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Mackay and deans absent for meeting

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brunswickan staff

The SRC strongly condemned the university administration at an open emergency meeting attended by more than 300 students Wednesday night.

Council members received standing ovations as they proposed motions condemning the administration and calling for a general strike of the university community if the administration doesn't answer some questions within a week.

The purpose of the meeting was to "obtain from the board of deans explanations of actions it took concerning Liberation 130 and any relevant matters concerning administration policy and power" according to the SRC, Administration president Colin Mackay and all members of the board of deans were requested by letter from the SRC to attend the meeting.

However, SRC president Geoff Green received a reply Wednesday afternoon from board secretary Dugald Blue.

"The board finds the peremptory tone of the resolution (passed at the Nov. 17 SRC meeting) and the proposal contained in it unacceptable," said the letter. When Lawson Hunter, chairman of Wednesday's meeting, asked if any members of the board of deans was present, there was no response.

Green described the administration action as deplorable.

President Mackay said he wanted dialogue with the students but he and the board of deans refused to stand up to

their word by not attending the meeting tonight," he said.

Mackay is unwilling to attend any public meeting. I can't agree to a meeting behind closed doors. It's not constitutional."

SRC vice-president Alastair Robertson said that in a conversation with Mackay, "He said that he was very concerned for the students."

"And in the conversation he mentioned the word dialogue 36 times. However, I get the impression he is disinclined to answer questions."

He said that Mackay doesn't like to have a meeting with everyone.

The SRC passed a motion for another attempt to meet with the board of deans between Nov. 24 and 28, at a time and place mutually agreeable to the SRC and the board. This motion was followed immediately by another stating that a general strike of the university community should be called and organized should the board of deans refuse to attend such a meeting before midnight Nov. 28 and give satisfactory answers to the students.

Both motions were answered by overwhelming applause of the capacity audience.

Many students rose during the discussion to express their opinions with such statements as "the time for dialogue is over. The administration has been insulting the students too long. There were several calls for an immediate strike.

Other suggestions which received loud applause were

removal of Mackay from his position as chairman of almost every university committee, increase of faculty members student representation on all bodies, faculty contracts and scaled salaries, removal of charges against the seven people arrested at Liberation 130.

The SRC executive encouraged all council members to work for full participation in the strike if it is necessary to call one.

Robertson said during the discussion that if the motions weren't passed he would call

for the immediate dissolution of the SRC. At this time an audience member made a plea for council unity and said "For God's sake, get together. Both motions were passed with overwhelming majorities.

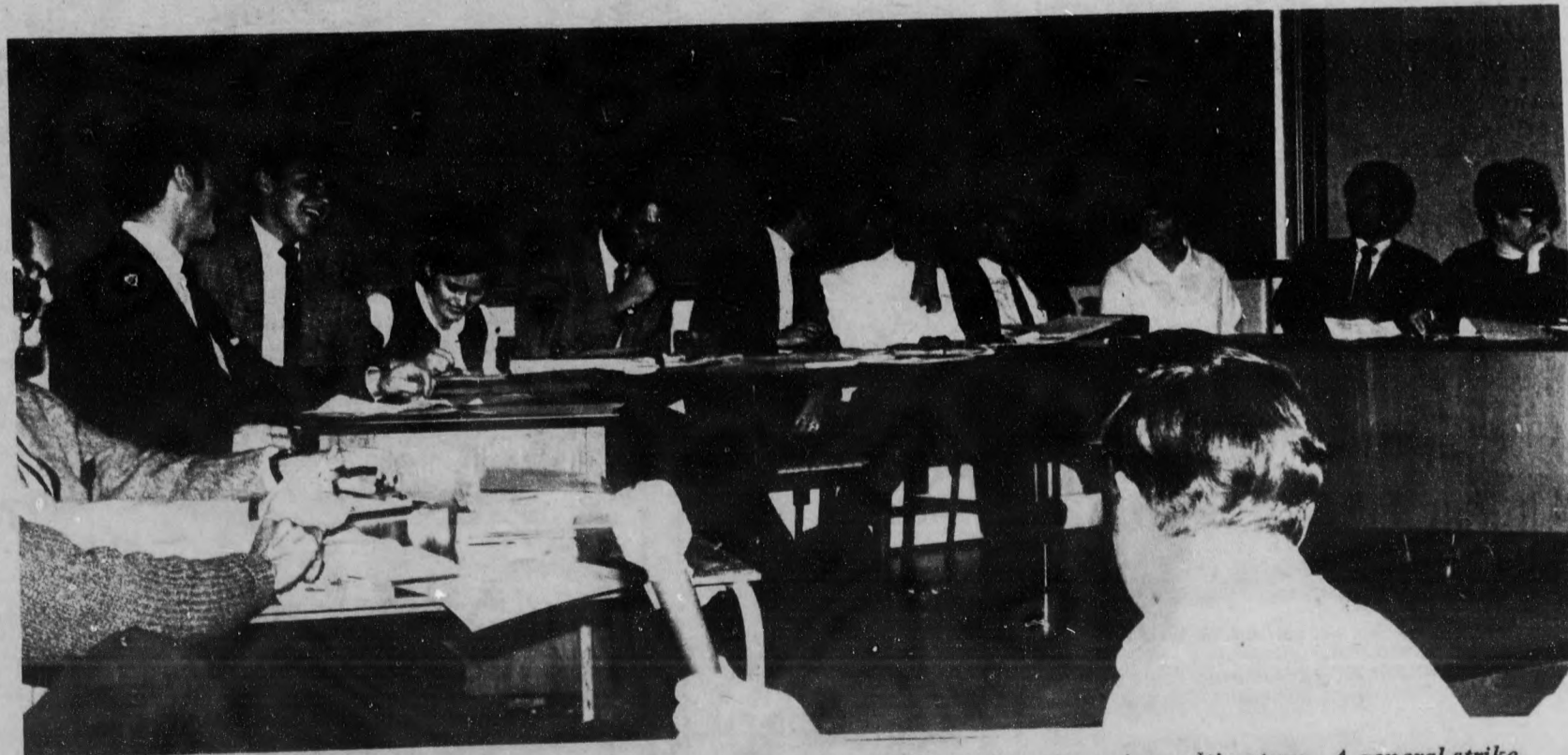
An official statement from the SRC president pointed out that the students were sincere in their wish for a reasonable approach. It pointed out that the time and meeting place would be one mutually acceptable but that the meeting would have to be open, like all SRC meetings.

The statement said a strike of the university community is an extreme measure, "but it would be in response to an extreme insult to the intelligent and responsible student.

"Not to strike would be an implicit acceptance of the board of deans' ability to act in any arbitrary fashion it deems fit; to exist and act as a body responsible only to itself, without recourse to the suggestions and recommendations of the student population and . . . the SRC."



A concerned group of students and faculty gathered for answers in McLaggan Hall Wednesday night at the special SRC meeting. An overwhelming majority of the on-lookers favored immediate dialogue between the SRC and the deans. The SRC came but where were the deans?
brunswickan photo by doug pincock



The calm before the storm? A pause for laughter before the SRC laid down its serious ultimatum. A general strike of the university community will be organized unless the board of deans agrees to discuss the issues.
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