

SUB to keep \$15 fee

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News Editor

An informal meeting to discuss the reallocation of the \$15 portion of the student fee presently being used to pay off the SUB mortgage was held last Thursday night. In attendance were SRC representatives, the SUB Board, SRC administrator David Campbell, SUB Director Cindy Stacey and S.S. Mullin, in charge of the university's budget and special projects.

The balance of payment on the SUB mortgage is now \$56,000 along with \$6,500 in interest payments. This sum will be paid off by the first installment of student fees in October 1981. The amount may be further reduced by the payment of St. Thomas University fees, in the neighbourhood of \$10,000.

Contention in the meeting centered around whether the \$15 student fee should or should not automatically revert to the SUB for purposes of maintenance and renovation. There was a general feeling that the SUB should be supported financially by the students, especially in the area of capital expenditure.

Graduate student J. David Miller suggested that the emphasis in possible renovations should be on structural improvements such as improved space utilization and better ventilation.

SUB Director Cindy Stacey was concerned with the maintenance of existing facilities. SRC President Kevin Ratcliff said he felt the \$15 fee was originally intended to go

towards capital expenses although he did not deny the importance of what he termed "cosmetics." Ratcliff said the average student is more concerned with the total amount of the student fee rather than where the money will be going.

In 1964 a motion of council was introduced to create a \$10 student fee, the purpose of which was rather vaguely worded. This motion was petitioned and went to referendum but no specific wording of what was intended for the money was introduced. Miller said it was his firm belief that every student voting in that original referendum knew the money would be going to finance the construction of a student union building. Further, the Teachers' College (now the Faculty of Education) of that time did have an explicit referendum, he said, which means a significant proportion of UNB students did in fact vote specifically to allocate funds to the SUB.

The debate was clinched when SUB Board Chairman David Kay read an excerpt from the October 11, 1967 minutes of the university senate, now the board of governors.

"Each student attending the University of New Brunswick, St. Thomas University and Teachers' College is at present paying \$15 per year towards the cost of the building."

The meeting ended with a consensus of opinion that the \$15 was originally intended to go to the SUB and should continue to do so. Further discussion as to where the money will actually go, in cooperation with the SUB Board, will take place in the fall. Funds from the payment of the fee will only become available in February 1982.



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