

# Arts Council decides to re-evaluate position

## "The only solution is to act as a power group"

By CATRIONA SINCLAIR  
The Arts Council wants power. Power to represent the arts undergraduate students on both the students' council and on the arts faculty council.

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That's what came out of the meeting Wednesday night in the lounge of the arts building.

Conrad Boyce, vice-president of the Arts Council put forward the motion that "the Arts Council cease functioning as anything but an idea group to reorganize the pending new Arts Council."

This would mean the dissolving of the group as it now stands—a flexible organization of interest to all arts students.

Boyce's motion would involve electing the Arts Council as an executive for an arts undergraduate society. There would be compulsory due-paying membership and the arts representative to the students council would auto-

matically be vice-president on the Arts Council.

Boyce was particularly interested in the academics and curriculum board. He outlined its purpose—"to review courses and professors. It's members to sit on departmental and faculty councils."

Dan Mercer, president of the Arts Council, did not want to change the present organization of the council which is that of a registered club of interested people.

Mercer felt it was necessary to keep the social side of the club to build up membership and then proceed towards an undergraduate society.

"Social activities are the life line of the group and not everyone is interested in formulating this proposal," he said.

He suggested a sub-committee to be set up to work on Boyce's proposal or one similar. This would go to the re-organizational committee of the students' union with a probable referendum to be held for arts students.

With the approval of the students the proposal would then be subject to approval by the students' council.

Various students then discussed the motion.

"Arts students only need cohesion within the faculty. General arts students want guest speakers and dances."

"The Arts Council should be a political body, agitating for representation on faculty council."

The proposal for compulsory dues was generally disliked on principle.

Eventually after heated debate the motion was defeated, 32 to 8 with 6 abstaining.

A motion was then passed that the Arts Council discuss its purposes and direction.

Dan Mercer then adjourned the meeting under protest from the floor. But, as many people were leaving, it was decided that the discussion would resume the following Wednesday.

However, after the adjournment, the hard core of the students interested in political reorganization

sat down to discuss Boyce's ideas.

Boyd Hall, the arts representative on the students' council disapproved of Boyce's proposal for the immediate direction of the Arts Council.

"It's necessary to create the organization before the legitimacy," he said speaking about the club's lack of members.

"I don't believe in a compulsory organization but I do favor greater student representation," he continued.

Boyce said, "The arts rep has no power in the faculty, only in the students' council."

Boyd replied, "I hesitate to say I can do much on the student council."

Asked what he was doing in students' council for the arts students, he said, "After the first meeting I find that free discussion is not encouraged."

He continued, "I'm more concerned with students becoming a responsible group in society. At the moment they are outcasts. It's up to us to gain the respect of the public not to merely expect it."

One student in the discussion group said, "We'll never get the majority of arts students interested or participating. The only solution is to act as a power group."

"We are out for classroom reform and we have to have pull. We have to be a legitimate undergraduate society."

"Then they can't ignore us. We're going to be a power body."

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## Canadian University Press DATELINE

### CUS referendum at Simon Fraser

Burnaby, B.C. (CUP)—Simon Fraser University will go to the polls at the end of this week to vote on continued membership in the Canadian Union of Students.

Tuesday the student executive voted seven to three to withdraw from the union and is sending that decision to referendum for ratification.

Rob Walsh, student president, favors withdrawals from the student union because he feels the \$6,000 in membership dues could be put to better use somewhere else. Besides, CUS, he feels, is "an unrepresentative body".

Walsh is the new president at SFU, having defeated John Conway, an activist candidate. Walsh was billed as a "moderate".

He succeeds Martin Loney, now president-elect of CUS.

At least 10 schools plan CUS referendums before the year is out.

### Student leaders are "communist"?

WATERLOO (CUP)—University of Waterloo administration president Gerry Hagey, beset with growing student unrest on his campus, knows the reason for the trouble.

On Friday he announced that local and national student leaders were communists.

The announcement was made to a dozen students in his office, attempting to find out his response to a demand that he turn over control of the student union to the student council.

In a statement released Monday, Hagey reiterated the charges: "What I said was that some of these people (local leaders) have said in print they are committed to a Marxist-Leninist philosophy and it would appear they are now following the communist approach to situations such as:

(1) The end justifying the means

(2) Attempting to act first and discuss or negotiate afterward from a position of power."

Tom Patterson, student vice-president, was present at the Friday session and said Hagey also implied the Canadian Union of Students was a communist organization. He said Hagey felt CUS was responsible for "local communist leanings". Hagey has refused to comment on the validity of the quotations attributed to him.