

Constitution in Dire Need of Major Changes



dave macrae
editorial

Sunday's Council meeting passed what is surely the most important item to come up before it this year, a proposal to totally re-structure the Student Union.

The proposal which passed at Council is surely a laudable one for it should make Council more academically

oriented and streamline the Executive.

Unfortunately though, it so typically was not a thorough examination of changes which need to be made in the constitution. As it stands the Constitution is a self-contradictory, wordy, at times almost laughable piece of contraining dogma.

It contains within it such brilliant sentences as "Council elections shall be held on the last Wednesday in February. The exact date to be decided by Council in December". Exactly why the Council has to decide which day the last Wednesday in February is, I'm not sure; maybe instead we could delegate an official calendar watcher. Another example: The Personnel Board is in all cases subject to Council approval" however later on it says that "only the Perso-

nel Board may hire or hire Personnel".

Aside from self-contradiction such as these it manages to concern itself with such vital matters as the Order of Agenda of the General Meetings and the number of bank accounts which the Student Union will have. It further cites what will happen at meetings of the various committees of the Student Union and who shall be present. In order to avoid this most committees don't have meetings, they rather have infomal rap sessions.

More importantly, because the Constitution is such a uselessly wordy document it is unreadable by the majority of students. It should not be moe than a few - essential - pages written in

clear consise English. What purpose does it have if most students will refuse to read it? Or is that why it is so wordy?

All that needs to be in it are the duties of the Executive, the duties of the Council(s), and their manner of election, plus a method for ammending the Constitution. Anything else is more properly contained in by-laws of Council. These could be made easier to change, for example by two-thirds vote of Council or by a general meeting without a lower quorum.

By doing so, not only would we make the Constitution more workable but also gain a chance of having it perhaps actually read by a significant percentage of students, or, at any rate, of Councillors.



Lost

Last Thursday evening (Jan 29) a pair of galoshes belonging to me were removed from just outside the door to the university library. I would really appreciate getting these overshoes back. They have an intimate relationship with my feet and a long separation would be psychologically damaging to both parties. Also, you really don't want my case of athlete's foot, do you?

Richard Ellis
Library Employee

Congrats

Dear Editor,
A salute to a rather poorly-run Winter Carnival. Somebody at the head better read this. Those of us who enjoyed waiting out in the cold for two and a half hours to possibly get into the rink to hear a good band who couldn't play because they didn't have enough power had a lovely

time. Those of us who are hockey players or basketball players and don't like getting in to the number one social event of the year which just happened to be a ball held on the night which is usually reserved for tearing had a smashing good time. Those of us who tried to eat at the cafeteria anytime nearly dropped our cookies and those of us who enjoy paying two dollars on a Saturday night to listen to a couple of amplifiers making horrifying noises probably got smashed.

I don't think that the few of us who helped in the preparation can be blamed but those of us who didn't but could have aren't entitled to blame either. Could it possibly be the fault of those who make the rules and dish them out (and incidently, love money). Hmmm? Many of us who saw old friends and/or new friends and/or got totally inebriated at home did have a pretty good time. Cheers!

Mark Thibeault

CADRE

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