

From the Horse's Mouth - Clarifying the Impeachments



jo's
kampus concern

Since the impeachment of the four council members last week, there have been many rumors around Campus and a great many questions being asked. So in order to give everyone the story, I talked to our S.U. President, Gordon Campbell since he was the person who informed the Council of the impeachments (due to the lack of a speaker). The big questions were why, how, and what happens now.

First of all, Why were the councilors impeached?

"They were impeached by the simple fact that they missed 4 council meetings and it's stated in the Constitution that anyone who misses four meetings is immediately impeached and a date for a by-election set".

Is there anyway in which they could be re-instated?

" Yes they can be reinstated by a referendum and in order to hold a referendum the constitution requires that either 10% of the student body petition the President of the S.U. or 2/3 of council vote in favor of holding a referendum".

Why is there a necessity for by-elections since the general election is being held at the same time?

Again, its the constitution, it requires that by-elections be held upon a councilors impeachment or resignation. The terms of office of those impeached runs until May 1 st. and those elected in the general election of Feb 19 do not take office until May 1 st so therefore the persons elected in the general elections cannot fill the vacancies.

Were there ever councilors impeached before?

"Yes, a class president was impeached at the end of last year's spring term for the same reasons of lack of attendance. There was no by-election held because the term was very nearly up. It was done as a matter of principle".

Are the persons impeached eligible to run in the by-elections and/or the general election?

"They are eligible to run in both".

Do you feel they should run again?

" If they feel they have been done an injustice by the constitution then they should run again. I don't feel they have been done an injustice by the Constitution. The article which impeached them does not allow for excuses for missing meetings. They may well have had legitimate reason for missing meetings and may have been councilors, but even though it's not their fault they missed four meetings the fact remains that they are failing to represent their electors. If they do run again and people feel that they will make good councilors then by all means vote for them. But I urge people not to vote for them out of sympathy to the fact that their excuses were not listened to."

Impeachment By-election

There is a by-Election for the positions of Vice-President, 1 Arts Rep, 1 Science Rep, and 1 Education Rep.

Nominations close on Wed 12, 1975. The voting will be on Feb 19, along with the General Elections
The TERM OF OFFICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BY ELECTION UNTIL MAY 1 1975.

Why is attendance so important for council meetings?

"Attendance is important because if a councilor doesn't attend then he/she can't represent the people who elected them. The most important duty of a councilor is to attend council meetings. If a councilor is impeached it's the students who elected that person who are being short-changed. They are not being represented properly."

Aside from the Constitution how do you personally feel about this situation of impeachment?

When you consider that there have been only 8 meetings since September and no more that 12 since the last general election then it seems reasonable to replace a person that has missed between 1/3 and 1/2 of the total meetings that have been called."

Do you feel that the happenings of the past few weeks could affect the attitude of students towards the up-coming elections?

" It should have favorable results in one sense and may have negative results in the other. On the bright side, those who nominate for various positions will better realize that they are running for a position which requires responsibility and it should serve to make councilors more concerned about representing their electors at the council meetings. On the other hand the general student body may feel that is councilors are not even concerned enough to attend council meetings then why bother voting in



the first place.

Hopefully people will respond with a positive attitude and view the impeachments as a necessary evil for the benefit of a better Student Union."

Well - that's it. Everyone will undoubtedly have an opinion on this situation. My opinion is that it's about time that people were chastized for not facing up to the responsibility they earned by being elected to positions of responsibility. I'd like to see more people get their knuckles rapped for slackness in their jobs. After all, here on campus, it's we students who end up on the short end of the rope.

"Rumor has it" that Sandy Dunsford celebrated her 21 st in fine fashion. It just so happened that "Liverpool" was called in to help celebrate this great occasion. Was this from having influence in high places or just coincidence?

Listen to THE FACTS on CIMN

The Facts which is an open line talk show dealing with controversial issues concerning all students. Members of the present

Student Union will be fielding questions from students on:
Wednesday Feb 12
Thursday Feb 13
Friday Feb 14

starting at 6:00 pm.

Nominees for office on next year's Student Union Executive will be on the air on Tuesday Feb 18 th. at 6:00 pm The Facts is a production of CIMN in conjunction with the Student's Action Committee.

Press Release from the staff of CIMN