

Tuition task force at UNB recommends fee restructuring, could mean tuition increase

Tuition fees at the University of New Brunswick are extremely competitive compared to other Maritime universities, according to a task force discussion paper released this week.

John Morris, director of extension and summer session, who served as chair of the Task Force on Future Tuition and Other Students Fees Policy, notes, "UNB has been a good deal for students in this region. UNB offers the 15th lowest tuition of the 18 institutions in this region. In addition, UNB has avoided introducing the additional compulsory student charges which some other institutions, especially in Ontario,

impose to support athletic programs, student services, computer and laboratory courses."

Appointed by the Board of Governors in April 1996, the task force was asked to review studies and statistics on student fees; review, assess and compare trends; identify key issues; and propose recommendations and guidelines for tuition and other student fee policies at UNB. The task force prepared a 75-page discussion paper which is being circulated to the Board of Governors, the academic senates in Fredericton and Saint John, student groups and others on both campuses. Members of these groups are invited to respond in writing by January 31. Meetings with the task force can also be arranged.

Final recommendations from the task force will then be drafted and submitted to the Board of Governors for consideration at one of its meetings this spring.

In its paper, the task force noted that tuition fees account for a rising share of university income. In 1995-96, fees provided 26 per cent of the University's unrestricted operating income, compared with 19 per cent a decade earlier. (During the same period, support from provincial grants declined from 73 to 66 per cent.) The task force expects the upward trend to continue.

The task force examined many different models for determining tuition, including a uniform fee for all programs,

fees based on the particular program taken, a fee per credit hour taken, or a per-course fee. Differential fees for out-of-province and international students were also reviewed, as were tuition policies for off-campus and distance education, disabled students and seniors.

The task force recommends that the university adopt a number of guidelines for decisions about future tuition changes and suggests that the university adopt a per-course fee for full- and part-time undergraduate students, which would take the place of the all-inclusive tuition fee of \$2,840 that full-time students are paying this year.

The task force recommends that \$294 per course would be an appropriate "base" on which to set fees for 1997-98. The task force stresses in its report that its mandate was to address the basis for assessing student fees at UNB and not to recommend future student fee rates.

The task force concluded its study by looking at the responsibility for student aid, which is currently the mandate of the government.

While some universities, including Dalhousie, allocate a portion of their fee income to finance scholarships and bursaries, the task force concluded that it would be preferable for UNB to increase the amount and number of its privately-funded scholarships rather than raise tuition fees for this purpose.

Workshops will help students manage debt

MARY ROGAL-BLACK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

If you've been finding yourself up nights worrying about how you're going to pay back that huge student loan, you're probably not alone. But there is help.

Next week is Financial Awareness Week on campus, and students will be able to attend a variety of workshops designed to help them take control of their money.

"All of us get a little overwhelmed by our debt at times," says SU President Joie Hellmeister, who's been organising the workshops for the past few months and is hoping to help students with their financial affairs.

The workshop series will be held in Tilley, room 102, and begins on Monday, January 20, with a session entitled, "Starting your own business: Careers for the future." Hellmeister says the speaker will be someone with entrepreneurial experience. This workshop begins at 12 p.m.

Tuesday's workshop is intended to help students manage their credit. "Credit know-how: How to deal with debts, bankruptcy, and missed

payments" will be presented by two speakers from Scotiabank. This workshop begins at 1 p.m. Hellmeister feels this is an important topic because in the past, many students declared bankruptcy when their loans became too large, but this is becoming more risky.

"I'd like to help students have a more stable financial future so they don't have to claim bankruptcy," says Hellmeister, adding that it can take years to get a good credit rating again.

Wednesday's session will offer money management tips. Murray Baker, best-selling author of *The Debt-Free Graduate*, will speak about "Stretching your student dollar." This workshop begins at 12 p.m.

On Thursday, Sue Wiesner, Financial Aid Director for UNB, and a representative from the provincial government will speak and answer questions about student loans in a session entitled, "Student Loans: What are you on the hook for?"

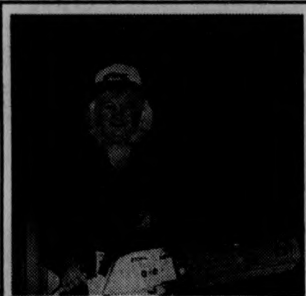
Hellmeister said that for students who can't make it to this workshop, booths will be set up outside room 102, where bank representatives will answer

questions about student loans. Literature about financial aid and money management will also be available.

During Financial Awareness Week, there will be giveaways for students attending the workshops, including tickets to Winter Carnival concerts and gift certificates from various Fredericton businesses. Hellmeister said she hopes that this will encourage students to take advantage of the educational sessions.

"The Financial Awareness Committee has worked really hard on this," says Hellmeister. "I hope many students will take advantage of the opportunity. I'm hoping our Student Union will take this initiative every year, and hopefully if it's well-received we can do this on an annual basis."

Financial Awareness Week was started at McGill and will be taking place at a number of universities this year. Hellmeister said that representatives from Student Unions at UNB, McGill, Carleton, Queen's and others kept in touch about planning the project. SU representatives from these schools sit on an advisory board for Scotiabank, which donated \$2000 for the educational workshops.



The winner of the UNB Woodmen Team's November Raffle was Bonnie Morrison, pictured with her prize, a Stihl Chainsaw. Second prize, a SMT bus ticket, went to Charlie Robson and third prize, dinner at The Diplomat, to Roger Pollack.

'Jam session' looks at future of residence life

AARON MACEachern
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Eleven residences on the university's campus were well represented as 90 members of the residence community gathered in the SUB Ballroom to discuss the future of residence life.

Topics of this conference, held on January 11, ranged from the discussion of house renovations for the upcoming year, to the proposed idea of house challenges.

Students like Murray Spencer, Aiken House President discussed the problem of "people not interacting."

Group facilitators suggested to Spencer that, "holding events during the year to raise house spirit, and to create interaction," were two key solutions to the problem.

Facilitator Monte Peters' goal was to generate and develop conversation and conversation is exactly what Peters got. The students (including 1 don, 1-2 proctors, 1-2 academic resource people and 2-4 house committee members) focused on the present and the future, rather than the past.

The gathering, entitled the 'January Jam Session,' was the first of its type in recent years and displayed the high

level of commitment that students have towards their residence community. Besides providing leadership teams with tools of encouragement for other students' participation, this conference "provided an opportunity for participants to have ownership in the development of a house 'wellness' framework," according to conference documents.

Organizers hope that if meetings like this continue throughout the next few years, residence life will become even more of a positive experience for students, and a better place to live.

Did you know?

Why would Coke spend \$100 million on an advertising campaign? The worldwide Cola market is nearly \$50 billion US.

Although an average cow weighs in at 550 kilos, less than 45 kilos are used for hamburger.

McDonald's usage of beef accounts for only 1% of the US beef market.

Although Canada is a net importer of beef, McDonald's Canada asserts it purchases beef only from Canadian beef farmers, thereby avoiding accusations that it encourages the burning of rainforest for grazing lands.

10,000,000 customers visited US strip clubs, driving a market worth \$2 billion US.

There are 56 million donkeys in the world. This is distinct from the number of asses, which is hard to calculate

because people disagree on the definition of an ass.

In a standard table lamp, 72% of the light is absorbed by the shade. When a fluorescent bulb is substituted, the "equivalent" wattage bulb seems to be dimmer because 82% of the light from this bulb is absorbed. The reason: the shape of the bulb. By far the best shape is the donut-shaped fluorescent tubes, of which 64% is absorbed by the shade.

The US space shuttle Discovery, designed in 1981, weighs 2,000,000 kg.

Four major deposits of oil in the Alberta tar sands the size of New Brunswick hold a reserve of 1.7 trillion barrels, fully one third of the world oil reserves. Although most of this is not retrievable by current methods, 300 billion barrels, larger than the oil reserve of Saudi Arabia, are currently being exploited.

The Lightning Field is a piece of land art consisting of 400 polished stainless-steel poles, sharpened to points, arranged in a grid one mile by one kilometer located in the New Mexico plains. The poles, spaced 220 feet apart to an accuracy of .05 inches, are blunted by lightning strikes, which occur only once or twice per year. In the centre of the Field is a 1920s homestead constructed of rough-hewn pine logs which welcomes only 375 people annually.

A Fresnel lens consists of a thin lens covered in concentric circles. Used on spotlights or headlamps, it allows for a very thin piece of glass to be used rather than a much thicker lens.

There's a lot more to a common screw than you may think. The pitch is the distance between threads, the root is the bottom of the thread, and the cutting edge is referred to as the crest.



Financial

A W A R E N E S S



MONDAY
JANUARY 20

Starting your own Business:
People do it all the time, Why don't you!

Surprise Speaker

(OH how we love surprises) Keep your eyes open, you don't want to miss this one!!

Where??
When?? How
Much?? Tilley
Hall Room 102 @
12:00 pm and it's
FREE!

TUESDAY
JANUARY 21

Credit Know-How:
How to deal with debts, bankruptcy and missed payments

Speakers
Representatives
from Scotiabank
Tilley Hall Room 102
@ 1:00 pm, and yes
you can bring
friends!

WIN FREE STUFF

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 22

Money Management Tips:
Stretching your student dollar

Speaker
Murray Baker,
Author of the
"Debt Free Graduate"
Tilley Hall Room
102 @ 12:00 pm,
you may want your
camera for this
one!!

for additional
information on
any of these
events contact:
Joie Hellmeister
at suprez@unb.ca

THURSDAY
JANUARY 23

Student Loans:
What are you on the hook for??

Speaker
Susanna Wiesner,
UNB Financial Aid
Director &
Representative
from the Provincial
Government
Tilley Hall Room
102 @ 1:00 P.M.,
what every student
needs to know
about their Student
Loan
Don't be shy!!