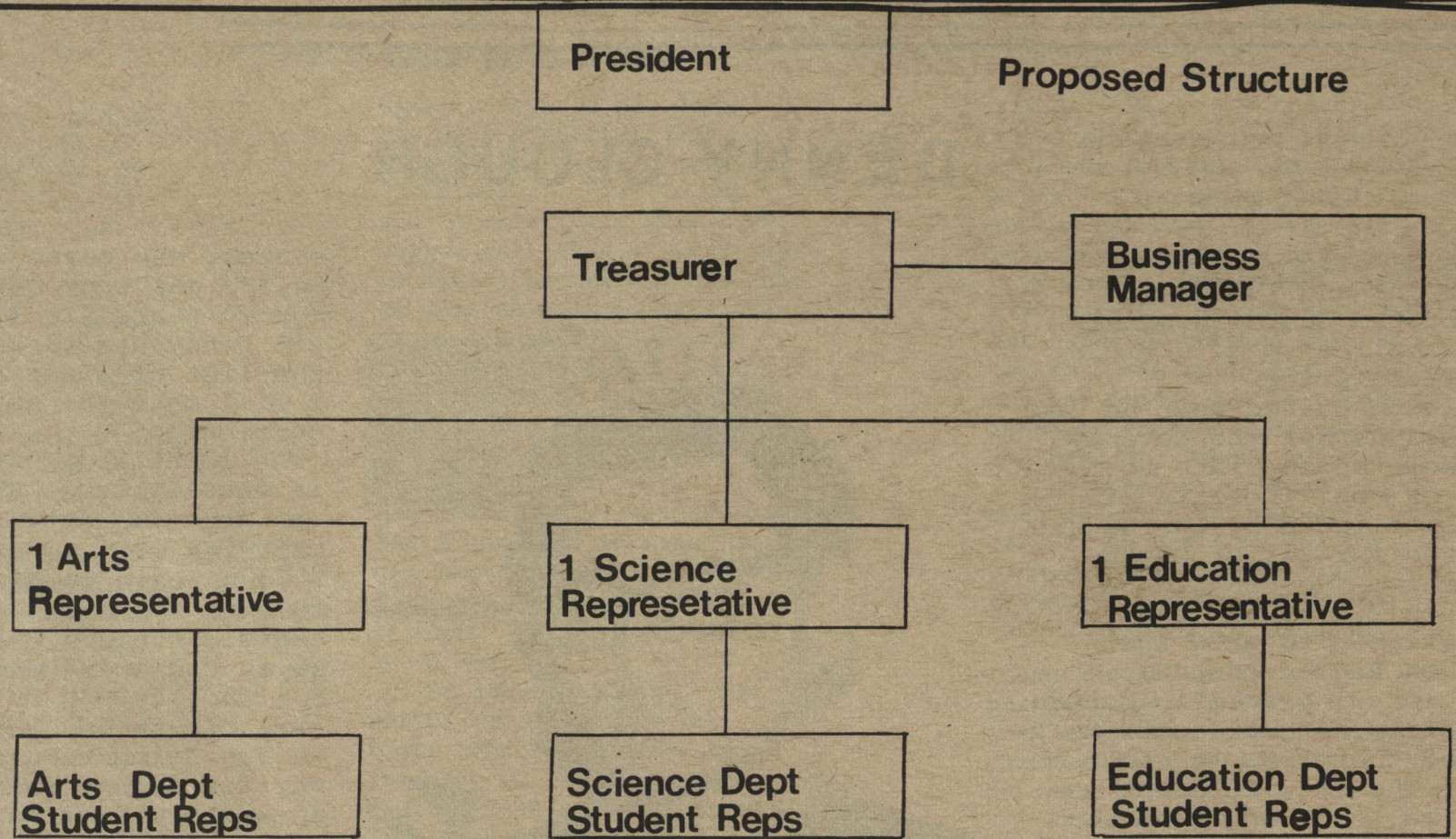


AN ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY OF THE UPEI STUDENT UNION



This study is an attempt to analyze the Student Union, its formal organizational structure, and the effectiveness of this structure. In this study we will point out some of the strengths and weaknesses of the present structure and suggest some alternatives which we feel would eliminate some of the structures inherent weaknesses.

The present Student Union has been in existence since 1969 and presently functions under the constitution which was revised in 1973. This constitution set forth the following positions:

A. President--role; official spokesman of Student Union, responsibilities: the direction of all Student Union activities.

Vice-President-- role; responsible for co-ordination of the activities of the union and sub-organizations.

Treasurer-- responsible for financial administration.

Comptroller-- responsible for all physical assets which are student-owned or controlled.

Communications Officer-- responsible for C.S.U.R., Cadre, student directory, promote communications between sub-organizations.

B. Council-- consists of the executive (as outlined above) plus equal representation of faculties taken from population of faculties.

-- purpose of council, to provide for the expenditure of funds and generally to manage the affairs of the S.U. (all sub-organizations) are responsible to council.

C. Committee Members-- purpose is to manage the affairs of a

sector of student activity i.e. film club, Cadre, etc.

D. Speaker-- interpret constitution, sets by-laws subject to the S.J.C. and enforce the rules of parliament according to Roberts' rule of order.

E. Students-- will be defined as Student Body and shall be referred to as the UPELSU, as a body they shall have the power to elect as well as to recall members of the executive.

Deviations from Normal Organization Structure

The preceding represents the formal organizational structure. However, in actual practice, by means of personal interviews with the executive members, we have found the following variations:

A. Power Structure-- As we have noted above the council has the theoretical power of control over the student union, however, through our sample survey we have discovered that 54% of the students feel that the executive controls the Union. This was further supported by personal interviews with the past council executive members who supported the notion that they in effect control the student union. N.B.-- Several executives feel that in essence in operations, the student union is controlled by the most dominant individual. (This will be further elaborated upon in a latter part of the report.)

B. Communication-- The formal structure indicates that students with problems should theoretically report to their representatives. In actual practice the trend appears to be towards students avoiding the bureaucratic structure and communicating directly with the president who then acts upon the issue.

C. Business Manager-- the organization chart makes no reference to the Business Manager. Although still in preliminary stages as noted by the past executive, the new executive are seeking advice not from the leaving exec-

This indicates that a trend could be developed in which the Business Manager would be an informal leader and have the actual control and power of the Student Union.

D. In summary, therefore, the formal structure is meaningless in terms of practical function. The Communication Channels are discarded and replaced with direct lines to the president which could in the future discard the president and be replaced by the Business Manager.

PURPOSE OF S.U.

By means of the questionnaires, we have found the following concerning the purpose of the Student Union:

A	Social	12%
B	Academic	4%
C	Protection of Student Rights	44%
A+B	Social and Academic	4%
B+C	Academic and Rights	7%
A+C	Social and rights	5%
A+B+C	Social-Academic-Rights	24%

By means of personal interviews with the executive we have found the following:

Social and student rights	80%
Academic, Social and Student Rights	20%

Thus, the majority of students and the executive feel that the prime function of the student executive is the protection of student rights. Student rights shall be defined as all areas of life which either directly or indirectly affect the student.

General Weaknesses of the present form:

1. Members are elected-- This seems to be a contradiction to the democratic system but it is the belief of many students that elections held at UPEI are nothing more than popularity contests with the individual's capacity to do the job ranking second to the individual's social achievement.

2. Location of Offices-- The offices of the executive are located not in the student building but in the basement of Memorial. Thus, if a student wishes to