

Council avoids CUPE debate, motion tabled

by Kent Cochrane

Students' Council attempted to debate the new conflict of interest clause for SU employees Tuesday night, but was unable to resolve anything.

Debate was repeatedly held up because of arguments over the correct rules of parliamentary procedure.

According to the new clause, SU employees are not allowed to be involved in student politics in any way.

This includes serving on Students' Council and on any SU o. U of A boards and committees.

SU employees are members of CUPE local 1368, with most employees being students who only work part-time.

The new clause also forbids participation in any campaign on the U of A campus.

There is concern among some students that it also prohibits their involvement in campus clubs.

Some counsellors felt that the

new clause was simply an attempt by the executive to limit opposition.

VP External Paul Alpern admitted that the new clause was primarily a response to last fall's impeachment campaign.

Several SU employees were involved in a campaign at the beginning of the first term to have Alpern, VP Internal Gord Stamp and Pres Floyd Hodgins removed from office.

Alpern said that it was unacceptable that SU employees should be able to campaign to have their employers fired.

Drawing an analogy with business, Alpern said that if a worker tried to smear the name of his boss, "there would be definite grounds to terminate that employee."

Alpern also argued that the new conflict of interest clause was much less strict than those governing municipal or provincial civil servants.

SU Business Manager Tom Wright said he was concerned about the legality of the new clause.

Because it was not ratified by the membership of CUPE local 1368, it might not stand up in court, said Wright.

Stamp argued that complaints about the clause should go through the union, and not through Stu-

dents' Council.

"Maybe next week some employees will walk in here and demand a raise," said Stamp.

VP Finance Christine Ens tried to have the clause amended so that it would be satisfactory to the union.

Her amendment would have forbidden political activity only in areas where there was a direct conflict of interest with the student's job.

As well, participation in Students' Council or in the Executive would have been possible if the student took a leave of absence from his or her job.

However, discussion of Ens' proposed amendment degenerated into a debate on proper parliamentary procedure.

After the arguments over procedure had ended, but before debate on the real issue had resumed, Alpern had the issue tabled.

This means that Council will attempt to deal with it at their next meeting.

The comic highlight of the evening came during question period, when Anne McGrath had a heated exchange with Hodgins.

"Is Floyd in the habit of harassing students who disagree with him?" said an angry McGrath.

Hodgins had lodged a complaint

with Campus Security about McGrath when she allegedly created a disturbance in his office.

McGrath declared that Hodgins' "harassment" had made life unpleasant for her in the last month.

"I hope you're happy about that," shouted McGrath.

McGrath's remarks provoked laughter and jeering from most of the counsellors.

Hodgins responded calmly by saying that he did not harass but instead appreciated students who disagreed with him.

"Sometimes they wake me up," he said. "But when people are unreasonable and when they act like animals, then I have to do something about that."

McGrath repeatedly called for council speaker Jason Lucien to rule on whether proper procedure was being used in her debate with Hodgins.

At one point, she demanded Lucien tell her why Hodgins was always able to have the last word.

Lucien replied that someone who is asked a question usually gets the last word.

Near the end of the meeting Hodgins put forward a resolution to condemn the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) for its "total lack of attention to student issues on this campus."

However, Council defeated his attempt to have the resolution discussed.

In other business, Council voted to grant money to several organizations.

The SU donated \$1,500 to Hire-A-Student and \$750 to the Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid (CARA).

The Muslim Students Association received \$650 and P.S. Warren Geological Society was given \$555.

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Christians crusade

by Gilbert Bouchard

Campus Christians are taking their message to the students next week as Christian Awareness Week unfolds at the U of A.

"We see Christian Awareness Week as a non-threatening environment that allows people to see evangelical Christianity and where we stand," said Campus Crusade for Christ leader George Feledichuk.

Christian Awareness Week runs from Saturday January 26 to February 1. Its theme this year is "Is there more to Life?"

The week opens with a coffee house on January 26 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the SUB meditation room.

Other events include films, speakers, and a week-long World Vision appeal in SUB and CAB.

"Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for World Vision," said Feledichuk. "People will be able to leave donations at both booths, and the booth in SUB will be airing a film illustrating the activities of World Vision."

Feledichuk explained that the \$25,000 goal is "only one dollar per full-time student," and that "the Students' Union will be collecting and keeping track of all the funds."

"World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization formed 35 years ago in Korea by an American, Bob Pierce," said World Vision representative John Howart.

"World Vision was designed to lessen suffering in lesser developed countries," said Howart. "We follow an integrated approach, aiding people's needs — physical, social and spiritual."

Howart also stressed that World Vision's aid is multi-levelled involving emergency relief, rehabilitation and long term development.