Brunswickan condemns 'secret little meetings'

The Brunswickan learned this week members of the University of New Brunswick Students' Representative Council and the Saint Thomas student president considered disbanding the directors' board of the Student Union Building.

The proposal--part of a suggestion for the terms of reference for the next UNB SRC's business consultant--is no longer under consideration, said UNB SRC president Peter Galoska.

Like any other proposal which comes before the executive, he said, it had to be considered before any consultation was made with outside groups. The group–which originally included Galoska, STU government president Brian Chisholm, UNB SRC comptroller Chris Gilliss and his assistant Rod Doherty and student senator Warren McKenzie–is now concerned with the preservation of autonomy for the SUB and cooperation between the three groups, he said.

Their reconsideration came about, said Galoska, mainly because Chisholm backed out of the consideration because of the threat to SUB autonomy and possible domination of the building by the UNB SRC. In addition, the UNB administration reminded the group the SUB was university-owned.

Galoska said the group is now considering a proposal to have two UNB SRC members sit on the board. Co-operation between the three groups can create a new proposal, he said, so the present proposal must be stressed as tentative. He stressed the final proposal would not be any kind of coup, since approval would have to be obtained by the UNB SRC.

The Brunswickan feels there is a valid argument for the proposal. Since there is a possibility Saint Thomas University may not be an autonomous institution in a number of years, continuity of strong management of the SUB must be assured. Kevin McKinney, SUB director, now handles a tremendous work load and a change in management might make delegation easier.

However, The Brunswickan is also puzzled by the lack of consistency of opinion between the parties involved in the consideration and what McKinney termed "the clandestine aspect" to the study.

Galoska indicated the study took about two weeks and that the SUB board would have been informed as soon as the group "had thought about it." McKinney said the group had deliberated through November and December. Galoska said co-operation is now established between the SUB and the UNB and STU SRCs. However, STU passed a motion Tuesday opposing any move to threaten the autonomy of the SUB and Chisholm said co-operation between the SRCs is not so assured in his mind.

The informant who released the story to The Brunswickan indicated co-operation between governments and the board would be advantageous but decried the notion of all the "secret little meetings" which went on, apparently for some time, before the board was informed.

The Brunswickan supports any change in SUB management which will represent the best interests of all those who use the building, including those who are not UNB students. It does, however, recommend such considerations involve representation by all parties concerned so that no one is left out in the cold and misconceptions are allowed to be formed.

Another aspect to the issue involves the fact that consideration of the move was not in keeping with Galoska's election promise to delegate power. Galoska said power delegation when a project is still in the very early stages is risky--a point well made. However, The Brunswickan questions whether such a promise should have been made if it could not be kept.

– Dave Simms, Features Editor
– Susan Manzer, Editor-in-Chief
– Tom Benjamin, Managing Editor



Whispering secrets

will get you nowhere!

THE BRUNSWICKAN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Susan Manzer
MANAGING EDITOR Tom Benjamin

EDITORS
news Derwin Gowan
sports Bob Potter
inside Sheryl Wright
features Dave Simms
photo Phantom Photog
Steve Patriquen

ADVERTISING MANAGER Don Mersereau
AD DESIGN & LAYOUT Pat MacFarland, Judy Orr, Diane Shaw
BUSINESS MANAGER Stephen Fox
SECRETARY Sarah Ingersoll

Staff This Week

Rick Baston, James Walker, Colin Calnan, Mike Carey, Kathy Lewis, Alex Varty, Danielle Thibeault, Bev Hills, Robert Paquette, Tom Best, Andy Ritchie, Lorne McIntosh, Rick Fisher, Jo Anne Jefferson, Lorna Pitcher, Dawn Elgee, John Lumsden, S. Gordon Emmerson, Nancy Ferguson, Agnes Hennessey, Pat Potter, Kathy Westman, Mike Lester

One hundred and ninth year of publication. Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication. A member of Canadian University Press. The Brunswickan, "New Brunswick's largest weekly newspaper", is published weekly at the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Student Representative Council or the Administration of the University. The Brunswickan office is located in the Student Union Building, College Hill, Fredericton, N.B. Printed at Acadia Printing Ltd., Moncton, N.B. Subscriptions, $3 per year. Postage paid in cash at the Third Class Rate, Permit No. 7. National advertising rates available through Youthstream, 307 Davenport Road, Toronto. Local ad rates available at 453-4983.