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President calls for Residence review



UNB's Residence system is coming under external review for the second time in two years.

JUD DeLONG PHOTO

GORDON LOANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston has ordered an external review of the residence system.

The review will be conducted by three external members with an appropriate background in university residences. Vice President Academic Louis Visentin and Vice President Finance and Administration James O'Sullivan will select the reviewers.

The review should begin shortly and be concluded by late Summer or early Fall.

The review will examine all components of Residence Administration including Housing and Food Services, the Dean of Residence office and the relationship with the Dean of Students and provide an assessment of the effectiveness of residences to students and other stakeholders.

It will assess the relevance of the residence system in meeting the needs of students. An analysis will be done on the roles and working/reporting relationships between the Dean of Residence and the Residence Life Manager positions.

In connection with the above, the

review committee has been asked to examine and provide observations and recommendations on any matters that may affect the present and future well being of the residence system.

The review panel will also identify and provide recommendations on staffing levels, space, facilities and other resources required to implement the suggested changes.

The final term of reference set by the President asks the external review committee to evaluate the feasibility of the private development and management of residence apartments within or external to the university.

Some of the questions that will be asked in the course of the review include: Why are residences being operated in this way? Is the current way the best one? Is it necessary for the university residence system to do it at all? Does what is being done match up with any specified standard and performance? And what is not being done?

In identifying areas for improvement Residence Administration staff will be asked: What direction is the residence system moving in? Are we providing the best residence system we can? Are we making the best use of the talents

and resources available? Are we really being responsive to change? And what are the limitations on the improvements we wish to make?

The external review is actually the second one to be conducted in the residence system in as many years.

Last Spring, an external review team looked at the residence system as part of an examination of Student Services at UNB.

But that external review committee's recommendations on aspects of the residence system were found wanting by UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston.

In a memo to Dean of Students Tom Austin dated January 20, 1997 the President noted the external review had very little to say about UNB's Residential System and the management/oversight of UNB residences.

"Linkages between our residential services and our academic programs through, in part, the Board of Dons and Resident Fellows were not actively evaluated," said Parr-Johnston in her memo to Austin, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Brunswickan*.

"We feel that this is a critical area wherein various parties are not always in agreement as to the optimal structure

and mode of operation," the UNB President wrote.

The External Review of Student Services last Spring did make certain recommendations with respect to the residence system, none of which have been accepted yet by the President.

The reviewers recommended that the Dean of Students, the Dean of Residence and the VP Academic explore ways to increase the number of academics as Dons and Fellows in residences.

The review team noted that only a small minority of the current Dons in the residence system are academics.

The reviewers also came down squarely on the side of those who argue that the Dean of Residence position should be filled by a trained professional in student affairs and be experienced in residential living and management.

The review team noted that there is tension between this school of thought and one which claims that the Dean of Residence should be a UNB tenured faculty member.

As far as Housing and Food Services is concerned, the Review Committee noted that the Housing Director is responsible for the Maggie House Apartments but not for the residences,

while the Dean of Residences is responsible for residences but not food services or maintenance.

"In our view, some one person has to be in charge of the total residence operation," the three person external review committee wrote.

As a result, the reviewers recommended that a Dean of Residence, Food and Conference Services position be created with an Assistant Dean of Residence Life and an Assistant Dean Housing, Food and Conference Services.

"It is assumed that the above three positions would be full-time," the reviewers stated.

The reviewers suggested the structural change was needed to create what they call "a clear, unambiguous and integrated reporting structure." This structural issue is critical to resolve promptly as there is also a need to turn attention to the clarification of housing policy, discipline and appeals processes, relationships between various boards, interest groups and student governments in residence," the reviewers stated.

"There is a need to review all of the above in relationship to conformity to UNB's goals for residence life within the larger institutional mission," the review committee said.

Student tuition protest planned

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Students on the UNB Fredericton campus plan to hold a rally to protest a proposed per course tuition system that could see fees in some faculties increase by nearly \$1,000 next September.

The rally will be held near the Old Arts Building where all of UNB's top administrators have offices. No firm date or time has yet been announced but a time frame within the next two weeks has been established.

The decision comes after UNB Student Council endorsed the idea of a protest rally at its regular meeting this week.

One of the chief organizers of the protest is Student Union V-P External Anthony Knight. He hopes to work with any other student group on campus that is interested in getting involved.

"We have to let the public know about the new tuition fee structure and the fact that it is not going to benefit the system, the students or society as a whole by limiting our post-secondary education as a result of the significant increase in cost for all programs at UNB," Knight said following Tuesday's Council meeting.

"I've never been a big fan of protest rallies but I think this is certainly the time and the place for something like this," said Knight, a Business student.

"The university needs to know they are affecting the individual lives of students and potential students," he said. "I think a protest is the best way to do it instead of harping at the Administration with a paper in one hand."

Knight hopes to get all 7100 students on campus out to the rally.

"I think this tuition fee policy will affect the lives of every student on this campus and I would expect every student on this campus to attend."

Knight does not think university officials can ignore the protest if enough students turn out.

"If they don't step back and take a look at what they are doing I would lose complete confidence in the Administration of this university," Knight concluded.

Graduate Students Association upset with tuition proposal

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Graduate Students Association wants to disrupt the implementation of the UNB Tuition Task Force discussion paper until its concerns are addressed.

"We're going to grind the process to a halt until we get our questions answered," promised Michael Lamoureux, President of the GSA, which represents UNB's 1,266 full and part-time graduate students.

At the very heart of their concerns is the nature of the discussion paper itself.

"Very little of the document adheres to the assigned focus," alleges the GSA's written response to the Task Force.

"They tried to gather all the information to support one side. There is nothing presented against raising fees," notes Franck Giraudeau, VP Administration of the GSA. "The discussion is one way."

Lamoureux commented that it is probably not a coincidence that a

committee composed of administrators presented a one-sided argument.

"I think they were pressed for time," he said. "I suspect they want to approve this at the April meeting [of the Board of Governors]. That's the only reason I can see for steamrolling through so fast."

In addition, Lamoureux disputes whether the committee should even be addressing the issue of Graduate Student fees.

"I don't think this commission should consider raising student fees at all," said Lamoureux. "I don't think they understand the way the graduate program works well enough to tackle it."

"If they want to review grad student fees," he continued, "I'd like to see a committee appointed by the School of Graduate Studies itself, [a committee] which would have a very good understanding of how the graduate school works. Our graduate school is one of the most diverse in the country, each department is different, and you need

that understanding [in order to set fees]."

Lamoureux is particularly wary of the report because it notes "in our review of tuition policies at other universities, the Task Force noted that tuition fees for graduate studies were set at a higher rate than those for undergraduate education. Currently at UNB, fees at the graduate level are approximately equal to undergraduate fees."

"That's a potential for a \$1,000 increase in fees," points out Giraudeau. But they are quick to point out that there is no discussion of how this money will benefit the Grad School.

"If they want to increase fees so much, so fast, why?" Lamoureux asked, claiming that tuition fees for graduate students have already increased by 100% over the past six years. According to the UNB Budget for 1996-97, the funding for Graduate Research Assistantships has increased by 17% during the past decade.

Also according to the UNB Budget for 1996-97, "in the Faculties of Arts, Administration, Education and

Kinesiology, [Graduate Research Assistantships] provide virtually all of the financial support for graduate students. It is also a significant source of support (perhaps 20 per cent of the total) for graduate studies in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Forestry and Environmental Management, and Computer Science."

Given this dependence, Lamoureux asked what UNB will do for those students who may not be able to return with higher tuition fees.

"We don't think the funding is there to support our graduate students at UNB," he said.

What's worse, Lamoureux claims that UNB has some of the lowest levels for Graduate Assistantships in Canada.

"There are Canadian universities where a Masters student gets \$18,000 in funding and a Ph.D. gets \$24,000, my Ph.D. [Computer Science] is giving me \$15,000," he said.

The UNB Budget for 1996-97 points out that the funding level for graduate

students at UNB is "currently marginally competitive in most disciplines and clearly not competitive in some."

"We may see, in the future, a concentration of programs," fears Giraudeau. "There are also rumours that UNB wants to shut down the Grad School itself."

Without the Grad School, the administrative burden of graduate students would fall onto departments.

"Our departments are already complaining about the additional work they have had to do this year," said Lamoureux.

These problems with student fees have a root cause: under representation of graduate students. There are currently no Graduate Students on the Board of Governors. Although the seats are open to full and part-time graduates and undergraduates, the number of undergraduates eligible to run at 8,400 dwarfs the number of graduate students, currently at 1,266.

"I learned about the increase of fees

last year in *The Brunswickan*," said Giraudeau. Lamoureux was not aware of the new fees until he paid his tuition in September.

And it's not just Graduate Students who feel left out. There is also no provision for representation from the Graduate School. They do not sit on the Board of Governors, either.

As a result, Lamoureux claims the Grad School is "left out of almost everything."

"We're willing to work with the process, if they're willing to include us," said Lamoureux. "We've given the Task Force a preliminary response and a letter indicating we would follow-up with a more thorough document."

To that end, the GSA has requested two meetings with the Task Force. One meeting would be with the UNBSU, the UNBSJ SRC, the part-time students (CAMPUS). The other would be an open meeting at which any UNB student could express their concerns about the paper. At press time, the Task Force had not responded.



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2 For 1 Happy Hours
FRIDAY'S 4-8pm Drinks
SUNDAY'S 10pm - 2am Drinks
MONDAY'S 10pm - 2am Beer

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\$1.50 Drinks til 2am
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