

# Student Apathy Rooted In Student Powerlessness

First and foremost, the student union and its constitution must be reconstituted along entirely new lines. Instead of a body with a rigid and constant set of rules, it must be so constituted so as to be flexible in order to meet the new demands of events as they occur from month to month week to week to week, or day to day.

This body, in view of its aim, would be the UNION OF STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC UNIVERSITY (USDU)

The USDU would represent every student. Under its immediate control and for the purpose of realizing its aim it would consist of the following committees:

## 1) Curriculum Committee

Its purpose is to continually assess the validity of the criteria for assessing students in all courses; to hear all complaints from students about courses and to represent their interests to faculty administration or government. It consists of students only in accordance with the central executive of the USDU as to how many will serve, etc.

## 2) Media Committee

This committee will have the campus radio station and the Cadre as well as anything else pertaining to "Media" for students under its jurisdiction. Again, its members will be elected and serve in accordance with and subordinate to the Central Executive of the USDU.

## 3) Recreation and Sports Committee

This will eliminate the present "social committee" while maintaining that function under Recreation and Sports Committee. This will enhance communication between recreation and sports while reducing bureaucracy. Its duties will be outlined and supervised by the USDU. Again, it will be strictly student in composition.

## 4) Finance Committee

This committee will be responsible for all concerns of the USDU as well as represent any student who has financial problem of any kind associated with his student status. Members of this committee, like any other committee are answerable to all students of the USDU - which are all the students.

## Housing Committee

The University is, among other things, a Landlord. Not surprisingly, it has been unfair to all resident students at one time or another, and in many ways. This committee, under the watchful eye of the Central Executive, will represent all students to the Landlord (UPEI) and investigate all complaints whether by students or the University, and work for full resolution. It must be conversant with the Landlord and Tenant act and encourage compliance with its regulations; if the regulation should be discriminatory against students and in favor of the University, the Housing Committee through & with the Central Executive of USDU, negotiate for alteration to favor students.

## Ombudsman

The responsibility of the Ombudsman is to direct complaints to proper committees and if a proper committee does not exist for a particular problem, he is to take it to the USDU for decisive action. He is simply a director of complaints to the proper committee - a troubleshooter.

## Organizing Committee

This is an extremely important committee. The responsibility of its members is to carry on active educational work among the members of the student body. Their function would be in part to explain by word of mouth, pamphlets, Cadre, C. I.M.N., etc. how the University functions, its place in society, how government affects it and its decisions; the role of women; students relationship with other sections of society (workers, farmers, fishermen, etc.) & all other pertinent information.

## Central Executive

It shall consist of 3: PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN.

In order to define the tasks of the Central Executive is to, at the same time, establish the chief function of the USDU. This function is to immediately upon formation of the USDU, engage in NEGOTIATIONS with the P.E.I. Government and its department of education as well as with its representatives at the University (Baker, Ozman, Duffy, Board of Governors etc.) to reconstitute the University Act so as to give students equal parity with faculty & administration on any and all bodies whose decisions affect students in any way (Board of Governors, Senate, Tenure Committee, etc) This means equal representation of students on the Board of Governors; equal representation of students on Senate; equal representation of students on Tenure Committee; etc. The President, Chairman, & Vice Chairman, will be the Chief representatives of the USDU at these negotiations.

The Central Executive, assisted by those of the organizing Committee and the media Committee, must maintain complete contact with all students at all times and consistently represent their interests. Because they are not tied to any

one other Committee, the members of the Central Executive must organize regular meetings with the students body to be instructed by the latter to obtain guidance.

They will establish contact with other progressive organizations such as the P.E.I. Federation of Labor National Farmers Union; Fishermen's Union (pending formation) for the purpose of obtaining further support for their cause. This would be to seek ALLIANCES. Alliance with student Councils in the High Schools for the purpose of educating the latter and to prepare them for the struggle when they enter U.P.E.I.

The USDU must enter in SOLIDARITY with progressive groups so as to render mutual assistance while at the same time integrating the student into the general society and its composite elements.

The Central Committee must call a GENERAL meeting at any time a majority vote is required regarding particular action to be taken, at any time. The actions of the government, the business sector, or the University powers elite will, from time to time, require the USDU to change its tactics or even its overall strategy. No important action can be taken by the USDU without at least a two-thirds majority vote of all students.

## Legal Committee

The members of this committee must re-assess student law to determine whether it reflects the best interests of students. If not, amendments or complete alterations will have to be made. They will hear, via the judiciary, all cases and under judgement wherever necessary - but not until the Central Executive has also heard the evidence. All positions are subject to immediate recall when conclusive proof shows that a member of any committee has not fulfilled his responsibilities.

This is, of course, not on exhaustive outline but it points the direction our obviously oppressed students must take.

Before concluding a vitally important issue must be dealt with.

For the past year now, the Committee on Aims and Objectives, initiated by the power of the elite at UPEI, has been run-

