations since his election. At the time of his election, no council member could miss more than three meetings in a row without a good excuse, with summer alternates only allowed. Council has relaxed these regulations to allow winter alternates to attend meetings.

Mr. Boychuk complains that medicine students can get nothing out of council—the med rep can have items placed on the agenda—grad student status has never been mentioned by Rod.

One of the councillor's duties is to sit on General Faculty Council and students' union committees. He has never attended any of the meetings of the three committees on which he sat. Fairly important of these was the GFC committee on student health to which council asked its repre-

sentative to lobby to have the \$1 fee for prescriptions removed. This was never done.

Council has not in the past term, passed any motions in support of the "eastern riots" or taken sides in the Vietnam War. Rather a motion encouraging discussion of the Vietnam War in classrooms was passed. At that time, Mr. Boychuk was absent. At no time has council dictated lecture content.

Brian Macdonald
arts rep
Elizabeth Law
academic vice-pres.
Jerry Connolly
dent rep
Brian McLoughlin
education rep
Bill Bradley
arts rep
Beverly Deyo
RN nursing rep

P.S. from Elizabeth Law: I have never at any time said women were "physically or psychologically" identical to men. I did say, however, that women were as capable mentally as men and that they are discriminated against.

Rod, the only time you are ever mentioned as even speaking in the council was when you are quoted by our impartial recording secretary from Manpower in the following way on Oct. 8, 1969: "R. Boychuk stated that he was a bit of an obsessive-compulsive as he likes to classify things to organize them, and he regards women as objects for this purpose."

David hits back at "miserably low" attack on council and the executive

I would like to comment on the resignation of Rod Boychuk from students' council.

His letter of resignation seems to have been done in a great hurry without fully investigating the accuracy of claims or taking account of the seriousness of the charges.

It is laden with accusations, purported facts and unfounded generalizations.

It can easily be shown that Rod's remarks about attendance regulations being made more strict; about Liz's claims about women being physically and psychologically equal to men; about the two members of the executive hiring themselves and then giving themselves a raise in pay; about our council support of Simon Fraser strikes, eastern riots, the anti-war in Vietnam, and dictating what should be head in lectures; and so on, are simply and clearly wrong.

If Rod had attended council more often, or at least gone through the minutes he might have been in a better position to comment on what exactly takes place.

It is easy as a blemish-free observer to accuse council of being

composed of egocentric babbling pseudophilosophical members.

Rod would like med students to receive graduate student status. I could have fought for this in the councils of the university at council's direction, yet no proposal was ever made to council. In fact, when it came to work for the constituents or the matter of B.Sc.'s for students (where a good many med students were unjustly treated by the administration), Rod was not on top of the situation bringing forward action.

Rod attacks me personally for trying to avoid med students. The fact is, I tried at least three times to contact Rod after being approached. In addition, I was expecting to see him personally at the council but he did not attend. I cannot help but think how this kind of attack is of a miserably low order.

I agree with Rod's solution for change but it won't come by the wave of a magic wand or by a damning letter, or by resignation.

We need constructive well-founded criticisms and more important, action—to opt out bitterly is no effective answer.

David Leadbeater
president
students' union

