

# SUC REPORT

Is the Student Union Council really doing anything worthwhile with your money? How would you know-- you haven't been to any of the meetings! Of course, it may not be your fault; the meetings haven't been very well publicized beforehand. In fact, for the scheduled meeting on Sunday September 24, in Bernadine Hall Lounge, there weren't even enough council members present to constitute a quorum. Therefore, it was decided that an informal discussion period would be held instead. Just so you'll know if your representative was there or not, the following is a list of those present: Pat

Duffy, Bob Gray, Norbert Moran, Linda Lidstone, Bruce Grass, Angela Coughlin and Rosemary Curly. Fortunately, on the Sunday prior to this meeting was held with nine council members present - just enough.. For those of you who have never attended a S.U.C. meeting we'll try to give you a little insight into the topics discussed. Perhaps the most important item brought up was the hiring of a full time business manager. This movement has been expected for some time and in our opinion, is well overdue. The Student Union is an incorporated non-profit business which spends close to \$165,000 a year. Turnover is much higher than that. Even with a hard-working student as treasurer the risk of financial loss through inexperience or lack of time to devote to duties is high. Other universities across Canada have found that the hiring of a full-time business manager saves them quite a bit of money in the long run. Student Union President Pat Duffy issued the following statement concerning the matter.

"Presently the Student Union is considering the hiring of a permanent business manager. We feel that such a man is necessary to supervise our assets as well as providing continuity from one council to the next.

If you have any queries or questions concerning the matter, contact myself at the S.U. Center."

No action has been taken yet as it was decided to reconsider this matter at a later date. This was done in order to allow council members to put the question to their constituents. We hope this is being done!

Another important matter on the agenda was the revision of the insurance policy for students. The Council was informed that a new policy has been signed with Zurich Insurance which will give coverage for almost everything - with the exception of glasses. Of course, the premiums will be higher. Since the Executive did not inform the university administration in time to have this information placed in the calendar, the increased fees could not be charged upon registration. Instead, the increase of \$3 for Canadian students and \$8 for non-Canadian students will be extracted from our pocket books during registration for the second semester.

For other items discussed, please refer to the Student Union Council minutes which are supposed to be published following each meeting.

#### General Comments:

In general, the S.U.C. meetings are not what they should be. There is no Ombudsman yet (although council is looking for someone to fill this position) and therefore, there is no one to run the meetings. What happened at the first meeting--and which

we hope will not happen again--is that the Executive presents its proposals and explains its past actions and that's about it! There is very little discussion from the non-executive members - with the

exception of one or two people. Unfortunately, the Executive seems to be fostering this attitude by trying to speed procedures up with the excuse that there are many items on the agenda and very little time. We know that it is not very exciting for council members to come to these kind of meetings and sit through two hours of presentations but if they can't devote a Sunday evening to sitting down and discussing council matters in a critical manner, then they should not be on the Student Union Council.

One other point. None of the Executive or the council members seem to know very much about the constitution they are supposed to be working under. Many times, things can continue to operate in a "laissez-faire" manner, but this is setting a dangerous precedent. If the Executive can operate outside of constitutional procedures on seemingly unimportant matters, what is to stop them from doing the same on vital questions. Well, perhaps this will be solved with the appointment of a knowledgeable, determined Ombudsman. Here's hoping!

"KEEP ON TRUNDLING!"

