

More Cost, Less Work Than Ever

The Constitution

What Council Does, What They Might Do

SRC members are the only students elected by their fellows to handle student affairs. This makes them in theory the only body entitled to call itself representative of student opinion.

For this reason the council is given supreme constitutional power over all phases of organized student activity excluding sports.

But council rewrites its own constitution almost every year. Usually this has been done in closed committees and ratified

without criticism from the student body.

The present constitution was ratified last March, when students were preparing for finals.

Below are thirteen examples of what the SRC could do if they wanted to, including some things they have done this year in contradiction to their own constitution.

1. "The SRC have the power to deal with all matters of student interest." Apparently council feels that students have

no interest in politics, since they refuse to discuss any political issues. When five Nigerian students spoke to council concerning the Biafra moratorium, they were told to restrict themselves to "non-political" comments. How this was possible they didn't say.

2. The constitution gives council the right to disallow appointment of any student to any organization (Radio UNB, Bruns, etc.) without establishing any criteria for doing so or requiring them to give any reason.

3. If an organization, in the opinion of anyone on council, has violated its own constitution, they are required to explain themselves, not before the student discipline committee, but before council itself.

4. Council has the right to appoint an honorary president if a simple majority of members feel like doing so.

5. Before amending the constitution, council must announce the proposed amendment two weeks beforehand, post the proposal, and publish it in the Brunswickan. Even though council published notices in the October 10 Brunswickan for Applications committee and for elections, they did not mention an amendment that was subsequently passed by council on October 14. Council made no announcement in the October 17 Brunswickan either.

6. The Administrative Board makes all policy decisions and all budget decisions concerning student funds, subject to ratification by council. Only students who can show they have been "adversely affected" by a decision are allowed to ask that council review the decision.

7. "The president of the

SRC shall present a semiannual report of the SRC activities at a meeting of the SRC after each election." Since the election in October, President Start hasn't yet come up with a report on anything the SRC has done, although there have been several council meetings since then.

8. The Vice President of Council is supposed to act for the President in his absence and assist the president when he is there. Since there was no VP last summer, council voted to give Start \$150 honoraria for assuming the duties of VP. This was in addition to the \$100 per week he was paid as president. No explanation was given of how Start could have acted in his own behalf when he was absent.

9. The most powerful position is Comptroller. He decides, with the administrative board, who goes to conferences and how much money they are paid, regardless of what the conference is for. He decides who gets salaries, and how much they get. He sets the standards for activity awards and who gets them. He grants concessions to people for council-sponsored profit-making ventures. He supervises all funds in all organizations, even contributions, collects revenues and pays bills. On top of this, he automatically becomes President if there is a presidential and vice-presidential vacancy.

10. If a council member misses two meetings, council may declare his position vacant by a two-thirds vote, and he

cannot re-offer in this next election. But they don't do this every time, so council can throw out any disagreeable member they like after he's missed two meetings. Council hasn't even kept a regular record of who does attend, but from the occasional record of absentees, at least Sullivan, Start, Lebel and Cripps have missed two or more meetings. If Lebel or Cripps ever become unpopular, council could dump them anytime. They did dump Richard Hamilton on October 19.

Sullivan and Start, the Comptroller and President respectively, needn't worry, though; they are exempted from this position because they are on the administrative board (Start ex officio).

11. If any student wants to bring something up at a meeting, they must ask the President, Start, beforehand, unless it concerns work being done by a committee. In this case they ask the committee heads, who are appointed by Start.

12. Twenty per cent of a member's faculty must sign a petition if the member is unsatisfactory. It's a warm day and a big campaign before that many people show up to vote in an election.

13. Even if students do manage to show that a candidate is not satisfactory, he may run in the next election; they cannot deny him the right to re-offer the way council can. The president may even rule that a student is not qualified to run.



AMONG THE DUTIES of the council president listed in the constitution is this item: "Be responsible for a due observation of the Act of Incorporation, the Constitution, and the By-Laws."

The Budget

Council The Biggest Cut



EVEN EXCLUDING student salaries, most of which go to the SRC, council still takes the biggest slice of the financial pie. With the exception of the big three service organizations, Radio UNB, the Brunswickan, and the Drama Society, council takes almost half as much again as all other organizations. On top of this, they got most of the money paid out in salaries and honoraria. It's been council policy to make policy decisions and to leave much of the actual implementation to other student organizations. For making these weighty decisions, they got most of the salary allowance.

SRC
Administrative costs, projects and salaries.

BRUNS
Total Budget Request

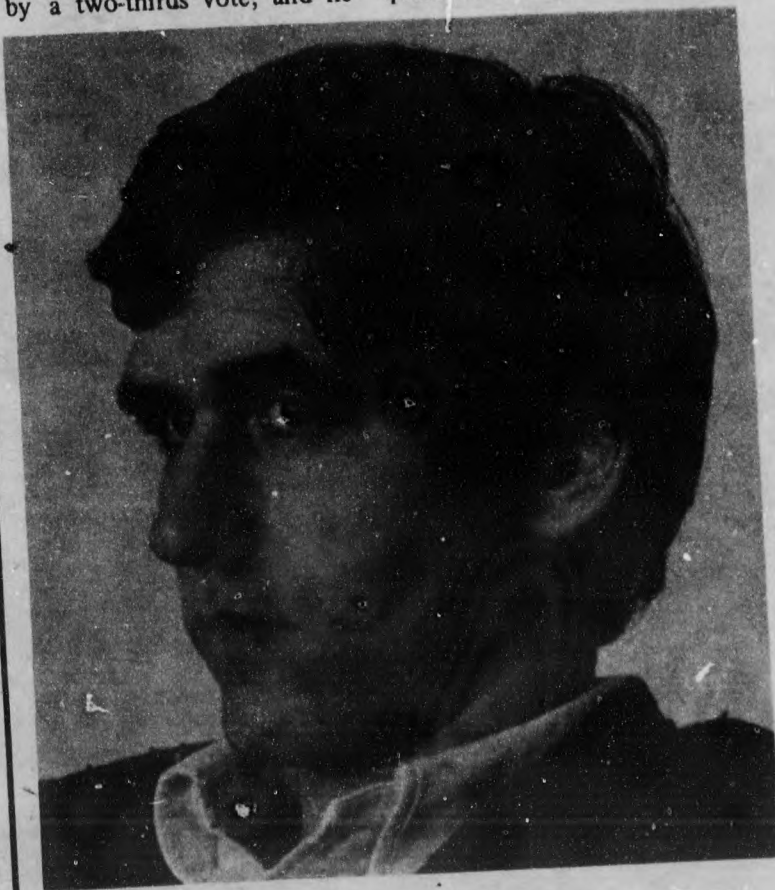
RADIO UNB
Operating Budget and New Equipment

DRAMA
UNB Drama Society Budget Request

SALARIES
Paid mostly to students

LIMITED SERVICES
Money to faculty, ethnic and fraternal groups.

OTHER
All other expenditures.



LAW REP BOB PETERS, above, ponders another amendment to the SDC Constitution. During the present terms, Peters rewrote sections of the Constitution of the SDC several times, then asked Council to return the whole document to his committee because, He said, it "defied interpretation."