Course Union Organizing Hints & Tips

If your course union needs some help getting organized, talk to us. Lots of reps on Council have interesting ways of getting students involved. Your course union should meet once a month. If they can get together at the first of the month, then you can tie in your GSU Rep Council report with other course union business.

Course Union Executives:
•usually 4 or 5 officers; they can act as a collective or with consensus or majority vote
•are responsible for applying for money from the GSU
•hold orientation activities for new and returning students
•organize events in departments
•act as liaison between students and departments
•report to GSU Reps or to GSU directly about issues which may affect students
•the Treasurer makes an annual financial statement to the membership and sends a copy to the GSU
•often sit on departmental committees
•identify problem areas & attempt to resolve conflicts

Recruiting (the most important aspect of the process!)

1 Talk to students about getting involved. Don't be shy!

2 Get people who might be interested in being on your Exec involved in this year's course union, on a committee for example or helping set up the End of Term party, or planning Orientation for next year.

3 Talk to new people; a persuasive, truthful and effective argument is that one way to get to know the department and the people who run it is to be a member of a course union; it is also a great way to meet fellow students.

4 In September: If your course union has not recently sponsored any orientation activities, get cracking. Also see #5 below. September is a great month for recruiting active people. Your friendly department staff members should be quite helpful.

5 In April or May: Get a list of the students who were new in the department last September from the departmental secretary or the grad co-ordinator; plan orientation activities for the Fall (e.g., a party, a tour of the department, an Issues-and-Information meeting re funding & TA-ships, whatever is appropriate). Students who were new last year probably have lots of ideas about orientation for new students, especially if your department didn't **have** an orientation last year.

6 Ask your friends if they might be interested in getting involved. Ask your friends for names of their friends who might be interested in getting involved. Ask your friends if they know someone who knows someone who might be interested in getting involved. Etc. Etc.

7 When your term is half-over, and you know that you won't be returning to the position, find someone interested in replacing you on the Exec.

8 Call Charlotte at the GSU 978-8464 or 978-2391 if you want more ideas, hints, tips, help, information. Don't hesitate! Remember that 2 great places to have Course Union get-togethers are in the **GSU Pub** (call Ed or Harry at 978-8466) or **Sylvester's Café** (Thèrese at 978-5247). Both spaces are pretty, pretty cheap and pretty close by.