

Committee report accepted by council

by glen furlong
brunswickian staff

Faculty and student members of the Student Senate Committee on Representation were at the SRC meeting Sunday to discuss a brief on student representation. The brief will be presented to the UNB Senate this week.

The committee has been operating unofficially since November and officially since December.

Registrar D.C. Blue, speaking in the brief said, "The brief has been agreed to by all members of the committee as well as the UNB-SJ-SRC, but it has not yet been discussed by the Senate. We have no idea what the Senate's reaction will be and we can only guess."

The brief makes a proposal for 7 student Senators, 6 from UNB-Fredericton and one from UNB-SJ.

Blue outlined further proposals of the brief. "The 6 Fredericton members will be elected at large by the student body and it is suggested that the conduct of the elections will be handled by the SRC. A Senator will take office every year on July 1st for a term of one year. It is also recommended that Senate meetings be open meetings which means that any member of the academic community may attend as an observer, but they will not have the right of speech," he said.

Blue also said that since much of the work in the Senate is done by committees, at least 25% of each committee will be students.

Professor P.C. Kent clarified this and said that it would be acceptable for students to sit on committees concerning issues of faculty in principle, but not when a specific faculty member is being discussed, especially when it concerns appointments, promotions, tenure, salary, etc.

The UNB Act will have to

be changed by the N.B. Legislature to get students on Senate Committees regarding student records. The Act also presently states that for every additional seat created on the Senate, there will be another seat created for an elected faculty member.

Arts Rep Bob Hess asked Blue what he thought Mackay's reaction to the brief would be. "He only has one vote," answered Blue.

To be eligible for election to the Senate the only requirement is that the person is a registered student. Senators will be subject to recall by 20% of the student body.

"If the Senate and SRC both agree to this brief, this year the student Senators will be elected and will serve until July 1, 1990," said Blue.

He said the reason why the brief wasn't brought up at the last Senate meeting is because there was not enough time for distribution of the brief to all Senators before the meeting.

Vice president chosen by flip of a coin

Grant Godfrey was elected vice-president of the SRC after a flip of the coin, Wednesday.

Godfrey, civil engineering 4, and Kevin McKinney, arts 3, were tied with 432 votes each at the finish of ballot counting. Third candidate Don Thomson had 133 ballots.

There was a recount. It was still tied and the coin was flipped. Godfrey won.

Newly-elected SRC president Mike Start said it was unique for him.

"I imagine there will be a request for another recount," he said Wednesday night.



Winston Fubara Bellgam sits at the microphone and listens to a question from the audience during a discussion on the Biafra-Nigeria situation. Bellgam, a Biafran, was the main speaker. Other panel members are economics prof McKinnell (left), English prof Boxill and Michael Fubara (far right). (see story on page 9)
brunswickian photo by dave macneil

Versafood workers turn out to discuss union formation

The employees of Versafoods Services Ltd. are in the process of considering a proposal to unionize. Last Sunday evening Phil Booker and George Evans, representing the Canadian Union for Public Employees, and some 60 employees of Versafoods here in Fredericton met for a preliminary discussion on the subject.

Booker began the proceedings with a small talk which outlined the situation as he saw it. He noted that 4 or 5 years ago Versafoods was paying its employees only 85 cents to 90 cents per hour but now CUPE members have recently signed a contract for \$1.53 per hour.

He also emphasized that a union would provide job security through contract. He said that the N.B. civil servants are now being unionized on a large scale. At one point Booker said that people

working for UNB have no rights under the N.B. Labor Relations Act but that employees of Versafoods were better off.

Following this the floor was open to questions. The workers seemed mainly interested in why a union was needed, the chances of losing their fringe benefits, and the ability of the union to "take-care" of its members during the summer lay-off.

Several of those taking part in the discussion voiced concern at the idea of the part-time student workers having a voice in union matters.

Booker noted that dues of \$3. per member would have to be paid initially, to be followed by monthly dues set by the local itself. He added that in order for a local to be formed 50% plus one individual would have to join. The union would be only representative of those

not in personnel or direction positions.

CUPE has 120,000 members across Canada, with four full-time representatives in Fredericton. Versafoods was quoted in The Financial Post as being the largest growing company in Canada last year.

At this time it is not known if the proposed union will in fact be formed.

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