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Retired profs to be replaced over next 4 years

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB's Vice-President Academic Louis Visentin has announced a new plan aimed at the gradual replacement of full-time professors who opted for an early retirement incentive package in 1994 and 1995.

Over the next four years forty-two professors will be hired on the Fredericton campus - twelve by July this year and ten in each of the following three years.

The specifics of the plan will be announced over the next few weeks. Deans in each faculty have already been informed of the plan. Department heads and faculty should be advised shortly.

Visentin does say that the faculties of Arts, Computer Science and Kinesiology will have priority in the first round of twelve new hirings.

The target numbers outlined by Visentin could decrease or increase over the next four years depending on the budget situation UNB finds itself in, according to Visentin.

Fifty-six professors took early retirement in 1994 and 1995.

"All together the plan involves replacing at least sixty to seventy percent of the faculty who retired early," said Visentin, in an interview with *The Brunswickan* late last week.

Visentin will use a number of criteria to establish priorities for new hirings over the next four years, one of which will be student demand for programs. It is also clear that many professors because of student demand are over-worked because of student demand, according to Visentin.

The plan will also see a reduction in the number of term appointments and other full-time equivalent stipends paid out by the university.

"Over the medium term the intention is to employ fewer part-timers and put some of the money now being used to employ sessionals back into hiring full-time faculty," said Visentin.

In the 1996-97 Academic year there are 27 individuals teaching under term appointments on the Fredericton campus. In addition, full-time equivalent stipends are estimated at 69 this academic year. In comparison, in 1993-94, there were just 11 individuals teaching under term appointments on the Fredericton campus and just over

seventeen full-time equivalent stipends. Over the same four years from the 1993-94 fiscal year to 1996-97, the number of tenured full-time professors on the Fredericton campus decreased from 502 to 461.

There has been no immediate reaction to the new hiring plan. Professor Peter Kepros, President of the Faculty Association (AUNBT) has seen the plan in writing and told *The Brunswickan* he will be prepared to comment on it soon.

Cutbacks may mean combining departments

ELISE CRAFT AND PAT FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Vice President Academic Lou Visentin says that in the face of yet another year of reduced funding, Deans have been asked to consider which if any of their departments are candidates for this consolidation.

Cutbacks in government funding are one factor forcing University administration to examine the potential amalgamation of departments as a method of stretching a tight budget.

Ideally, this will not affect the ability of each faculty. Instead, Visentin sees amalgamation as a way to reduce administrative support, freeing money for the hiring of teaching staff.

A saving on administrative costs of thirty or forty thousand dollars is money to hire one more professor, says Visentin.

Dean of Arts Peter Kent agrees. "Amalgamation is something that we should look at," he says, explaining that sensible amalgamation may present a means of strengthening course offerings while achieving cost reductions which can be turned into additional faculty positions.

At a recent meeting of the Arts Faculty Council, amalgamation was discussed, with a recommendation that the faculty's planning committee examine the issue as it affects the departments of German and Russian and Spanish and Latin American Culture.

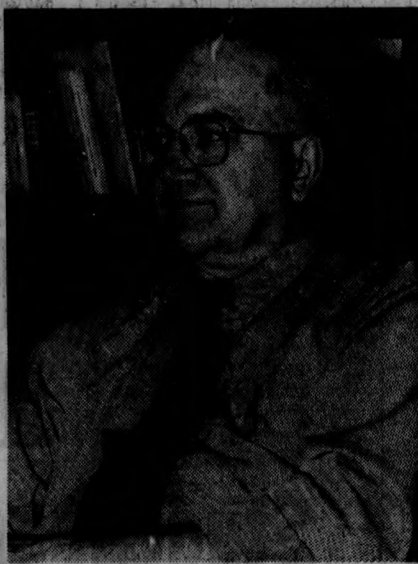
Meanwhile, Visentin told *The Brunswickan* that he is encouraging all academic departments to look at their curriculum-what they offer and when they offer it.

"We offer a lot of courses but the question is are they the right courses in 1997 going into the millennium?" said Visentin. "We want to look at what we do and how we do it."

Visentin expects there will be some rationalization of courses in an attempt to avoid duplication.

with a recommendation that the faculty's planning committee examine the issue as it affects the departments of German and Russian and Spanish and Latin American Culture.

According to Kent, the impetus for the study is twofold.



PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO
Dean of Arts Peter Kent: "Amalgamation is something we should look at."

"Firstly, it makes sense to look at amalgamation of departments in general as it affects the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts. In particular, it meshes with the request that each department prepare a five year plan."

Kent continued, citing as the second

"We will try to look at all the duplications in courses and then try to reduce those duplications so that the staff that we do have will be able to deliver what the students need in a fashion that is first rate," he said.

Visentin is not dismissing the possibility that certain academic departments may be consolidated in the future.

"I have asked all the Deans to look at the possibility of consolidating what they do," Visentin said.

reason a recent external review which recommended the strengthening of the Faculty's offerings in Linguistics. He went on to state that the possible amalgamation of German and Russian with Spanish and Latin American Culture would permit the creation of a department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, thereby strengthening course offerings and graduate programs.

So while amalgamation is not imminent in the Faculty of Arts, Kent stated that it was "very much on the agenda, even though I cannot see it taking place any time soon."

The Chairperson of German and Russian, Sibylla Dickson, stated that she believed the consideration of amalgamation to be premature. She stated that she did not think that the planning committee on the issue had met yet.

Concerned members of both departments have expressed reservations as to whether amalgamation can strengthen their departments. Instead, they see potential limitations in the features which Kent and Visentin believe will benefit the two. They say that an amalgamated department may lose the broader focus that each department has worked to develop.

The possibility of amalgamation also raises concerns about the status of administrative support staff, although both Visentin and Kent assert that no one will lose their job due to amalgamation. Administrative staff would be shuffled to meet demand and department size.

Further decision on this issue is expected in upcoming weeks. Any decision, says Kent, will not effect the next academic year but would be implemented for the 1998-1999 year.

New cleaning company on track

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Harold Burns says a new cleaning contractor hasn't meant a change in cleaning service.

Last year, UNB opted to award the \$2.6 million, three-year contract to Atlantic Building Cleaning, ending a long term association with Modern Building.

Burns conceded that there was a period of transition, but indicated this was to be expected. It took Atlantic upwards of three or four months to get the routines down, he said, but now "we're pretty well back on track."

Burns did reveal that there have been concerns expressed to him, but chalked that up to typical experience with a new contractor. "With any project such as cleaning you have problems from time

to time, but that's just normal," he said. "We always did have and I suspect we always will."

"I wouldn't say [there were] complaints," he continued. "I'd say concerns. Particularly at the beginning, because with any contractor, they had many new personnel who weren't familiar with the regular routine."

Burns also said that Atlantic has been maintaining the buildings with fewer hours than anticipated.

Any unused hours in routine maintenance will be saved for non-routine projects such as floor refinishing.

At the same time that hours are down, use of materials is higher than expected. "Materials is up a bit," said Burns, "but it's starting to level off."

Burns attributes the increased use to a "major clean-up" last May, when Atlantic took over the contract.



JUD DELONG PHOTO

Can spring be far behind? The winter blais continue: see Mudwump, page 6

1997 Grad Class project focuses on campus accessibility

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Wheelchair accessibility to campus buildings and facilities has been a priority at UNB for several years—certainly as far as UNB graduates are concerned.

For the second time in three years, a graduating class project will involve accessibility.

The Grad Class Project in 1995 involved wheelchair accessibility to the lower level of the Student Union Building near the cafeteria.

This year, the grad class hopes to install automatic doors and at least one wheelchair ramp to the main entrance of the Integrated University Complex on either side of the Science Library.

The accessibility project received 34 votes among some 140 graduates who cast ballots by e-mail just before the Christmas break. Twenty-nine votes were cast for a project which would have installed stairs on part of the walkway leading from the Old Arts Building to the LB Gym. Improved lighting on campus drew 25 supporters and books for the Library 23 votes.

Three other projects received smaller support—new windows for the Old Forestry Building, money to establish a scholarship and lighting/benches in front of a residence on campus.

Grad Class '97 President Jeff Clark is pleased with voter response despite the fact that just over 10 percent of eligible graduates cast their ballots.

In late November turnout was sparse

at a Grad Class meeting called to vote on the Class Project. Just twenty-three votes were cast that night, prompting Clark and the Grad Class Executive to turn to e-mail ballots for the first time.

"It is certainly one of the highest vote totals, if not the highest ever," said Clark in an interview with *The Brunswickan* this week.

More details on the accessibility project will be forthcoming once costs have been determined and meetings with UNB Physical Plant officials are over, according to Clark.

But Clark and his executive feel wheelchair access to the IUC, the Science Library and the UNB Business office are a priority.

"Our first priority is to install an automatic door at the IUC entrance

nearest the Forestry/Geology Building," said Clark. "A ramp has already been installed at this entrance and if the current doors are wide enough all that will be needed is installation of the automatic door service."

"That cost should be relatively small," he said.

"We then hope to use the rest of the project money to install a ramp and automatic doors at the IUC entrance on the other side of the Science Library next to the Business office," said Clark.

But Clark stresses all of these plans are tentative.

Firm plans are expected to be in place when the project is officially launched at a ceremony currently being planned for February 5. UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston expects to be able to

attend the launch, according to Clark.

Clark and Project Chair Melanie Quigg, a graduating Arts student, hope to raise \$10,000 in a letter and phone campaign to graduates and their parents which begins shortly after February 5.

Clark told *The Brunswickan* this week that each graduate will be asked for a contribution by letter. A follow-up phone campaign will take place over the weekends of February 15-16 and February 22-23.

Clark is still looking to find a few more graduates willing to become faculty representatives. Ten have already stepped forward and Clark hopes to line up at least two or three representatives in the larger faculties like Engineering and Arts.

"They are certainly needed to get

the word out on the project," he said.

"It is really nice to have graduates from your own faculty calling up asking for a donation to the Class Project."

Clark also expects to get together with the other executive members and appoint a secretary/treasurer by the end of this week. Ten applicants have stepped forward for the position.

In addition to a grad class event held last night, Clark hopes to organize a brewery tour for all graduates sometime in late February.

Graduates are also reminded that class hats and sweatshirts are now available for \$15 and \$45 respectively. They can be purchased at the Paper Trail or the Grad Class office in the SUB.



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