

SRC review: a year of controversy

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This year the Students' Representative Council (SRC) saw the end of John Bosnitch's unprecedented two-year reign as President, a new President, Larry Fox, the formation of new positions on the SRC executive, and controversy in almost every step the council made.

One of the first controversies surrounded Bosnitch. A University commissioned investigation of the operation of the Student Union Building (SUB) yielded the Shaw Report, which found Bosnitch's involvement in the SRC, SUB board, SUB Holdings Inc., and Campus Services Ltd., (CSL) improper. Bosnitch countered that by the SRC constitution, the President is required to serve on every committee. Due to what the administration perceived as a "state of disarray" in the SUB's operations, they first took over SUB Holdings Incorporated's contract to run the University's Liquor Service. Later they dissolved the SUB board and picked their own board of faculty and student representatives.

The CSL store was ordered to close its doors in December after administration and CSL failed to reach an agreement on what goods could be sold. Incoming Vice-president Services Ron Spurles faced the first of many crises to come.

The entire SRC executive who were voted to power in November had to overcome a legacy of ill-will and dissension. As President Larry Fox said, "Being President is not exactly what I thought it would be." Fox faced questions concerning his integrity when he remained on the administration's SUB board after his election. It was felt by his detractors that he was not putting the students' movement ahead of his desire to work with, rather than against, the administration. A joke circulated on campus: "When is a fox like a sheep? When his name is Larry."

The Student Union executive was changed from President, Vice-President, and Comptroller to President, VP Academic, VP Services, VP Administration and VP Finance (formerly comptroller).

Vice-president Academic Michael Bennett named a commission and an assistant, Oliver Koncz, and began defining his post. Recommendations were made to a University

committee concerning the campus Ombudsman issue. Bennett incorporated his VP post with his seat as a student representative on the Senate by proposing and steering through student-sponsored motions to the Senate. Student initiative resulted in amendments to the Academic Regulations guaranteeing students the right to see their examination papers after the marks have been released and of not having to write three exams in a 24-hour period.

Bennett's commission also set up a tutoring system for university and high school students. A list of tutors was compiled and referrals were made. Bennett has looked into foreign student differential fees, sexual harassment on campus and the treatment of handicapped students.

Vice-president administration Larry Long considers his most important job since taking power has been to help the various societies on campus and keeping good relations

between them and the SRC. Long has also served as Chief Returning Officer in the spring by-election. The election ran smoothly this time though Long feels the need to have an Election Act to ensure smooth elections in the future. He hopes to draft an act by the end of the summer. In the next few months he plans to examine the Student Union Regulations and By-laws and bring them up to date. As well, he is working with his assistant VP, Bill Daisley, to prepare a User's Guide for the Student Union computer and a system of signing up for time on the computer.

President Larry Fox has helped the New Brunswick Student Alliance to write a constitution that has taken five years to accomplish. He has also initiated a postcard campaign to increase summer job funding and to lower minimum savings requirement of N.B. Student Loans.

Fox faced a problem in his executive when he reclaimed

the former SRC President's office as his own, though it had been reallocated to VP's Long and Bennett by the previous executive. Many considered to be a low point of his term.

He plans to spend the summer preparing a bid on the SUB Smoke Shoppe space, computerizing SRC files, requesting the return of the rent controls, booking some top entertainment for next fall, and setting up a Summer Homes Finders operation.

The brunt of criticism of the SRC shifted from John Bosnitch before Christmas to VP Finance Doug Burgess after he took office after Christmas. Burgess faced complaints of racism from the Overseas Chinese Students Association and other foreign students' groups but he attributed it to

groups that receive SRC monies now are required to justify its expenses in advance.

Burgess has gotten assurances from the administration that 75% of Stu-

dent Union fees collected at registration will be released to the SRC on October 1 annually, with the rest due on January 10. In the past the administration released the fees in four smaller payments spread throughout the school year.

VP Services Ron Spurles came into a very difficult job as the CSL store was in its death throes. CSL ran out of money, and with its creditors calling, the company has gone to the SRC for help. There is a proposal to have the SRC lend CSL approximately \$50,000, and the administration has made an offer to lend the money.

After the CSL store stopped selling food and stationery items, they continued to operate a photo-copier service but the machines were repossessed by the bank when payments were in arrears. Spurles will be working through the summer to come up with a viable Services plan for the fall.

Residences continued

being run. Dean of Women, Joy Kidd, is generally well liked and respected in the women's system and is retiring. However, many contend that the same cannot be said of the Dean of Men, Reavly Gair. Controversy has surrounded him since his days as Don of McKenzie House. Upon hearing that he was the sole applicant last year for the position of Dean of Men, many of the residents of McKenzie House circulated a petition asking that he not be appointed Dean. Subsequently many of the residents of the house found that they were not going to be allowed back into residence the next year, allegedly for unruly behavior.

Dean Gair has had problems with several of the residences this year. When some of the

men in Aitken House went up to the UNB Woodlot and chopped down a large number of trees to use as Christmas trees, Gair made virtually the entire house go up and work in the Woodlot - even those who were not involved in the tree cutting escapade.

Bridges House has been involved in a more recent controversy. Many of the residents of the house, as part of the Chuck Cosby Day celebrations, took beer down to McConnell Hall. Dean Gair asked for a list of students involved, and Don Linda Dyer gave him a list of all those who she thought were at McConnell Hall. Dean Gair promptly fined each person on the list \$20, although many of them were not drinking and several were not even at McConnell Hall.

Bridges House held a house meeting and decided to take steps to fight the decision despite many of the residents stating the fear that doing so might result in Bridges being cleared out next year like McKenzie was this year. Eventually Bridges House was given a \$100 fine.

The Residences Representative Council, which consists of most House Presidents, even went so far as to present several possible referenda questions to the UNB Students Representative Council. One of those called on the University to publicly censure Dean Gair.

A major concern of many students in the men's residence system is that Dean Gair will be the new Dean of Residences. A search committee has finally been set up consisting of Don Eagle as Chairman, Dons Moira MacLaughlin and Barry Riome, students Kathy Huntington, Suzanne Currie, and Tim Lethbridge, History Professor Bill Ache son and Mary Ellen Tait. When asked whether the search is being so late as to assure Reavly Gair can quietly be appointed when no students are around to object, Don Eagle responded, "That's totally untrue.

Anytime that the University searches for people to apply for

various positions, it is in the best interest of anyone who applies to be chosen because they were the best in a slate of very good candidates. Therefore, it is far from our best interests to have a situation whereby we have a few candidates." However the decision will be an internal search unless no suitable candidate is found.

Both President Downey and Dean Eagle express concern over the level of student input. Dr. Downey says that since the committee has three students on it, there will still be a large input into the selection. And Eagle says that he knows there will still be some students around when there are candidates available.

However, there may not be very many residence students around. The date for collecting student input into the process has been set for April 25 - after many students are finished with their exams. The closing date for applications for the position is the following day, on April 26. Rosary Hall President Jim Arsenault is disturbed by the timing. He says that this is "not showing regard or respect for student input" and that it is "One of the reasons students become so apathetic." The search committee is to meet on May 1 to consider applications. The new Dean of Residences term will start on July 1.

Vienna conference proves successful

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Suzanne Blais-Grenier, Minister of the Environment, announced today the successful completion of a diplomatic conference in Vienna that adopted a Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Canadian Permanent Representative to the

United Nations Office at Vienna, Mr. Allan Sullivan, signed the Convention on behalf of Canada.

Chlorofluorocarbons, which are non-toxic gases with unique physical properties, are used to propel aerosol sprays, manufacture foam plastics, and operate refrigerators and air conditioners. While these gases are not harmful at the earth's surface, they diffuse in-