

NEWS

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SUB Expansion prospects shrinking

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

While discussions are still preliminary, it looks like any expansion of the Student Union Building on the UNB Fredericton campus will be much smaller in scope than originally forecast.

UNB Student Union officials originally floated a \$9.8 million dollar SUB expansion proposal in June of 1993, just months after students narrowly approved a referendum calling for a \$25 annual levy for the project.

A conceptual plan drawn up by the Student Union over a year ago reduced the original proposal by over fifty percent to just \$4.3 million dollars.

Now it is beginning to look like modern day realities may not even allow this plan to proceed.

UNB's Associate Vice-President (Campus Services and Planning) Mike Ryan now believes Fredericton students alone could probably support about a \$2.5 million dollar project.

If Saint Thomas students decided to join the project with a \$25 yearly fee then the scope of the project increases by three-quarters of a million dollars to about \$3.25 million, according to Ryan.

Included in the financing is a \$250,000 donation from undesignated funds contributed to UNB's Venture Capital campaign.

Just what takes place on SUB Expansion is still to be decided and is the subject of preliminary discussions now underway.

A SUB Expansion Advisory Committee has rounded up the major campus players for what will hopefully be a series of meetings over the next several months.

Representatives from the UNB Administration, UNB Student Union, Saint Thomas Student Union, UNB Graduate Students Association, and CAMPUS (UNB's



Wow, the SUB sure looks a lot bigger from this angle.

PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO

mature and part-time students association) met in September and plan a second meeting this coming Monday, October 21.

One of the most important factors is whether Saint Thomas students are in or out of the project,

commitment to the project at this point.

"They want to get as much factual information as they can so when they go to the students at Saint Thomas in a referendum, that all the questions that the students would

"It is either one or the other or some kind of down scaling of both," he said.

UNB Student Union officials have told the committee that the referendum question passed in 1993 specifically mentions

expansion of the building.

"I think the [UNB] Student Union intends on following through on the question that was asked and trying to avoid as much as possible renovations to the

current building," said Anthony Knight, Vice-President (External) of the UNB Student Union, and a member of the SUB Expansion Advisory Committee.

Mike Ryan said the message from UNB SU officials has come across very clearly.

"I would interpret from that, that if only a part of the \$4.3 million dollar plan can proceed then I think the student mandate would be to pursue the expansion," he said.

have answered," Ryan said.

Another matter to be discussed, is the scope of the project. The UNB Student Union's \$4.3 million dollar conceptual plan called for a 30,000 square foot expansion of the existing building at a cost of some \$2.3 million. A further \$1.3 million would be spent on renovating the current building.

Ryan told *The Brunswickan* that current fundraising capacity suggests that either an expansion or a renovation is possible but not both.

universities like Western (London, Ontario) where their football program is run solely from alumni donations.

Lydon said he has spoken with both UNBSU President Joie Hellmeister and SUVP External Anthony Knight about a similar football proposal at UNB.

"There is a financial risk, but you have too look at the potential. The way to feel secure at UNB about a potential football program will be with Alumni involvement," he said.

"If you have a lot of Alumni that you have not seen in years who are doing this and that and are reasonably successful folks that are interested in Varsity Reds football, interested in seeing it come back, then I think you have got a strong leg to stand on," Lydon said.

"If the students are behind it, that is both your legs, you're standing, you're running, and scoring touchdowns."

Lydon pointed to several big

but so far have not given final approval.

"Dalhousie's President Tom Traves has already been quoted as saying that football could go ahead provided we can prove to him that it can be cost recoverable and will not affect the other teams," Lydon told *The Brunswickan*.

Lydon said the decision to attempt to revive football at Dalhousie was taken for several reasons.

"Both the SU and Alumni involved saw it as an opportunity to benefit school spirit, which is lacking at Dal."

"We saw it as a chance to involve students, the community and the Alumni together in one common event," Lydon commented.

"There are many beneficial spin-offs, economic primarily, for the University in that it will bring in a lot of Alumni dollars."

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"Our students will be contributing roughly ninety-six percent of the total budget as a result of the \$10 student levy," said Lydon.

Dalhousie currently has nearly 11,000 full and part-time undergraduates. Some 2,000 more undergraduates will join the Dalhousie ranks next year when the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) amalgamates with Dalhousie.

Lydon also points out that the wording in Dalhousie's referendum question specifies that football must run separately from any other ancillary department.

"We wanted to be sure that no varsity or sport club could be adversely affected by Dal football's inclusion in the Sports program," he said.

The Dalhousie University administration have been supportive of the football proposal

increasing student listenership.

"The general consensus is that students aren't enjoying paying for something they're not listening to," said Hellmeister.

The UNB SU contributes just over \$72,000 per year to CHSR's operating budget. The Station Manager earns a salary of about \$23,400 per year. On the basis of their financial commitment, Hellmeister defends the high level of involvement the UNB and STU SUs had in the hiring process.

"The SUs need input into the hiring," said Hellmeister. "It's true that the SUs aren't up there for the day-to-day operations."

Joe FitzPatrick, Chair of the CHSR Executive, Treasurer of the Board of Directors and Managing Editor of *The Brunswickan*, said that the makeup of the hiring committee was one of his main concerns

when it came time for the Board to vote whether or not to accept the hiring committee's choice.

"The hiring committee was composed of non-board members, few of whom have experience in radio," said FitzPatrick. Three out of six voting members of the hiring committee were UNB and STU SU representatives.

FitzPatrick was also concerned that the hiring committee had a difficult time fixing meeting times when everyone could be present. "I didn't have confidence in the hiring committee," said FitzPatrick. "It's not necessarily through any fault of their own, but I couldn't trust their recommendation."

FitzPatrick abstained from the vote to accept the hiring committee's recommendation. Bhaird originally submitted her

grievance to FitzPatrick over a month ago and has been concerned about the length of time it's taken to have a hearing on the matter. Bhaird, who has been involved with CHSR since 1991, is currently on sick leave from the station. However, the hearing is set to take place this week or early next week, according to FitzPatrick.

The delay in hearing Bhaird's grievance is apparently the result of a discrepancy between two policies. CHSR's Policy Manual states that grievances will be heard within ten days by a two-member sub-committee of the Board, which will then report to the full Board within ten days after that hearing. However, the Board's own bylaws state that hearings are to take place "in due haste" at a regular meeting of the Board.

Council Watch

KATE ROGERS

THE BRUNSWICKAN

VP (Student Services) Tricia Davidson told Council that next week is National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. Sponsored by SMART-PACC, booths will be located in the SUB from 11:30 to 1:30, Monday through Thursday. Booths will promote Alcoholics Anonymous, SMART-PACC, and Teens Against Drunk Driving. Events throughout the week are also intended Monday night will be a Battle of the Bands, followed by Casino night in the Blue Lounge Tuesday night. Among the prizes to be won are television sets and VCRs. Wednesday night will be Bachelor/Bachelorette night at the Cellar. VP (External) Anthony Knight will be among those on the block. Thursday night will be Designated Drivers' Night. Those who present themselves as such will receive prizes in the SUB parking lot at 9:30. The week will conclude with Friday's Jail and Bail at which an individual of your choosing can be jailed for five minutes.

Davidson also clarified the situation with HIP DIAL. The information line, which had not been updated since February, was cancelled by the SU Executive last May due to low usership. Davidson pointed to the General Administrator, Barb Kirk, as the person responsible for carrying out that directive. While Davidson maintains that students will not have to pay for the six months of charges since the service was canned by the SU Executive, *The Brunswickan* has learned that it does appear on the September bill from NBTEL.

As to why the usage was so low, Davidson found some fault with Clubs and Societies for not submitting information to be put on the service.

Davidson concluded her report with the announcement that she will forfeit funds set aside for her to participate in a conference. The conference for the VP had a maximum budget of \$2,500. Davidson saw no justification for the expense, as she is graduating this year and will be unable to implement any ideas raised at the conference. Davidson felt it would be in the best interest of students if that money was put to better use elsewhere.

VP (External) Anthony Knight reported on an upcoming meeting with provincial Labour and Advanced Education minister, Roly McIntyre. The meeting will address the future of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). McIntyre feels the 23-year-old commission lacks direction, and has requested the input of university representatives. On Knight's agenda for the meeting are the topics of accessibility for those in lower income brackets and the issues of excessive debt loads. Knight also plans to address the issue of Rationalization. "Why would you have an arts program up the hill and the same program here... funded by the same government?" He asked. Knight agreed that while both facilities provide different perspectives on a liberal arts degree, feasibility must be addressed.

Knight also delivered what has become a weekly report on the CASA situation. In reference to the allegations laid against Pat FitzPatrick, Fredericton Crown Prosecutor, according to Knight has said the "issue is to be dealt with in good time."

On the topic of SUB expansion, Knight announced that direction must be taken soon. Knight reminded council that students have paid \$25 in each of the last three years for a total of \$75 each towards the eventual expansion of the SUB. The committee on SUB expansion must now decide whether to move forward with STU's participation or without.

VP (Finance & Administration) Monique Scholten presented a letter from CASA National Director Matt Hough. The letter stated that a refund for UNB's over-payment of membership fees is on its way. In other business, Scholten announced that \$3000 was paid for this month's AIDS Awareness campaign. She also noted that the \$3000 promised to the Day Care in 1995-96 has been paid, and the amount will come out of that budget year. Funds for 1996-97 promised to the Day Care, some \$2380, have yet to be dispensed.

Council tabled a proposal submitted by VP University Affairs Anoushka Courage that \$1,500 be allocated from Campus Entertainment for the organization of winter carnival. There was some dispute as to the necessity of a separate line item for this event, which hasn't been held for several years.

Scholten motioned that *The Brunswickan* receive a \$1,100 increasing in honoraria. Following two meetings with Editor-in-chief, Mary Rogal-Black, Scholten and the honouraria committee recommended the increase. VP External Knight raised the issue of the precedent it would set, given the general dissatisfaction and recognized inequity inherent in the SU's honouraria schedule. Rogal-Black said she was very concerned that the honouraria levels don't reflect the work necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of putting out the paper. The motion passed 10-2-0. With the elimination of two positions, the increased honouraria will provide raises to Photo, News, Entertainment, and Sports Editors, and fund four new positions: On-line, Book, Science, and Campus Editors.

In other business, Law representative Cathy Clark pointed out the fact that agendas for the past six meetings were identical, and therefore were of little use to Councillors. Chair Bob Prince weighed in to reiterate his disappointment with the paltry agendas. There was some debate among the VPs as to whether it was possible to get items far enough in advance to have them on the agenda. To which Prince responded, "if you don't have everything, don't worry, but if you do, write it down."

UNB SU's scant agenda contrasts sharply with the agendas of the Saint Thomas Student Union, which itemize which topics will be addressed by each executive. STU Council Chairs do not permit Executives to talk about items they have not placed on the agenda.

In closing, Prince urged councillors to encourage constituents to attend meetings, and see how their finances are spent. "It's a sad state of affairs that we have two spectators [both from *The Brunswickan*]."

Football at UNB a possibility, at Dalhousie a reality

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

While UNB students decide whether to approve a \$10 yearly football fee in a referendum slated for November 5 and 6, students at another Maritime University have already given a similar proposal the go-ahead.

Students at Dalhousie University approved a \$10 student levy for football last year and efforts are well underway in hopes of reviving the program, according to Chris Lydon, Vice-President Academic/External of the Dalhousie Student Union.

The proposal was put together by the Dalhousie Student Union and a few very pro-football and powerful alumni," said Lydon in an interview with *The Brunswickan*.

The proposal calls for an annual football budget of \$130,000 to \$140,000 at Dalhousie, similar to figures being mentioned at UNB.

Program Manager files grievance with CHSR Board

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"The only person I knew was Colleen Comeau," he said. "Colleen brought that up in the hiring committee. It turned out that more people on the committee knew other candidates, and if you'd started eliminating people who knew applicants, there'd be zero."

The hiring committee, chosen in accordance with CHSR's bylaws, consisted of station representatives Santo DiPietro and Roy Nichols; Spoken Word and Production Coordinator Terry Thompson; Hellmeister; UNB SU VP Finance Monique Scholten; and STU SU President Carrie Ricker. Comeau, STU Administration Representative to the CHSR Board of Directors, acted as non-voting Chair of the committee.

One of Hellmeister's priorities was to choose a Station Manager who would work towards

increasing student listenership. "The general consensus is that students aren't enjoying paying for something they're not listening to," said Hellmeister.

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"The situation is aggravated by the fact that the policy states that it is incumbent upon the director receiving the grievance to find members of the sub-committee," said FitzPatrick. "While the bylaws state that, upon receiving a grievance, the director is to inform the Chair of the Board, who would call a meeting in due haste."

Because he was following the policy set out in the station's Policy Manual, FitzPatrick did not inform the Board until September 17. Further, there was no Chair of the Board until the following week. Ironically, Sekulich has also experienced difficulties resulting from the two-tiered administration at CHSR.

"It's not your typical nine-to-five job where you report to one manager or one board," said

Sekulich. "It's not common to have an elected organization, the Executive, intertwined. I almost have to answer to two boards that often don't see eye to eye."

However, Sekulich maintains that his working relationship with Bhaird has not been overly tense. "It could have been, but Trists and I had a long conversation one of the first days I was here," said Sekulich. "We talked very frankly about the station, the future of it. Since then, we've had a very positive relationship."

His relationship with the membership might prove even more critical. Sekulich is well aware of the situation he came into. "I recognise that there are some members who didn't want to see me hired and don't want to see me now, but I can't change that. I just have to do the best job I can."