

CUS-man holds non-existent post

Is he campus Canadian Union of Students' chairman?

Maybe he is the external affairs chairman.

But again he may just be Owen Anderson, a private university student.

No one really knows for sure, but one thing is certain: Owen Anderson has been voting on student council.

The conflict over Anderson's position has arisen since U of A withdrew from CUS two months ago. At that time the students' union put off changing the constitution (to legally withdraw U of A from CUS) until students vote in a referendum in March.

Anderson's title was changed from CUS chairman to external affairs chairman. He retained council voting privileges and is expected to carry out the same duties as he did as CUS chairman. And although he is now called external affairs chairman, he is still CUS chairman according to the constitution.

As the constitution now stands,

we are required to have a CUS chairman. Nothing is said about belonging to CUS.

SIX WEEKS

As constitutional changes take six weeks to enact, the council has bypassed legally changing Anderson's position.

Anderson wants to see the constitution changed to have the external affairs chairman made a fifth member of the council executive.

If, in the future, U of A rejoins CUS, the CUS chairman then would be under the external affairs chairman.

Anderson said if anyone wants to challenge his right to vote, they could probably start constitutional changes immediately.

The red tape required to change the constitution is incredible. It takes six weeks to enact a constitutional change. If after the referendum in March, the students wish to rejoin CUS, the constitution would again have to be changed. After this, an election for CUS chairman would have to be held.



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Schepanovich backs dismissal at McGill

Students' council executive members had mixed reactions about the firing of McGill Daily editor Sandy Gage in Montreal on Nov. 17.

President Branny Schepanovich said "If in fact there has been a violation of the CUP charter and code of ethics, then the McGill council has my complete and unqualified support of its actions."

"I'm happy to see the McGill council stand up and face the blackmail tactic of mass resignation. I hope the CUP investigation commission uncovers all the facts."

The news story which resulted in Gage's firing claimed a McGill university professor was aiding the Viet Nam war by working on a project designed to determine soil solidity from the air. The story has not been denied by the professor himself.

PURELY EDITORIAL

Commenting on the headline of the story, "Researcher Aids Viet War," Schepanovich said: "I think the first statement is purely editorial comment with no basis whatever in the story."

"It's a violation of a good code of ethics. The lead is sloppy and irresponsible, and irresponsibility is sufficient grounds for firing an editor."

"If the same thing happened at U of A, 'I would brand that as yellow journalism and call an investigation,'" Schepanovich said.

When asked about his role con-

cerning The Gateway, he said: "I have only the role of publisher—one of informal supervision. The Gateway also exercises the same supervision and control over council."

When asked why the clause which states that The Gateway "shall not be an instrument of social change" was deleted from union by-laws, he replied: "It had too wide a meaning to have any value."

"It is sometimes necessary for The Gateway to be an instrument of social change."

MARXIST

"I think the phraseology was definitely of Marxist origin," he said.

"Students' council is neither left nor right—it's straight ahead."

Vice-president Marilyn Pilkington, when asked about the McGill firing, said: "It was an unfortunate thing to have happen. I don't know why an investigation wasn't called before he was fired."

"I think papers have a responsibility to act in the best interest of their students' councils," she said.

Before an editor can be fired at U of A, a CUP investigation commission has to be called in because council adopted this procedure in its by-laws.

Students' council at McGill didn't adopt the resolution passed at the CUS conference in Halifax that ensures a complete CUS-CUP investigation before any editor can be fired.



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