



Impeachment voted down

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The motion to impeach Engineering Rep John Bosnitch was soundly defeated 3-12 with two abstentions at Wednesday's SRC meeting. However, two motions to remove Karl Reckziegel and Malcolm McKillop from council were passed. Both were moved by Bosnitch.

There was a debate as to whether the meeting should be broadcast on CHSR. Chairman Tom Kovacs was opposed to it being taped because in the Canadian legal system, hearings are not broadcast; he said he did not want to sensationalize the issue and didn't think the people of Fredericton should have to hear it. He also said that as chairman, he had the exclusive right to decide this.

Opinions expressed in favour of having the hearing aired by Bosnitch were that it was his only opportunity to state publicly his position, that most students had heard about the issue and would want to hear the proceedings, and that it would be more sensational not to broadcast.

Councillor Fraser Dickson was opposed to the broadcast. He feared possible legal action and felt that people could have come to the meeting if they wanted to.

Former Chairman Gordon Loane said the Thorbourne trial had set a precedent, and that it was really a decision of council. Council can overturn any decisions from the chair, he said.

The ensuing show of hands was solidly in favour of the broadcast which will be aired at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Dickson then spoke on the impeachment motion which he had moved, and Vice-President and Chief Returning Officer Lloyd Tozer had seconded. He had presented a booklet to councillors containing his charges, against Bosnitch prior to the meeting and he expanded upon this point by point.

He started by stating that his motion was correct according to the Robert's Rules of Order. Then he attacked Bosnitch for his letters in the Brunswickan, the way he presented the facts in the SUB referendum, his accusations against various people and for leaving a meeting early after supposedly not getting his way. Dickson also accused Bosnitch of using the title "SRC engineering rep," before he was seated, speaking in a distasteful manner at the EPF march and bringing up unnecessary points in council. He quoted Bosnitch as saying "Oh I can't let that one go by," and "I want to stir up some shit and cause some trouble," when asked why he had run for council.

With regard to the SUB referendum, Dickson said Bosnitch had paid SRC money for 'vote no' propaganda and had misled the public with the publication THE NEW BRUNSWICKAN. He said Bosnitch campaigned after the 12 midnight deadline by slipping the publication under residence doors at 1 a.m. and handing it out at the polling booths.

Bosnitch then took the floor to counter all the points. He had prepared a question sheet for councillors, attacking the validity of Dickson's accusation. He said the only impeachable offense was dereliction of duty which was ridiculous in his case as he had attended every meeting and as most of his points had received support.

He said he may have asked embarrassing questions of certain people, but that these were necessary to point out inconsistencies. He questioned how his performance had compared with that of other councillors, saying that it was not their responsibility to uphold the SUB board, hence his pressing of the 'no' side.

He then said he had never made any accusations, just asked questions; saying if questions are accusations, "every time some one opens their mouth, it is an accusation." He said the chairman could have ruled him out of order if he had said something he should not have, and could have passed a motion of censure for continued misbehavior which could have resulted in him being forcibly removed. "... at least if I was ever carried out of the room I'd remember" he added.

It was his duty Bosnitch said, to bring up old issues if his constituents wished, and to ask questions repeatedly anywhere if he was not satisfied with an answer.

Next he went over some of his referendum campaign points, and said he had not conducted himself improperly with respect to that issue and would wait for the ad hoc committee's report. He said "I will apologize if proved to be incorrect."

Finally, he refuted some miscellaneous points made by Dickson such as his CBC interview, saying some students listen to that station. He said, "I

am here, if I can do it, to represent my constituency and bring a little honesty to the SRC," and concluded by saying, "It is your right to impeach me, but if you go ahead . . . I think you will be making a mistake, and I hope you don't."

Councillors Barnett, Foley, Kithya and Osborne then made speeches in defence of Bosnitch.

Comptroller Owuor suggested that Bosnitch can, "... redirect that energy to be used properly."

After a brief recess Business Rep Derek McDorman moved the previous question which was accepted by council. Bosnitch pleaded to that he be allowed to sum up his case, which the chair rejected. However as it turned out in a roll call vote, council supported him already. Vice-President Tozer, Councillors McLeod and Dickson were the only ones to vote yes with Demellow and McDorman abstaining, the latter because he missed the debate.

After announcing the results, Chairman Kovacs said "Mr. Bosnitch, you are a councillor" at which point Bosnitch regained the rights he had lost since being served with the notice of motion.

Later in the meeting, the motion was to remove Engineering Rep Reckziegel because he had missed eight meetings was presented. In a letter he stated he had had ski patrol meetings on Wednesdays and when he ran for the seat, the meetings were on Mondays. Even though the letter said he would be back next meeting, the constitution states that if a councillor is absent without reasonable prior excuse, the absentee will be removed by council. The vote was 13-4.

The issue of Law Rep Malcolm McKillop was brought up. Even though he had missed three meetings, it was pointed out that it was hard to attract a representative from this faculty. Nevertheless, the motion to declare the seat vacant passed 16-0 with one abstention.

Debated erupted about whether council should revise its rules of order. Councillor McDorman felt there should be standing orders for council. Comptroller Owuor said that council should make rules that apply to a particular situation. Bosnitch was opposed, saying Robert's Rules or Order are the best in the world.

It was pointed out that there would be a hearing today at 1 p.m. in SUB Room 103 concerning Steve McAlinden's contest of the outcome of the arts byelection.

President Kevin Ratcliff was not in attendance as he had a mid term to study for.

As Bosnitch left the meeting, he announced his intention to bring the Thorbourne issue back up first thing next meeting.



Engineering rep John Bosnitch (standing) consults with SRC Chairman Tom Kovacs (left). Behind is Recording Secretary Heather Sandilands.

Photo by GAVIN ELLS