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# news

## University financing in limbo

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE  
Brunswickan Staff

The University is taking a wait-and-see attitude on what reactions will be necessary to combat budget problems. "It is much too early to say precisely what it will be necessary for the University to do to re-establish budgetary equilibrium next year," said President Downey Tuesday.

Following a Board of Governors meeting October 19, Chairman Reginald E. Tweeddale said that rigorous corrective actions must be taken to avoid a deficit next year that could reach \$3.9 million.

Actions taken are contingent on several factors. "We are only now beginning to look at our various activities and programs with a view to planning what will happen if certain other things happen," said Dr. Downey. "If government grants increase by only 11 per cent or 12 per cent, what should happen to tuition?" he went on, "and depending what happens to government grants and tuition fees, what reductions should be made in our operating budget?" The other major questions said Dr. Downey, is exactly what services or programs should be reduced.

The government grant, which accounts for about three-quarters of UNB's general operating revenue, is generally announced in early March. This year of course, with the announced federal cutbacks in Established Programs Financing (EPF) nobody is really sure how much the province will have to work with; therefore it is next to impossible to predict yet how much UNB will get.

In the past, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has recommended that tuition fees rise with the cost of living, about 12 per cent. Projections were made for 1982-83 assuming this hike, coupled with an 11 per cent government grant increase projected by the MPHEC and a 25 per cent increase in the cost for power, heat and water; all other things remaining at the status quo.

Based on these assumptions, Tweeddale presented several hypothetical or "what-if" propositions.

First, if one were to eliminate the projected deficit with government monies only, it would take an increase of 21 per cent in the provincial grant. That is more than twice

the average percentage increase which the university has received over the past four years.

"Had the increase in our operating grant matched the rise in the consumer price index, UNB's 1981-82 operating grant would have been \$2.2 million higher, and the present operating deficit for this year would not exist," he said.

For the current academic year, 1981-82, UNB's projected operating deficit is \$1,300,000. The figure was considerably higher before 76 staff positions were eliminated and non-salary budgets reduced, and compares with an actual deficit of \$2,132,990 for 1980-81.

Second, said Tweeddale, assuming that the grant increase is 11 per cent and that all other projections remain the same, it would take close to a 70 per cent increase in tuition fees to eliminate the projected deficit.

"That would mean that the full-time fee would rise from \$950 this year to roughly \$1,600 for 1982-83," he said.

Thirdly, if the budget were to be balanced by cutting projected total expenditure, it would mean about a 6.3 per cent cutback. This would reduce the full-time work force by about 100 positions, and take away more than \$1 million in non-salary expenses.

Lastly, if the necessary funds were to be found entirely from non-salary budgets - assuming that present staffing positions are maintained and that the costs of fringe benefits and utilities increase as now projected - a reduction of about one-third in non-salary budgets would be required to save \$3.9 million. This is probably the most unrealistic "what-if" of all, said Tweeddale, because it would mean further drastic reductions in such areas as classroom, laboratory and office supplies and equipment, and in library books, scholarships, athletic programs and building cleaning services.

"Each of these various calculations assumes that the revenue and cost situation will develop exactly as now projected, and that budget-balancing is to be achieved by dealing with only a single item," Tweeddale said.

The real world calls for decisions and action on a number of fronts and "the basic financial task of balancing the operating budget is the central challenge which the Board of

Governors, the two Campus Budget Committees and the entire university will have to

face over the next few months," said Tweeddale.

As the course of action to be taken depends on the government funding the major decision on which path to follow will have to wait. What will the government do? "We can only

hope," said President Downey.

A complete interview with Dr. Downey can be heard on CHSR-FM's seminar program tomorrow at 6 p.m.

## Security buys boots

By CAROLE VASIL  
Brunswickan Staff

Campus Security recently received delivery of a number of immobilization boots. These devices are listed in the Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Regulations under actions which can be taken against the violation of type "C" offences or subsequent violations of type "B" offences. The immobilization boot is attached to one of the wheels of a vehicle, making it impossible for the vehicle to be moved. Once a removal charge of \$10 is paid, the device is removed with a special wrench.

Says Chief Williamson, "It is my desire that we won't ever have to use it (the security boot)." However, the boot would be useful when towing isn't feasible. Besides the expense and inconvenience, towing can sometimes cause damage to the vehicle being towed.



TODD DALEY Photo

### Immobilizer boot in action

Assistant Vice-President Eric Garland said the new parking spaces created by the wrecking of the buildings along the east side of Windsor Street should be ready for use within two weeks. The spaces are

ideally situated in an area of high population density for the university, and will be used for general parking. The new spaces should accommodate 100-150 cars, said Garland.

## PC youth hold seminar

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE  
Brunswickan Staff

Federal spending cuts were discussed at a seminar last Friday afternoon in Tilley 102. Speaking at the meeting was N.B. finance minister Fernand Dubé, who said he wants Ottawa to pay half the costs of post-secondary education. Conservative MP Blaine Thacker of the Lethbridge-Foothills riding in Alberta said the goal should be to ensure money gained from the closing of tax loopholes in the federal budget comes to students. Also on the panel was UNB SRC president Kevin Ratcliffe. Saint Thomas SRC president, Stuart Beckingham, who was scheduled to speak, could not attend.

Thacker was a member of the federal task-force into post-secondary education funding which recommended that no cuts be made. He said at the meeting that out of \$1.8 billion in Federal Funds distributed for post-secondary education, New Brunswick receives 62

million. He also cited various findings of the task-force saying that, "Universities are a unique institution that really stand apart from secular government;" and that both provincial and federal governments must have a say in higher-education decisions.

One thing he pointed out in the new EPF proposals is that Federal contributions would be balanced to Ontario per capita norms, rather than the national average, and he felt this was setting a dangerous precedent. However he said, despite the net funding loss of 1.9 billion due to the elimination of the Federal revenue guarantee, it is still possible that there could be a few more dollars in 1982 than projected.

Dubé said that there are three possible ways of raising funds, raising taxes, increasing borrowing or obtaining more money from the Federal government. However, he said he was glad he was not the minister of finance for Ontario or Quebec as, "...they will hurt." Due to the new balance-

ing method Ontario will lose about 9 percent of funding. Also he said that New Brunswick has the second lowest tax burden on the public in Canada, Alberta having the lowest.

Ratcliffe, who was the next to speak said, "Canada has among the lowest tuition fees in the world," a statement that was later refuted by a member of the audience. Ratcliffe went on to say that it doesn't matter where the money comes from, "it should be there." He said if there is a rise in tuition fees, there should be an equivalent rise in loans and scholarships.

The meeting, sponsored by the New Brunswick PC Youth Federation, and the UNB-STU Progressive Conservative Student's Association had an attendance of about 20. There were however, several important people in the audience such as the MP for Carleton Place, and the national and provincial presidents of the PC party. They did not speak.