

No new residences in near future

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Brunswick News Editor

Despite a crisis in student accommodation in Fredericton and a growing student population, expansion of the UNB residence system and co-operative housing are not expected in the near future.

University president Dr. James Dineen said last week that an enlargement in university residence accommodations could not be expected within five years although, according to registrar Dugald Blue, the enrolment at UNB will in-

crease to 7170 students by 1976 from the 5230 registered now.

The reason for this, said Dr. Dineen is "expensive money." The university, he said is now paying \$233,000 a year in service charges for the 10 on-campus residences now in operation.

And interest rates are growing. The interest on the new women's residence, Tibbits Hall, which cost approximately \$1.3 million, is seven and one-eighth per cent as opposed to two and one-eighth per cent being paid on the first nine buildings.

With these growing interest rates, Dr. Dineen said that the university could not expand its facilities and charge residents less than \$1,000 for double room accommodation. The present rates are \$850 for double rooms and \$925 for a single room.

Although a comparison of these rates to those in other universities for this year are not available, two years ago, UNB rates at \$800 and \$850 respectively, were among the highest in the maritime provinces. However, they were low in comparison to those at universities in Ontario and

Quebec.

Although the rates in these provinces could be as low as \$760, they were usually more than \$900, ranging as high as \$1195.

The university can expand academic facilities with a grant from the New Brunswick Higher Education Commission, but residences can not be built with money from this same source.

The reason for this lies in the fact that the Commission, headed by chairman J.O. Sullivan, decided on formation that the commission would not provide funds for ancillary

enterprises such as student residences and athletic facilities.

The seven-member commission feels that by not supporting residences they are encouraging more economical running of the system and outside financing of the building of these structures.

They also say that the residence system is an educational experience and should be absorbed by the general operating budget of the university. But this is one form of educational expense which is not subsidized by the commission.

The only other incomes which the university has come through students' fees and donations. All ancillary facilities must be financed through these two incomes.

Student fees have never covered the cost of residence expenses and the result is that students are subsidized to the tune of \$104 a year for living in residence.

So, the only hope for increased university accommodation lies in luring donations from outside interests such as business, alumni and other interested persons.

One of the alternatives to residence accommodation is co-operative housing run by the New Brunswick Co-operative Limited. The Co-op runs two seven storey buildings on Montgomery Street and three other houses on Brunswick, Union, and Charlotte Streets.

Four of these are owned by the University and leased by the Co-op, while the Brunswick Street co-op is owned by the provincial government and leased by the Co-op.

The government, however, will be resuming occupancy of the building after October 31 and the co-op will have to move.

Other sites are being considered for co-ops of this same type to replace the Brunswick Street house and negotiations are under way for one such building.

The Montgomery Street buildings, opened earlier this year, contain room for 240 single students in one building and have 102 apartments in the other for married students, faculty and staff members of UNB, STU and Teachers' College.

Fees in the Single Building, which offers five types of accommodation, range from \$390 to \$530 from the academic year.

In the so-called married co-op, rents are \$115, \$130 and \$145 for one, two and three-bedroom apartments respectively.

Co-op president Allister Robertson said last week that plans are being made to add a third building to the Montgomery Street complex. But, as yet, all that is being done is a committee study on the existing facilities. At this time the university has not indicated how they feel about the proposal.

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