

SRC VOTES 18-1-1 FOR STUDENT UNION BUILDING

STUDENT FEES TO GO UP TEN DOLLARS

Last Monday the SRC passed a motion which will increase student fees by ten dollars. The purpose of the fee increase is to provide funds over the next few years to partially finance a Student Union Building.

Before voting, the SRC heard a brief presented by the members of the building committee. The committee stated that they had been attempting to find out whether any additional student facilities were needed. All 43 organizations on the campus were contacted and all responded either verbally or by way of a written report.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUILDING REPORT

There is a need for more space for student activities. With St. Thomas and Teacher's College coming on campus, this problem is aggravated. Many facilities now existing for student use will no longer be available. For example, plans have been made to change Mem Hall into an arts centre. Radio UNB will have to move. The "H" huts will eventually be torn down leaving Winter Carnival Red 'n Black, and the SCM without space. The Camera Club is now without a dark room and the Para Jump club has never had storage space to speak of.

Many of these same clubs have been experiencing a loss of equipment due to thefts which could be eliminated with new facilities. The students must use their funds to replace this equipment.

In addition, the report covered the following points:

The administration has made no plans for any additional student facilities. This means that this has been left up to the students to either do without or build themselves. The report also pointed out that this has been the case on other campuses. Students at Alberta, Dalhousie, UBC, King's, and Acadia are presently involved in raising funds for their own building.

In the end students would be financing about 38% of the building.

THE BUILDING

With a ten dollar levy, plans have been made to approach an expert in this field. This expert will determine the exact requirements for student facilities.

It is the intention of the committee and the SRC to make clear to this expert that we want a highly flexible building (movable partitions etc.) for all students and not just a group of offices for key-twirling executives.

Plans have been made for a workshop for Red 'n Black and Winter Carnival as well as studios for Radio UNB. The proposed facilities have been approached with the spirit of giving every student a place to go either to relax or to take part in some organized student function.

Last year it was found that students were not especially eager to provide scores of offices for people who don't really need them so this year's committee has conscientiously avoided this approach while doing the preliminary groundwork.

To date no attempt is being made to build a particular building. This is the reason there are no floor plans right now. Financing has to come first.