

NEWS

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Council Watch

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Council will be asked to approve the winners of gold, silver and merit activity awards next Tuesday. They will be presented to graduating students at the SU gala banquet scheduled for next Wednesday night at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

Davidson announced that General Administrator Barb Kirk has returned to work part-time after sick leave. Learning Disabilities Week has been scheduled for next week. Davidson has been co-ordinating the campaign with Social Issues Commissioner Kate Rogers.

V-P Finance and Administration Monique Scholten said that Council will be asked to approve the Spring honours schedule next week.

She reported that "the Cellar" repaid a \$7,500 loan acquired from the Student Union in January. Although the loan was scheduled to be repaid by the end of January, the money was only received in mid-February.

Copies of the Student Union Operating Budget for 1997-98 are now available. Scholten has been dealing with a number of clubs and societies asking about reallocations and what money is left in their budgets.

The Carribean Circle cancelled their night of celebration but a \$1,500 loan from the Student Union to the organization has not been spent, the V-P Finance told Council.

V-P External Anthony Knight reported on a meeting of the University and Community Relations Committee. A topic of conversation was taxi fares. A series of public hearings at which students will have input will be held this summer as Fredericton City Council grapples with fares and the possibility of metered cabs.

A research paper from the New Brunswick Student Alliance has been released, containing 75 recommendations on everything from tax incentives for volunteers to a call for Board of Governors meetings and minutes to be made public.

V-P University Affairs Anoushka Courage expects to have the results of a recent plebiscite on Student Union Services completed by next week.

Student Union President Joie Hellmeister was absent from this week's Student Union meeting with regrets.

Engineering Councillor Darren Thompson reported on a meeting of the Senate Admissions Committee, which is calling for a university-wide review of UNB's admissions policy for all faculties. He also expressed surprise that the Chair of the Admissions committee would not allow a motion proposed by him and fellow Student Shona Bertrand. Thompson said a subsequent check found the Chair to be in error on the matter.

Councillor Matt Hanrahan reported on concerns from Business students about some concentration courses not being offered next fall and requests for more sections of certain courses.

As a member of Senate, Hanrahan also received a letter from UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston asking for comments on the possible re-appointment of Acting Dean of Residences John Craighhead.

Council spent just over half an hour debating several amendments to election regulations as a part of second reading to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Several councillors were concerned about a proposal which would require them to resign to run for an executive seat. Council Chair Matt Tingley explained the provision would only apply if a by-election to fill executive positions becomes necessary.

Councillors took more time debating a motion which would restore yes / no balloting at election time. A By-Law proposal would have eliminated the yes / no ballot in favour of acclamations. Feeling that a yes / no ballot was more democratic despite the possible extra costs of election balloting, Council voted unanimously with one abstention to nix acclamations.

V-P Finance and Administration Monique Scholten felt the V-P Student Services might be in a conflict of interest as Chair of the Activity Awards Committee. Activity Awards are given to graduating students and as is the case this year the V-P Student Services is often graduating. Scholten said. Current V-P Student Services Trish Davidson defended the current practice reiterating that Activity Awards are awarded on a point schedule which should alleviate any concerns about a possible conflict.

V-P External Anthony Knight asked council to consider a minimum turnout of student votes for any referendum question to be valid. V-P University Affairs Anoushka Courage suggested that such a proposal would not be feasible. Student Union Council Chair Matt Tingley pointed out that at other universities a minimum turnout of 15 to 20 percent is required for any referendum where a fee increase is under consideration. In the end, Council decided not to consider the change.

In a wide ranging debate that flowed to and fro, Councillors voted to nix a limit on ten election posters in each building on campus. By a final vote of twelve to five with one abstention, Councillors adopted a motion to place no limit on the number of posters that can be distributed.

Councillor MacEwan wondered whether Council should call by-elections within say four weeks after Council vacancies arise. He noted that a by-election might have been held this month or in April after the Student Union General Election in February failed to fill nine Council seats.

Arts Councillor Sarah Mullaly said constituents are concerned about tuition next year and the lateness with which the University's Board of Governors sets tuition each year. The Board will meet the third week of April to set tuition for next year and finalize the university's 1997-98 operating budget.

continued from page 1

sufficiency would be the goal."

One of the problems she has encountered in her three years as Chair of SUBS Inc. is what she sees as a lack of leadership from the UNB Student Union.

"I'm looking for a commitment to the bar," she said. "Come out and say 'this is our bar, and we want to fund it.'"

As an example, she points to the fact that although the Cellar repaid the \$7,500 advance the SU made over the Christmas Break, no acknowledgment of this has been made by the SU.

"It's something that we're encouraged by, and if a certain member of the Board of Directors doesn't feel that encouragement, then that's their opinion," she said.

Among ways that the Union could help, in Bertrand's view, would be to "strong-arm" clubs and societies and "subsidiary organizations" such as *The Brunswickan* and CHSR into the common goal of helping the Cellar.

"The purchasing power of the Union could be used better," she observed.

"To me, it makes absolutely no sense that the Union's own paper will sell a year's worth of advertisements to competing bars, against the interests of its own bar."

Bill Traer, Advertising Manager of

The Brunswickan, argues that to do otherwise would be "stupid." Traer points out that bars are among the largest purchasers of advertisements, contributing some \$25,000 or nearly 25% of the ad revenue for *The Brunswickan*.

"Besides," he added. "The Cellar was asked if it wanted to buy the ad on the front page, and they said no." Subsequently, the College Hill Social Club and The Upper Deck Sports Bar purchased the space for the entire year on alternating weeks.

Bertrand also noted that she'd "be interested to see if students could have a bar, a paper, or a radio station, what the order of priorities would be."

She also noted that given the contribution of the SU towards the two media outlets, and student services, the contributions to the Cellar were not "out of whack."

"I think we got caught up in the 'don't worry, the bar will pay it back eventually' idea," she concluded. "The reality is that, for the next few years, the bar will need some kind of cash or money from the SU."

In its three years of operation, including this year's loan of \$12,000 and covering the \$15,000 deficit, the SU will have contributed over \$130,000 to the Cellar.

SUB Advisory Board says:

No Ballroom for Social Club



Matt Harris, Social Club Manager

PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

A proposal that would have allowed the College Hill Social Club to expand its operation into the adjacent Student Union Building Ballroom has been turned down by the SUB Advisory Board of Directors.

It is a decision that has clearly disappointed Social Club Manager Matt Harris.

Harris, a member of the CHSC Board of Directors and many of the Club's twenty-five hundred members.

Under the proposal, the Social Club would have spent between \$100,000 and \$150,000 in renovations to the Ballroom.

"We were going to put into the room a new sound system, lights, renovations to the bar, ethernet hook-ups possibly and various other things to make the place more marketable," said Matt Harris, Manager of the Social Club.

"Our sound and lights would have been flown so that they would have stayed out of the way and all we would have done structurally in the

room was improve the bar and possibly build a DJ booth on top of it," Harris told *The Brunswickan*. "We wanted to create a dance bar kind of atmosphere for students," he said.

The proposal would have seen the Social Club take over the Ballroom and make it a part of their license seven days a week.

But for the most part, the Social

concessions with the SUB Director.

"We had discussed letting the SUB Director have the right of first refusal two times a month through the academic year for banquets or for whatever he would want."

"We were fully prepared to lose a Friday night for example in September to accommodate the SUB Director's needs," Harris continued. "We also agreed with Norris from the very beginning of our initial discussions about the Ballroom proposal that we would not alter the room so that banquets and other student activities could be easily booked."

Harris had also worked out an agreement with SUB Towne owner Phil Battah allowing him to use the facility for his Ballroom Blitz clothing sale several times a year.

Overall, the proposal would have meant a large increase in rent for the Student Union Building and the university, according to Harris.

Right now, the Social Club pays rent equal to 8.75% of their sales.

"Based on our sales of nearly \$800,000 a year we currently pay over \$60,000 a year in rent," said Harris.

He estimates his sales volume might increase anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent a year with an expansion into the Ballroom.

"The university would get an extra increase in rent based on our increased sales," he said.

Harris felt the Social Club's proposal created winners all around.

"We stood to make more money, the students stood to have a new venue at their disposal and student organizations were only standing to lose Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights when they could not normally book the Ballroom for use."

"From my experience right now the SUB Ballroom is not booked all that much most nights now anyway," Harris maintained.

became obvious there would be a potential loser and that would have been the UNB Student Union.

"They viewed us as competition to the Student Union owned and operated 'Cellar' and to their bar service that they now operate for events in the Ballroom," said Harris.

A second effect would have been what they saw as competition for "The Cellar" from an expanded Social Club operation, according to Harris.

The Social Club Manager calls the whole situation with the Student Union and the Cellar "ironic".

"We sort of stepped aside way back when, some three years ago, and did not make any stink when 'The Cellar' opened downstairs, and everyone was saying to us 'Oh, no! You'll be complementary to us,'" said Harris, mentioning that the Social Club has a quiet enjoyment provision in its current lease preventing competition from other bar businesses in the Student Union Building.

Another plus to the Social Club Ballroom proposal would have a chance to increase student membership.

There would have been what he describes as a "social impact" as well.

"We would have kept more students on campus, reducing the likelihood of drinking and driving offenses," he said.

"We also feel we go the extra mile at the Social Club to prevent fights and the likelihood of people being hurt."

"We are actually quite strict about the rules," said Harris, pointing out that several people have complained of late when running up against them.

"We feel the quality of service would have been exceptional, the safety level for the student would have been superior and the student

would have been putting money back on campus in a company where the profits go back into the company," he concluded.

In the meantime, Harris said he has not heard anything back officially from

the university yet about the Ballroom proposal, despite rejection by the SUB Advisory Board.

He does know that the Social Club's lease will be renewed, but has not yet heard about the length of the renewal or whether any rent increases can be expected.

Harris did say the College Hill Social Club Board of Directors has discussed renovations to the club facility as it currently exists and hopes to start the project as soon as possible.

If the Social Club gets the SUB Ballroom

The Cellar would shut down

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

If the College Hill Social Club is successful in its bid to lease the ballroom of the SUB, The Cellar will close, according to Shona Bertrand,

a student-owned bar, I think it's pretty serious," she said.

"This is the Student Union Building and it should be used for the benefit for all students, not just for the benefit of the student members of the College Hill Social

Club," she asserts.

Bertrand believes this is spite of the fact that any expenses of the SUB in excess of its revenues are absorbed by the University, and hence students' tuition fees.

Bertrand says SUBS Inc. has made two presentations to the SUB Advisory Board on this issue, one on behalf of the Cellar, and one on behalf of bar services.

The Ballroom is an "ongoing" interest for the Cellar according to Bertrand, noting that the Ballroom

is an important venue for bar services and campus entertainment.

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"This is the Student Union Building and it should be used for the benefit for all students, not just for the benefit of the student members of the College Hill Social Club."

- Shona Bertrand, Chair of the Cellar Board of Directors

Chair of the Board of Directors of Student Union Beverage Services, the company which oversees the Cellar.

"You're only going to have one bar on campus, if you want to do that with the CHSC," she concluded in an interview with *The Brunswickan* this week.

Bertrand argues that though allowing the Social Club may mean an additional \$35,000 in revenue to the SUB, the ballroom should not be commercialized.

"If [this] comes at the expense of

Club," she asserts.

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"With the CHSC [in the ballroom], you're talking about CHSC providing bar services in the Ballroom, not

for events requiring bar services in the first term of this year, Bertrand said "it's wrong."

"It's not a chance we can afford to take," she said. "The [SUB ballroom] is a unique venue on campus."

Bertrand added that she was gratified at the leadership shown by



Shona Bertrand

PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO

Executive members of the UNB SU who brought the issue to the SU Council.

Bertrand doesn't appear too worried that the CHSC will be successful in its bid, however. "I think the University sees that there are other interests [than financial]."