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Media duplication defeated; no second newspaper

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A motion to change student union policy to permit funding for media duplication was defeated at Monday's SRC meeting.

The example used in the motion was the introduction of another student newspaper. Phys. Ed. Rep Margaret Bannister, seconded by Forestry Rep Andrew Wort, introduced the motion to council.

Bannister said the motion would mean council, with it's limited funds, would fund a second newspaper. "Just a freedom, that's all it is. Maybe no one will take the initiative," she said.

Money could be raised outside the union, Bannister said. "We shouldn't be censoring or putting down freedom," she said.

comptroller Steve Howes said the motion was not sufficiently restrictive – any group could come to the union and ask to be funded. He said the present policy was "totally for financial reasons."

The major concerns of such a motion was the cost said Rep-at-large Ross Libbey. He mentioned the example of the University of Waterloo where the advent of "nother student newspaper proved very expensive.

President Perry Thorbourne said the motion had a valid point everyperson should be allowed their view as they see it. However one has to weigh what must be sacrificed, he said. Thorbourne said the duplication of media would be dangerous in adding a level of competition.

Forestry Rep Wort asserted that "certain media" on campus had not in the past represented his view or the views of other students. Engineering Rep Dave Laurence noted the *Brunswickan* has an outlet for airing personal views which Wort has never made use of.

Brunswickan News Editor Joey Kilfoil said the Brunswickan is the official student publication, the oldest of its kind, a title which would be removed if another newspaper came into existence. He said the paper did strive for accuracy and the passing of the motion would be a "fruitless, futile gesture."

The defeated motion required a two-thirds majority. Voting for the motion were Bannister, Wort, Science Rep Mike Hughson, BusinessRep Frank Michaelis and Computer Science Rep Pat Tucker. Councillors Libbey, Laurence, Kim Oakes and Education Rep Diane Maxwell were against the motion. The executive abstained from voting.

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