

GSA seeks members for grad student unionization committee

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The UNB Graduate Student Association (GSA) is looking for new members to serve on its unionization committee.

The GSA wants to continue to explore the unionization option after a majority of respondents to a survey voted in favour of the proposal. The survey was conducted last March and April.

GSA Vice-President Administration, Alain Murphy, whose term of office expires next month, said in the coming months the committee intends to look into issues concerning pay and working conditions for Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants.

Murphy emphasized that no decision to proceed towards a unionized certification vote will be made without a referendum among all graduate students on campus.

GSA President, Kirby Shannahan, told council members that a meeting held earlier this week with UNB Student Union Vice-President University affairs, Joe Allen, has apparently resolved a conflict over the method of appointing student representatives to various committees of the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate.

For at least a year, Shannahan has felt

insulted about being approached by the UNB SU to fill Senate committee vacancies only after the SU could not seem to find any undergraduate students.

Shannahan said Allen agreed the method of appointment could be improved. The GSA President plans to send a letter to University Secretary, Stephen Stroppe, asking that the GSA be directly informed at the same time as the SU about any future vacancies to Senate committees.

The GSA has also decided to hire a part-time assistant to work in their office weekdays until at least the end of October. The job is open to any graduate student at a rate of pay of \$10 per hour for six hours per week.

The GSA's current Administrative Assistant, Diane Reid, is substitute teaching in Woodstock, NB, for the next several weeks and will only be available for six hours per week.

Reid plans to return to her part-time, 12 hours per week position, in the near future.

GSA VP Alain Murphy has suggested that a joint effort between the Association and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies be made next year to put together a welcome kit and orientation package.

Murphy said the package should contain information on registering and

paying fees, pay issues, taxes, health and dental plan benefits, and should tie together information from the GSA, the Dean's office, the faculty, the Registrar's office, the Comptroller's office, as well as the Graduate Secretary's in various Graduate Academic Units. The aim would be to do a general mailout to graduate students before they arrive on campus.

Biology graduate student, Penny Hovey, has agreed to serve for one year on the Teaching and Learning Centre Steering Committee, replacing Diane Reid, who has served for the last three years.

The GSA also learned the Diploma in University Teaching fee will remain at \$125 this Fall.

Graduate students and new faculty members are prospective clients for the program, offered by the Teaching and Learning Centre.

Dr. Gwen Davies, UNB's new Dean of the School of Graduate Studies told GSA members of an open door policy at the Dean's office on the third floor of Sir Howard Douglas Hall (the Old Arts Building).

Davies wants to find someone to set up a news board that will act as an area where graduate students can find information on funding, jobs, etc.

The new Dean has apparently found a graduate student volunteer to update the UNB graduate school website and

is in search of new ideas for the site.

She also announced that a series of lunchtime feedback sessions will be held with about six or seven graduate students from time to time throughout the academic year.

Davies also announced the graduate calendar should be available in about a week and wants to find the money to hire someone to put the calendar online.

Graduate students in Nursing, Chemistry, and Sociology, are being asked to pick up funding cheques from the GSA office as soon as possible while it was noted that students in Anthropology, Chemistry, Education and Sociology were not represented at the GSA meeting, which will proportionately affect funding for the 2000-01 academic year.

GSA Vice-President Communication, Chris Sheehy, announced that a family BBQ for graduate students will be held next Wednesday, September 27th, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the grounds near Sir Howard Douglas Hall.

The GSA is also inviting graduate students, faculty and graduate secretaries, to attend a Wine and Cheese 'meet and greet,' on Wednesday, October 18th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Alumni Memorial Building Lounge.

Beaverbook delayed, but still informative

Sarah Dickie

The Brunswickan

The Beaverbook, the student planner published by the UNB Student Union, is finally in.

Normally, the Beaverbook is ready for students on the first day of school, but complications pushed back their arrival.

According to Karla Aucoin, UNBSU Vice-President (Student Services), the company which printed the planner has not given any clear reason for the delay. Aucoin said she is looking into the problem so it will not happen again next year.

The Beaverbook contains many useful things like phone numbers for important places and people like taxis, and lots of information such as university rules, tips for renting, events, and clubs. When you pick it up you'll also receive a bus map and some discount offers.

To pick up a free copy, students should go to the Paper Trail, located in the main lobby of the Student Union Building.



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Provincial government recruiters will visit campuses:

• Wednesday, Sept. 20, Moncton - Université de Moncton (10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. display on the Mezzanine, Business Faculty, Administration Building; information session to follow)

• Tuesday, Sept. 26, Saint John - University of New Brunswick in Saint John (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., display at the Job Fair 2000, Irving Hall Foyer & Ganong Hall Little Gallery)

• Wednesday, Sept. 27, Fredericton - University of New Brunswick and Saint Thomas University (12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., display at the Fall Career Fair, Blue Room, Student Union Building)

• Thursday, Sept. 28, Shippagan - Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus (7:00 p.m., information session at the Pavillion Irène Légère, Room 214 PEL)

• Tuesday, Oct. 3, Sackville - Mount Allison University (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. display in the Foyer of the University Centre)

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