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FREE

Kepros system implemented despite many protests

By LILLIAN RIOUX

UNB's senate passed a motion implementing the new marking system at a meeting Thursday night. The Kepros marking system will be put into use next year.

The meeting was held in the Ganong Hall lecture theatre at UNBSJ.

The meeting centered around the new grading system (Kepros).

After an outline of the system was given, a letter from the faculty of Engineering was read by Dean Jaeger suggesting that the concept is not acceptable to some faculties of UNB, especially the faculty of Engineering.

Jaeger went on to explain that in the fall of 1972 the Kepros report was accepted in principal. This was accepted until Wednesday of last week, then there was a drastic change of stance.

Jaeger also said that the change was not made in haste and that there were good reasons behind it. In the past three weeks there were discussions concerning the report on whether the system was or wasn't good for the engineers.

Student opinion was overwhelmingly against the concept. Last week there was a meeting of the EUS Society to propose certain curriculum changes. The students expressed their wish to discuss the Kepros system. A vote was taken on the system and out of 52 students present only one was in favor, forty-eight against and three abstentions.

Jaeger also stated that in one of his classes a vote was taken again. Out of 22 students 21 voted against and there was one abstention. There have also been several petitions circulated against the system, and one of them had 161 signatures.

At the faculty councils, students have attended and the effect is noticeable. The students feel that the profs have the right to assess the performance of the student but the students do have a big interest in the way they are assessed, said Jaeger.

Both student body and faculty alike are displeased with the fact that in the case of good students a mark of 95 and a mark of 75 would both be assessed as an "A" under the new system.

Jaeger stated that he hoped that the university will not put the system in effect in faculties in which there is great disapproval for the concept.

In conclusion he said that the system was coarse with only five categories, and suggested that an "A" be defined more.

"If we remain on the present system (weighted percentage marks), then the sickness will be on us. I will take responsibility on that."

Using the example of McGill University, Jaeger went on to explain the usage of a dual system with both the Kepros system and the present system. On the report card, the left hand side is the weighted percentage mark and on the right is the conversion to the letter grade system. He felt that a program for the computer to use the above system would not be too difficult to formulate and use.

There were a great many comments both for and against the system. It was brought up that many universities throughout North America are now abandoning the system and it was questioned if the university was taking a forward or backward step.

President Anderson made a statement to the effect that if a student gets a 48 under the present system he can try to get his mark raised to a pass but under the Kepros system the mark would be "F" and that would be final because the student wouldn't know how far off from a pass he was. This would be good, stated Anderson, since it would prevent a lot of hassles arising from disputes in marks.

Professor Sharp expressed agreement with the president because he said some students are doing the minimal and are passing. This new system would get the "laggers" out sooner. He said he felt that the below average students are detrimental to the class. It would be good for the students because they wouldn't

waste as much money by being put out sooner. He also felt that the new system would raise the standing of the university since the below average students would be cut and the total overall grades would thus be higher.

Professor McGill stated what he felt would be beneficial to the student under the new system.

1) When a student transfers into UNB from another university where he has been marked under the Kepros system, it is difficult to convert the students' marks to the system here. This also works in the opposite direction in the case of a UNB student transferring out.

2) There is also the comparison between faculties. In some faculties, especially Arts, it is unheard of to get a mark of 100 per cent. The tendency is usually to mark below 85 per cent. Many engineers want to take an arts course but are afraid the lower marks will bring their average down.

3) The "fail credit" is an advantage since the fate of the student isn't only in the hands of

one prof. He can make up a fail credit in other courses.

Professor McGill stated that the letter grade system was coarse but the idea of putting a plus or minus to the letter improved the system immensely.

Student senator Brian Forbes put forth the motion that the senate reject the system for this year but that it be put into use another year. All student senators were in favor but the motion was defeated.

The reason behind the motion was that the students do not know enough about the system, and in their ignorance about the system are afraid of it.

Forbes also went on to say that it is too bad students will only react when an issue is right in their face and important to them. They are reacting now and are trying to find out about it so an attempt should be made to educate them fully on all aspects of the system. He said he felt the system should only be implemented when students were aware of the system and its different aspects.

In reply President Anderson

stated that the senators and the student senators understood the system fully and if the students did not understand now it was too bad for them.

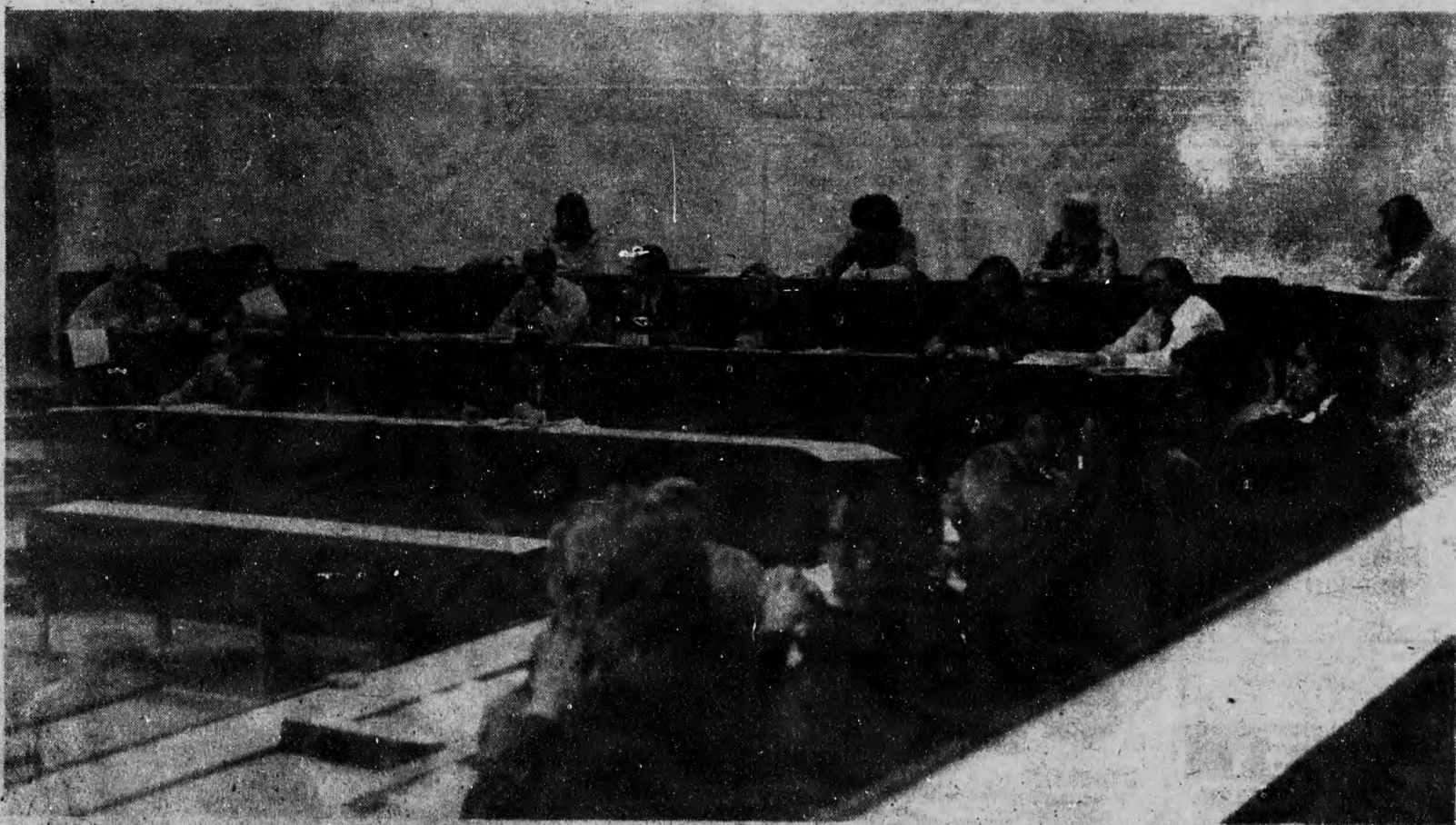
A motion was passed, however, to implement the new system for the year 1974-75 except for the faculties of law, engineering, forestry, and the school of graduate studies providing that they try to convert by the years 1975 or 1976.

In reply to this, Jaeger stated: "If you want to ram something down engineering's throat, then you had better do it now and not a year from now."

One of Wilson's objections to the system was that the concepts were not explained fully enough.

There was a great deal of other business to be discussed but due to the lateness of the hour the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday night of next week.

Forbes closing statement was to the effect that it was unfortunate that the rights of the student in this concept were being ignored.



Senate has approved the new marking system, although many students and faculties feel that they will not benefit from the change. Student senators opposed the motion.

Legislature investigates interference

Allegations involving Social Services Minister Brenda Robertson in interfering with a tavern permit for political reasons, were referred back to the Legislature on Wednesday.

About two weeks ago W. W. Meldrum (L-Westmorland) publicly stated on CBC that he had proof that Robertson had been involved with the Liquor Licensing Board's decision not to grant Mel Baker a tavern license in Riverview.

In a sworn affidavit Baker says that his permit was denied because

he refused to give half of his business to Peter Crossman, a Conservative party supporter. A licence was later granted to Greenland Holdings Ltd. for a beverage room in Riverview. Crossman is an officer in this firm.

The privileges committee of the Legislature were asked to look into Meldrum's public allegations involving Robertson. The committee was given power by the House to summon witnesses and documents.

The committee, which has a majority of Conservatives on it, called only Meldrum as a major

witness. Robertson was never sworn in, and made no statements to the committee. The committee also refused to call three witnesses that the Opposition wanted to hear from in connection with the allegations.

On Tuesday, the Conservative members of the committee blocked an attempt by the Opposition members to introduce as evidence the taped proceedings of the Liquor Board's hearing of April 18 as well as the taped portions of conversation that took place before and after the official hearing.

These two segments of the tape were not on the written transcript. John Turnbull (L-Saint John Centre) told the committee that these portions were pertinent to the inquiry.

Some government members have said that the entire case should be turned over to the courts. The committee has now turned the whole matter back to the House. The Legislature was not scheduled to meet until March 4 but may be called back earlier to deal with this.