

My campaign is not directed against Fairleigh Wettig. Fairleigh is an extremely competent and capable individual who has been, and will continue to be, of great service to AUCE Local One. My campaign is directed against a trend towards centralization which may eventually threaten the strongly democratic traditions of our union. In light of our recent affiliation with CUPE, it may benefit us to protect our local traditions with an ever increasing vigilance.

The presidency is the top executive position in our union. However, it is common for members of our paid staff to become the most important and visible figures in the union because of the nature of their positions. For this reason it is wise to have a president who can counter this influence by being someone drawn from the ranks of the union membership. This person would be able to offer a perspective not available to the paid staff by virtue of her or his employment at the university and the attendant familiarity with work related problems. Since it is required that our paid staff be elected from the general membership, it is necessary that there be positions available which can provide the experience and expertise required before one is able to perform the duties of our paid office staff. The structure of the AUCE executive is designed so that our top executive positions can fulfill these functions. The membership recently defeated a proposal to eliminate the Union Organizer position and to make the President a full-time paid office position. These and other arguments were presented against the motion at that time and the result demonstrates that a healthy majority prefers a separate elected President. A vote for myself would serve this end while a vote for Fairleigh would contradict this decision. Incidental to this situation, the CUPE constitution's bylaws governing chartered affiliates, which we are not bound by at the moment, states that no member may hold more than one elected position on a local executive.

At Present, Fairleigh is the President, the Union Organizer, and the acting chairperson of the Grievance Committee. Notwithstanding Fairleigh's substantial abilities, it is doubtful that the membership could not be served better by having these positions held individually. As for myself, I am an LA II in the Map Division of Main Library. I have been a shop steward in three different library divisions over the past few years. My position on the contract committee for the past year has been extremely informative and my chairmanship of that committee in the past four months has given me valuable experience as both a chairman and as an executive member. I would, of course, resign this position were I to be elected President.

I urge you to vote on this ballot and hope you will seriously consider the points I have made.

***** TEAR HERE *****

Balloting instructions:

Mark ballot with an X. Place ballot in small envelope. Place small envelope in medium-sized one. Please remember. SIGN MEDIUM -SIZED ENVELOPE.

Return to A.U.C.E. local 1. Campus Mail, and return by March 5, 1985.

For President of A.U.C.E. local 1, I chose

Fairleigh Wettig _____

Philip Hall _____

A few months ago, a ballot went out to our membership which proposed a permanent change to our by-laws. The change proposed was to do away with the Union Organizer "title" and have our President become a full time paid position in its place. That ballot failed. Our membership did not want that permanent change to occur.

At the last general membership meeting a motion was dealt with which resulted in all members of the Union, the rank and file as well as the three paid Office staff having the ability to run for the position of President. In this election there are two candidates running. One from the rank and file, one from the Union office. The membership is given a very well deserved choice considering the results of the ballot in November.

I am a paid Officer of the Union and I have been for almost two years now. I also served as a paid Officer for 16 months in 1976-77. I am also your current President, a position I have enjoyed during the last 14 months. I cannot whole heartedly agree with those who feel that the Presidency is only a nominal figurehead position. I don't believe that those who have dealings with the Union, the University, other Unions and members of the Labour Community view it in that light either. A President must be free to state Union position in whatever terms are necessary if she/he is to fully represent the membership. I think that if I were paid by the University and volunteering as President, I would feel considerably hampered in my exchanges with my employer. I would not necessarily feel at liberty to say what needed to be said. I feel I have served you well during the last year, I've said what has needed to be said and I would like to continue.

Our Local remains in negotiations for a new contract, we are faced with a number of precedent setting arbitrations which are aimed at defending current benefits and the integrity of our work. We have recently embarked upon a merge with CUPE, an arrangement which will, no doubt, require some fine tuning over the months. I have been involved in all of this as both your President and your Union Organizer. I am aware of all the business of our Local and feel that I am completely informed on all issues with which we are currently faced.

We are a "Women's Union" and I feel that as a woman I have much to contribute. My past Union experience has spanned a number of years. I was involved in this local's organizational drive in 1973/74. I have served as a steward during my entire employment on campus and I have served at various times on all Union Committees. I have served as an executive member for about 5 years in the last 9 years; I have been a full time officer of the Union for a total of three of those years. I am a single parent and I am active in two organizations outside of working hours (Past Chairperson of the SCC at my son's elementary school and I am currently Chairperson and Treasurer of the UBC Campus Community Alliance). I feel that in all of this I have gained valuable insight, not only in Union affairs but as importantly, an insight of our membership. I feel that I know who we are and what we want. I am very prepared to continue to work to the goals to which we aspire.

Fairleigh Wettig
President/Union Organizer