

Senate changes drop dates

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

The UNB Fredericton Academic Senate has adopted a proposal that would see the drop date for term courses moved to a later date, despite strong opposition from professors in the Faculty of Administration.

For the 2001-2002 academic year, the net effect for students would be that the last day to withdraw without academic penalty for first term courses would be November 13, 2001 and for second term courses the withdrawal date would be March 20, 2002.

In contrast, the last day to withdraw from first term courses without academic penalty this academic year was October 25th, while the withdrawal date for second term courses is February 20, 2001.

In discussing the pros and cons of the move, members of the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate's Student Standings and Promotions common Committee (SS&P) felt that extending the date for withdrawals would give instructors greater flexibility in scheduling mid-terms since students often use

this as an indicator of their performance in a course.

The committee also felt that flexibility is important in the retention of first year students.

"The recommendation also comes as the result of numerous student appeals to the committee over the issue of drop dates," said SS&P Chair Phil Wright of the Faculty of Kinesiology.

Professors in the Faculty of Administration voiced their opposition to the later drop date for term courses.

They argued that the change might possibly challenge the academic integrity of the university and be disruptive to students who undertake group work in many courses.

In some courses, there is a lack of space for students and the later drop date would in general be disruptive, the professors indicated.

Wright noted that in considering the drop date proposal a number of models at other universities were studied.

"In some universities the last day to drop courses is the last day of classes so this proposal before Senate is a compromise," he suggested.

Dean of Science Al Sharp

agreed with the proposal mainly for retention reasons.

Senate eventually adopted the proposal with nearly a dozen Senators opposed.

The proposal to push back the drop date for term courses will, however, not apply to full-year courses.

The withdrawal date for full year courses now set in January, would remain unchanged.

Withdrawal dates for Intercession and Summer Session course as well as field courses is to be set approximately up to the final quarter of the course.

Specific dates will be included in the next version of the Spring and summer 2001 calendar.

It should be noted that the Senate Student Standings and Promotions Committee did not recommend that changes be made in the fees refund policy to accommodate late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Meanwhile, Senate also adopted a proposal this week that would limit the number of times a students can take a course to three.

Beyond that, the student would have to obtain the permission of the Dean to register again in the repeated course.

UNB Fredericton Senate Briefs

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

The UNB Fredericton Academic Senate has approved a reconstruction of the BBA program in the Faculty of Administration.

Among the changes are a reduction in the number of mandatory non-business and business courses and an increase in electives.

An Honours BBA program will be developed for superior students who would have the opportunity to pursue greater levels of specialization.

A redevelopment of preparatory courses is also in the works.

Financial accounting would be removed from Year I and moved to Year II.

New courses in Administration and Business Ethics would be created for Year I.

In addition, a new course prefix ADM will appear in the Timetable and University Calendar and there will also be certain revised course numbering sequences.

Senate has adopted a revised policy on research involving humans to meet certain deficiencies noted by the Tri-Council funding agencies - the Medical Research Council of Canada, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The UNB Fredericton and UNB Saint John Research Ethics Boards met jointly in October to clarify a policy on what constituted quorum when certain research matters are involved.

Senate approved the changes recommended, subject to further clarification provided by the Research Ethics Board Chair Robert Scott on the definition of quorum.

Senate also approved a proposal to create a Canadian Rivers Institute that will involve collaborative research projects with Faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students in various departments and Faculties at UNB Fredericton and Saint John.

A Director and an Associate Director for the Institute would be hired and both a research plan and a business plan developed.

Rick Cunjack, who holds the Meighen-Molson Chair in Atlantic Salmon Research, spearheaded the proposal along with Dean of Science Al Sharp.

The Canadian Rivers Institute would be the third Institute established at UNB.

Others include the Institute of BioMedical Engineering and the Canadian Institute for Social Policy Research.

Safe Ride

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this week if more money is offered he is quite sure the UNB SU would not turn it down.

"In any case the Safe Ride program is certainly not in any danger of shutting down this academic year despite our concerns," Allen emphasized.

Allen is also wondering whether it might be possible in the near future, with the proper funding in place, to add a second van to the Safe Ride program.

"That would depend on how much the service is used over the coming months and whether the ridership increases dramatically because of the colder winter months," he said.

"But I've already heard that there have been times when the waits to

use the Safe Ride van have been upwards of 40 minutes, which in my opinion would warrant a second vehicle," Allen noted.

Meanwhile, the UNB SU is expected to decide late this week whether to continue the Safe Ride service this term beyond the last day of classes next Wednesday.

"I'm waiting for the drivers involved in the program to get back to me so I can find out whether we have the people available to do it during exams," Allen said.

"Academics do come first, so we'll see."

One of the options under consideration by Allen is to limit the Safe Ride van service to a few selected nights each week during the exam period.

Sculpture garden focus of plan UNB's landscaping project



Mike Cormier / The Brunswickan

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III
The Brunswickan

A major initiative to create a landscaped area below the Harriet Irving Library is being spearheaded by UNB Art Centre Director Marie Maltais.

The scope of the project could be in the several hundred thousand dollar range, depending on funding raised.

To that end, Maltais has secured \$25,000 in the form of a New Brunswick 2000 Millennium Grant, \$10,000 from the Fine Arts Acquisitions Fund and \$20,000 from the Alvin Shaw Trust Fund.

Other sources of private and public funding are being actively pursued.

The location spans the green area between the Harriet Irving Library, and Toole Hall and is bordered on one side by Singer/Tilley/Carleton and Kierstead Hall and its parking lots on the other.

The space was designed Jacob's Yard in 1966, in honour of Dr. Edwin Jacob who served as President of UNB from 1829-1859. The area is commonly called Poets' Corner, but, in fact, that name refers only to the monument to Bliss Carman, Charles G. D. Roberts and Francis Joseph Sherman located within Jacob's

Yard itself.

The plan consists of a sculpture garden designed to serve as a meeting place and "locus for expressing our collective identity."

Centrally located and a high-traffic area, the garden is aimed at changing the nature of the space from a transit area to a "hub of activity."

As conceived, the garden would become a flexible and usable area and, hopefully, be welcoming and inviting for the university and Fredericton-area community.

The plan also includes the possibility of outdoor classes, official ceremonies, and concerts in addition to Orientation

activities.

Also in the works is the possibility of it becoming a venue for the annual Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival.

In keeping with the theme from the NB Millennium Grant, "People, Nature and Technology - A Celebration of Human Achievement and Innovation" the concept of the garden would be to physically express UNB's contribution to innovation.

"Jacob's Yard would be a tangible presence commemorating the intangible: the ideas, concepts and inspirations that have driven forward innovations in technology in this province," the project outline states.

Maclean's Ranking

UNB finished 5th out of 11 universities in the comprehensive category in the MacLean's 10th Annual Ranking of Universities for the percentage of first year classes taught by tenured or tenure-track professors.

The survey found that 54.5 percent of UNB's first year classes are taught by tenured or tenure-track professors.

Tops in the category was York University, where 86.3 percent of first year classes are taught by tenured or tenure-track professors.

At St. Thomas University, 55.3 percent of first year classes are taught by tenured or tenure-track professors, placing STU in 18th place out of 21 universities in the primarily undergraduate category of the MacLean's survey.

The University of Winnipeg placed 1st among primarily undergraduate universities, where 84.9 percent of first year classes are taught by tenured or tenure-track professors.

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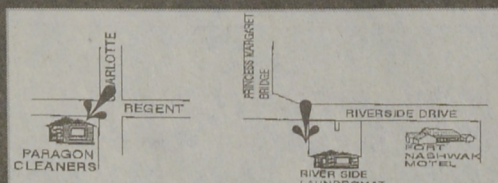
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