

Thompson recommends 'immediate action' on housing

A housing report recommending the University of New Brunswick take "immediate action" to increase accommodation to 40 per cent of the UNB-St. Thomas University enrollment was refused by senate to the academic and campus planning committee Tuesday night.

The eight-page report, prepared by UNB Dean of Students Barry Thompson, recommended both short and long term solutions to UNB's housing problems in order to avoid a "severe" shortage this fall.

Thompson said the university's acceptance of the recommendations of the report would only "minimize" the conditions which last year led to UNB's worst housing crisis.

Senate also recommended the Board of Governors investigate the costs involved in implementation of the recommendations if these were given final approval.

Dean Thompson prepared the report in consultation with his 12 member advisory committee on housing, the accommodations office, residence officers and students.

While the 40 per cent accommodation goal is a long-term recommendation, Thompson said the short-term target of providing shelter for 2-300 was important and could be accomplished only if students expressed their support.

This would mean providing accommodation for an additional 750 students, considering that the expected 1976-77 enrollment is 6,400. UNB now houses 29 per cent as compared to 35 per cent two years ago.

The short-term provision called for the university to lease single and double accommodation near the campus for 100. Rosary Hall on Churchill Row was given as an example of such housing. Secondly the report suggested the university lease housing for an additional 100 within greater Fredericton and finally to make a "firm commitment" with the city for "an appropriate bus service" to enable students to reach an additional housing - enough for 100 - on Fredericton's north and west sides and in Oromocto. He recommended these measures be implemented September 1976.

The advisory committee, said Thompson, viewed a proposal for a trailer park for students suggested by an earlier housing report as a "last ditch" measure because of the danger of deterioration.

The dean suggested the university "immediately and thoroughly explore" one or more of the following proposals to provide permanent apartment-type accommodation for an additional 500 students by September 1977:

- Construct an apartment

complex on university property on Montgomery St. to accommodate 500, 250 by September 1977 and with students to be given first priority but also being available to faculty, staff and non-university personnel;

-Contract with a developer or consortium of developers to build and perhaps manage such an apartment complex as above with the university to provide the land and services;

-Purchase one or more existing apartment buildings close to campus each year beginning in 1976 until the 40 per cent level is

reached.

Thompson said in the report "a large percentage of off-campus housing may be considered as adequate," but fail as living quarters because these are "overcrowded, too spartan or too restrictive to contribute in any positive sense to the student's university experience. Too often they detract from one's studies and make students downright miserable, anxious and lonely."

The report criticized UNB for lagging behind other universities in response to student housing

needs and said this might have detrimental effects on enrollment. "Alternately," he said, adequate housing could be a major factor in attracting and maintaining enrollment in spite of the national decrease predicted for the 1980s."

The UNB student council voted unanimously Dec. 8 to ask UNB president John Anderson to convene a meeting of the Board of Governors executive committee to consider any recommendations made by the dean or the student government on student housing.

Housing conditions said appalling

Increasing competition for housing, expected enrollment increases and "appalling condition" provide "the basis for concern" about student housing in Fredericton, said University of New Brunswick dean of students Barry Thompson in a housing report released last week.

Thompson observed that housing availability had decreased since 1972 leading to a crisis in 1975 when there was a need for emergency dormitories, 700 students on residence waiting lists at registration, "excessive" lineups at the accommodations office and a marked decline in the number of off-campus accommodations.

The effect of this on enrollment was not known, he said, but women's dean J.P. Kidd could account for at least 20 women not registering for this reason.

Housing conditions were found to be poor. Complaints had increased this year of "sub-standard, overcrowded, and in some cases appalling conditions (rat, lice, and insect-infested apartments, rooms without window panes, twelve students to one bathroom, landlord "rip-offs," discrimination, high prices, very limited choices" and more.

Competition should increase this year because of the 500-600 employees expected to be hired by the newly-built Everett Chalmers Hospital, said the report. These tenants would be more desired by landlords, said Thompson, because of owners' preferences for "a full-time employed, twelve-month tenant."

Other housing conditions outlined in the report included:

- an expected increase in enrollment of 250-300 education students and another 100 foreign and forestry students;

- the number of quarters listed with the accommodations office dropped from 1,285 in 1971 to 971 in 1975-76;

- the number of landlords willing to rent to students dropped from 424 in 1971 to 324 in 1975-76;

- a decreasing response by the public to housing appeals made through the media;

- married students experiencing increasing difficulties in obtaining apartments because of high rents and the unpopularity of eight-month leases with landlords;

- rents too high for students and

some apartments not being available to single students despite an increase in the number of apartments in Fredericton;

- continuing difficulty in finding off-campus accommodation for native and overseas students;

- students are forced to commute from accommodations on the outskirts or outside of the city because the adequate accommodation they want near the university is not available;

- students, particularly fresh, not being prepared or able to adapt to the "conservative attitudes or

rigid house rules" imposed by many landlords, such as no visitors, no smoking and untidiness;

- students living in inadequate housing because their wish to live common-law is unacceptable to "most" Fredericton landlords, although it is legal in Canada;

- frequently missed 8:30 a.m. classes and no way home after evening activity or library study for students who cannot find accommodation close to the campus and are forced to use "unreliable or unavailable" public transit.

Only verbal complaints heard



Dugald Blue

By JAMIE INGREY

University secretary Dugald Blue is talking with regards to the motion passed by Senate banning smoking in class stressed the fact that moderation should be used.

This past fall notice on the motion that prohibits smoking was sent to all faculty members.

As of the moment they have only

received verbal complaints as no one wants to submit formal written ones.

Blue said that if a formal complaint was made concerning a faculty member it would be reported to the department's Chairperson. If the faculty member continued to smoke it would then be reported to the dean of that faculty.

In cases where students refused to stop smoking it would be reported to the board of Deans who would then probably refer it to the Student Disciplinary Committee.

The rule for no smoking was made with regards to classrooms but not necessarily small seminars. It is up to the discretion of the professors.

Blue said he hopes there is a changing attitude towards smoking. Even though he said he is a smoker he abides by the rules and thinks others should, too.

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\$1.25

Stud

Jim MacLean, former
and law representative
spoke in support of the

By DERWIN GO
News Editor

Support for a demo
favour of student aid d
passed with some m
last Monday's Student
tative Council Meeting

Law representative
Atlantic Federation
chairperson Jim MacL
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has tried to bring ch
student aid system for
months and has m
Minister of Youth o
occasions.

"We are at the last
he said. "If things go
there will be a referen
week."

The referendum v
simultaneously with
other New Brunswick
Fifty per cent plus

Non face

By PAT MACFA

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