

Memo from the President

January 22, 1984

On Monday January 7, 1985, I contacted President Pedersen on behalf of the five major unions on campus. We requested that he agree to meet with our representatives to discuss issues related to the pending University budget and our respective negotiations. Dr. Pedersen was extremely reluctant to meet with us and stated that he was not at liberty to discuss the budget or its implications. This response was unsatisfactory and after considerable push from our end he agreed to consider meeting us. He promised to get back to me after consulting with the Vice Presidents.

On Wednesday January 9, 1985, the UBC Community received a memo from the President which was, to my mind, intended to dissuade us from seeking information and was infact generated in response to our request to discuss such issues. This action only reaffirmed our determination to take advantage of Dr. Pedersen's "open door policy."

On Thursday, January 10, 1985, Dr. Pedersen telephoned to advise me that he and Vice President Gellatly would meet with the unions on January 15th, but again cautioned me that he was not prepared to deal with specific budgetary questions.

Nine representatives from the five campus unions attended the meeting on January 15, 1985. The meeting lasted one hour and twenty minutes and provided us with little aside from Dr. Pedersen's perception of what the future may hold. The scenerio he presented seemed devoid of hope (he does not see a turn around in the economic atmosphere until close to 1987) and more distressingly, devoid of any genuine concern for support staff. Dr. Pedersen agreed with us that our members were falling behind market value for their skills but quickly interjected that of greater concern was the inability to give faculty increases. The President stated that he felt confident that the University would see no funding breaks from the Provincial Government until it could demonstrate that major cuts in academic programs had been undertaken.

When AUCE pointed out to the President that the Senate Budget Committee's September 1983 report recommended that "the social and human impact of any reorganization of ...the University" be given significant consideration, we requested that he involve support staff in the consultative process prior to finalizing plans for cuts. We received no commitment or comment on that request.

At our next membership meeting of January 31, 1985 we will give a full report on this meeting and on issues currently in dispute. We urge you to attend and remind you to return your ballots by January 28, 1985 so that we can announce the results when you arrive.

Sincerely,



Fairleigh Wettig
President

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1985

IRC 6

12:30--2:30 P.M.