



the BRUNSWICKAN

Volume 130 • Issue 6

October 18, 1996

Second Class Mail #8120

Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication • University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

Program Manager files grievance with CHSR Board

MARY ROGAL-BLACK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

CHSR's Program Manager has filed a grievance with the Board of Directors in response to the hiring of the new Station Manager.

The grievance, submitted by Tristis Bhaird in the first week of September, states that in "passing over a qualified woman as the new Station Manager," the Board violated the station's Employment Equity Policy.

According to the policy, women, aboriginal people, people with disabilities and visible minorities are to be given preference when more than one candidate meets the specific qualifications for a position.

"The Board has chosen not to hire me for the position," Bhaird's statement reads. "In choosing to accept the Hiring Committee's recommendation the Board has had to set aside the Employment Equity Policy."

In the grievance, Bhaird further states that the reasons for the decision of the hiring committee to select Tony Sekulich for the position of Station Manager were never made clear to her, and that her efforts to understand the situation drew an "angry" response from a member of the hiring committee.

"I request that the Board of Directors reconsider their decision in the light of the Employment Equity Policy, and take a balanced and objective look at my

qualifications as they compare to Mr. Sekulich's," Bhaird writes.

Committee Chair Colleen Comeau defends the decision. "Sekulich was the all-around number one choice," said Comeau. "Except for one person who had him second."

Comeau said the committee's decision was based, in part, on the desire to improve the atmosphere at the station. "We felt first and foremost he would improve morale and take it in a positive direction."

UNB SU President Joie Hellmeister was also on the hiring committee and stands by the decision. "Tony gave an awesome interview," she said.

"He had some experience in campus radio and he also had a lot of great ideas that he was going to implement and a positive attitude that he was going to bring to it," said Hellmeister.

Bhaird's qualifications were not lacking, according to Hellmeister. "There were a lot of qualified people. Everybody who came to interview had experience in campus radio. She is qualified."

The SU President said she does not disagree with the Employment Equity policy on which Bhaird's grievance is based. Hellmeister, who listened to tape recordings of the interviews, admits that she wasn't able to attend meetings in which the hiring committee discussed the candidates. However, she said she doesn't think the committee took gender, race or sexual orientation into consideration when making

their choice.

"I don't think that a white male should be hired over a white female. I think that there should be employment equity," said Hellmeister. "I don't believe that when we were doing the hiring we were looking at 'this is a person of color' or 'this is a woman' or 'this is a straight or a gay individual.' We were looking for someone who would do a really good job."

"We saw an individual come in who had a positive outlook and a good attitude and he seemed to be prepared," she said.

The complaint is one more of a series of issues that have arisen at the campus radio station in recent months. Indeed, Sekulich's hiring came after the dismissal of Jeff Whipple, who had been Station Manager at CHSR for eight years. Following the dismissal, CHSR paid a \$12,000 settlement to Whipple. According to the terms of the settlement, the employer admits no wrong doing and the employee agrees to pursue the matter no further.

Monique Scholten, UNB SU VP Finance, said in council on Tuesday that the total bill for the settlement and associated legal fees came to \$19,000. These expenses will come out of CHSR's operating budget, and Scholten agreed that this forced the station to tighten its belt in a revised budget.

"They had to cut out a lot of things that weren't absolutely



TRISTIS BHAIRD, PROGRAM MANAGER AT CHSR-FM.

PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO

necessary," she said.

In addition to financial concerns, some members are worried about the atmosphere at the station following the tension of the summer months.

"It's been really stressful and antagonistic," said M.K. Whitney, a station member and newly-appointed Board Member. "Both sides are waiting for someone to do wrong."

Whitney agreed that both sides

have legitimate concerns, but said that while she wanted to welcome the new Station Manager with an open mind, she is troubled by what she's seen so far.

"He's basically fallen into the same problems with a clique operation," said Whitney.

"With everything that's happened, the membership is very wary," she added. "I think he needs to be neutral right now."

Sekulich, however, doesn't believe

this is a fair assessment of the situation. "If you went to the membership and asked them for names of the people responsible for the things that happened, everyone would give you different names."

As well, when asked about concerns among some station members that he knew people on the hiring committee, Sekulich said they don't know the whole story.

Continued on Page 3

Forestry gets big bucks

KATE ROGERS

THE BRUNSWICKAN

A \$1 million grant to UNB's Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management is just the latest in a series of successes for the department.

The grant, from Avenir Inc. and Noranda Forest Inc., will fund the establishment of the Avenir-Noranda Forest Centre for Watershed Conservation and Management.

"The primary purpose of the Centre is to partner with the forest industry and other institutions such as the Universite de Moncton and the University of Maine to implement adaptive environmental assessment and management at the watershed level," said Ian Methven, Dean of Forestry.

"We expect that the research undertaken by the Centre will enhance the international competition and reputation of the forest industry and its stewardship of forested land," said Methven, who believes that the main focus for the faculty is global networking.

One of the spinoffs of new studies such as the Watershed project is the potential for jobs associated with research and development, but employment of its graduates has not been a problem for the faculty of Forestry up until now. The faculty monitors the progress of its graduates after their departure from UNB, and the department has boasted a 100% employment rate among graduating students for the past three years.

Dave Daugherty, Assistant Dean of Forestry, asserts that the continued success of students is the department's main goal. "If our students don't succeed, then we don't succeed."

Daugherty credits the faculty's excellent employment record to the efforts of students themselves. Forestry students manage a national job bank. "We gave them an office and we gave them space, but it is the students who monitor their own job bank," he enthused.

As well, Forestry entrance numbers have doubled since 1991. It's not surprising that the Globe and Mail recently ranked the UNB Forestry program number one in Canada and among the top three overall programs in the country.

Despite an 8.8 percent increase in tuition this fall, full-time undergraduate enrollment on the UNB Fredericton campus continues to increase.

Figures supplied by UNB Registrar Deanne Dennison show that full-time undergraduate enrollment as of October 10 stood at 7,088, up 159 over this time last year.

Enrollment on the UNB Saint John campus decreased by 32 students to stand at 1,804.

On the Fredericton campus more than half of the 159 increase in enrollment can be attributed to new students. First year enrollment is up 94 students this fall to stand at 1,539.

The numbers just about match what UNB Administration officials had projected, according to Registrar Dennison.

"We had projected that enrollment would be up marginally in Fredericton and down marginally in Saint John," Dennison said.

"I still think this is basically where we are going to be when we officially report our enrollment numbers on December 1," she said.

Part-time undergraduate enrollment is down marginally at both Fredericton and Saint John this fall. To date, some 1,243 students have

registered for fall classes on the Fredericton campus; down 86 from a year ago. Enrollment numbers for part-time students show a decrease of 66 on the Saint John campus.

"I am not alarmed by these decreases," said Dennison, referring to the fact that part-time enrollment tends to fluctuate somewhat.

In the meantime, Graduate student enrollment on the Fredericton campus has remained stable this year compared with last. Graduate enrollment is up five students to stand at 673, as of October 10.

UNB's Registrar also reports stable enrollment in all faculties, with Arts reporting a slight increase.

Enrollment numbers in the Education faculty are also quite healthy, according to Dennison.

"Overall, we are quite happy with the outcome," she emphasized.

One area for analysis, however, will be a decrease in new student enrollment at UNB Saint John. Numbers show enrollment is down 23 students to stand at 647.

"We would not be happy with that," said Dennison.

"We will be doing a lot of analysis in these numbers to see where we went down."

"We do check to see that we are maintaining what we would expect to have from New

Brunswick and the Atlantic region," Dennison emphasized.

Overall, Dennison attributes the healthy enrollment picture at UNB this fall to several factors.

She points to the fact that University officials have been promoting UNB as a good place to study.

"We emphasize the fact that our programs are of a very high quality," she said.

"There is a lot of concern at UNB for the students, and we try to encourage that and hopefully have different programs and activities in place that make a true statement when the student actually arrives," Dennison said. UNB has been doing a lot of work on retention activities and she also points to the use of new promotional material in recent years.

"We changed a lot of the materials we use, introduced a CD-ROM, so I think it is a result of a lot of hard work," said Dennison.

Meanwhile, full-time undergraduate enrollment at Saint Thomas University is also up this fall.

Saint Thomas has 1,936 full-time students registered as of October 1, up 23 from this time a year ago, according to STU Registrar Larry Batt. First year enrollment is up by 13.5% to 681 students from 600 last year. Part-time enrollment has

decreased slightly. There were 326 part-time undergraduates registered as of October 1, compared with 354 a year ago.

Saint Thomas has a 70/30 female to male ratio among undergraduates, according to Batt.

STU also has several extension programs off-campus. There are 82 full and part-time students taking courses on the Miramichi and 34 Native students studying full time in first year courses at Saint Mary's and Burnt Church.

Seventy-six percent of STU's enrollment comes from New Brunswick while 20% comes from PEI, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Overall, full time undergraduate enrollment at Maritime Universities remains virtually unchanged from last year, according to Anne Marie MacKinnon of the Atlantic Association of Universities. There were 48,345 full-time undergraduates in the Maritimes as of October 1, down 61 from a last year.

Turning to graduate enrollment, 3,704 were registered as of October 1, representing a 4.1% increase compared to a year ago.

Total overall full-time enrollment in Maritime Universities (graduate and undergraduate) stands at 52,049, a 0.2% increase over a year ago.



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

SUB Expansion downsized - News, page 3
Long Kiss Goodnight - Entertainment, page 6
Field Hockey: lossless - Sports, page 8
Hockey: UNB declaws Panthers - Sports, page 9
Eat Healthy - Campus, page 13



Sports, Page 9

News	1
Editorial	4
Entertainment	6
Sports	8
Viewpoint	11
Distractions	12
Campus	13

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN THE

BALLROOM

For members and guests only

Tonight

Halloween
Thursday Oct 31

\$500 in prizes

