Revving up for elections

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

Voters will choose from among five candidates for two open seats on the UNB Board of Governors when students on the Fredericton campus go to the polls March 28th – 30th.

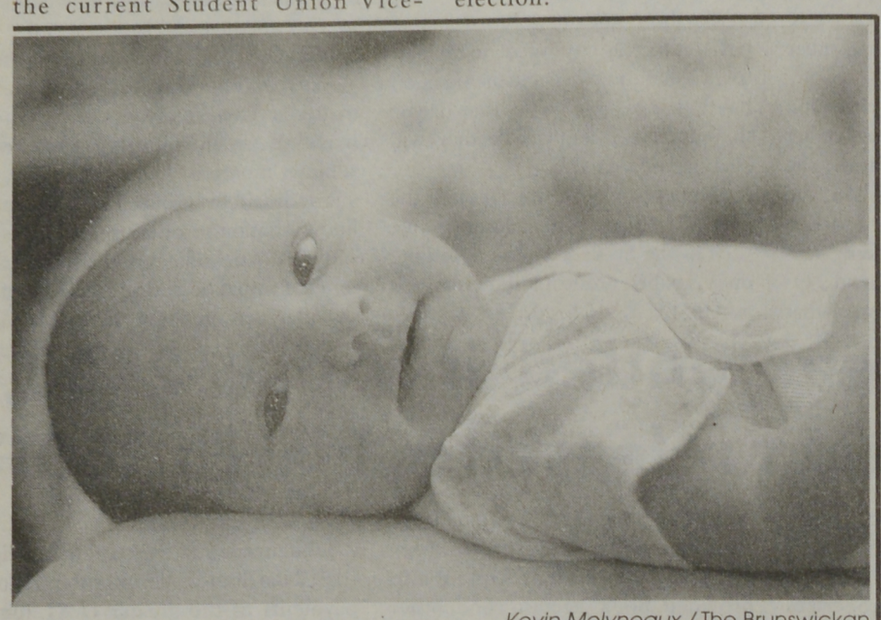
According to Chief Returning Officer, Jonathan Webster, four undergraduate students and one graduate student are in the race following the close of nominations this past Wednesday.

The four undergraduates include first year Science student, Stewart Sarchfield; fourth year Science student, John Campbell; second year law student, Brian Crothers; and third year Business student, Scott Duguay, the current Student Union Vice-President Finance and Administration.

Scott Deschenes, who currently holds one of the student seats on the Board of Governors, is seeking re-election after being admitted to Graduate School for the 2001/02 academic year.

Webster will hold an information session for all candidates participating in the student general election following the close of nominations for student seats on Council, the Fredericton Academic Senate, Valedictorians for Ceremonies A, B, and C, at Spring Encaenia 2001, and the Grad Class 2002 executive.

The meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, March 20th, at 4:30 p.m. in SUB Room 103, and is mandatory for all candidates participating in the election.



Kevin Molyneaux / The Brunswickan

We would like to welcome to our staff the newest Brunsie, Melissa Grace Molyneaux. She arrived in Fredericton at the DECH on the 6th of March at 3:58 pm. She is currently undergoing intensive training under the strict guidance of the notoriously-wedded Brunsies, Kevin and Marie-Claude Molyneaux, and the entire Brunswickan staff. Contact Cindy Brown (a.k.a. the Big Kahuna) at bruns@unb.ca to join the team. You're never too young – or old – to learn!

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UNB Fredericton

GSA wants a seat at the table, but SU won't part with open spot on Board of Governors

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

The President of UNB's Graduate Student Association Alain Murphy has asked the undergraduate Student Council to agree to reserve one of two Fredericton campus student seats on the University's Board of Governors for a graduate student.

Appearing at a meeting of the UNB Student Council just before March break, Murphy said the current arrangement which allows undergraduates, graduate students and part-time students to run for both Fredericton campus student seats is not working for his group.

"Because of the shear number of undergraduate students versus graduate students, it is usually two undergraduate students that get elected to the Board of Governors each year," Murphy said.

"Graduate Students have different sets of issues that are not being presented to the Board of Governors because we do not have a permanent seat," he said.

Since university officials are not prepared at this time to seek changes to the UNB Act which would create a permanent seat on the university's Board of Governors, for graduate students, Murphy said a recent meeting between undergraduate student representatives, University Secretary Stephen Strople and himself cleared the way for a reserved seat for graduate students from the seats available if the undergraduate student council agreed.

But Murphy may have just run out of time this year to get his wish.

Advertisements had already appeared in the Brunswickan just before Murphy appeared at Student Council March 1st, seeking undergraduates, graduate students and part-time students interested in running for two open student seats on the Board of Governors for the 2001-2002 Academic year.

With the close of nominations firmly set for Wednesday this week, student Councilors were reluctant to change the election procedure to require a separate election for a graduate student representative at this late date.

Several student Councilors were reluctant to reduce the undergraduate component on the Board in favor of a graduate student as well, noting that 50/50 student representation on the Board of Governors from the Fredericton campus is not a reflection of the student population which runs about seven to one in favor of undergraduates.

SU President Charles Goguen wondered whether one student Board of Governors seat should really be given up at all.

"It's probably not really ours to give away since undergraduates, graduate students and part-time students are all eligible to run for the two student seats," he said.

SU Vice-President Finance and Administration Scott Duguay said a worse case scenario could develop in which a part-time student wins one seat on the Board of Governors, one seat is reserved for a graduate student, and undergraduate full-time students who form the majority of the student population at UNB Fredericton would be left without representation for at least one year.

SU Councilor Scott Deschenes, a current student member of the Board of Governors, felt the current system in which all three student groups can run for a Board seat creates a reasonably equal playing field for all.

Goguen suggested that Murphy appear at a future meeting of the university's Board of Governors and ask directly for a separate seat for graduate students.

Goguen also said he would look into an alternative suggestion which might secure a separate seat for graduate students on the Board of Governors at least on a temporary basis without seeking immediate changes to the UNB Act which would require passage by the New Brunswick Legislature.

The university's Board of Governors currently controls five appointments to the board, three of which are set to expire in 2001.

Both Goguen and GSA President Alain Murphy are wondering whether one of those appointments could be reserved each year for a graduate student until more permanent changes to the UNB Act are sought.

Institute receives federal funds

by Gordon Loane

UNB's new Canadian Rivers Institute has received funding for two projects as part of a $14.9 million federal government announcement earlier this week aimed at setting up the Canadian Water Network.

It is one of four networks of Centers of Excellence being set up with a total investment of $73 million over the next four years.

The other networks include the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network which received $14.2 million, the Stem Cell Genomics and Therapeutics Network which has been awarded $21.124 million and the Automobile of the 21st Century which will get $23.113 million.

The Canadian Water Network, based at the University of Waterloo, will be a partnership between 38 universities, 29 industries and 40 government departments/agencies and others.

As a apart of the Canadian Water Network, the two projects funded at UNB's Canadian Rivers Institute include estimating the assimilative capacity of the Saint John River led by project leader Kelly Munkittrick at UNB Saint John; and coupling between rivers and alluvial and fractured bedrock groundwater flow systems led by project leaders Tom Al and Kerry MacQuarrie at UNB Fredericton.

Overall the Canadian Water Network is seeking to ensure Canada's pre-eminent role in the management and sustainable use of water resources.

Other aims include preserving access to clean water, protecting the health of Canada's people and ecosystems and supporting the Canadian economy.

The network intends to focus on six key research areas including Policy and Governance, Water Resource Management, Drinking Water and Health, Wastewater Management, Infrastructure and Ground Water and Sediment Protection.

"The quality and safety of our drinking water is a top priority for Canadians," said Dr. Robert Gillham from the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo and the Canadian Water Network's Scientific Director.

"Our research will focus on the effects of global climate change, declining water levels and land use and its impact on Canada's supply of clean water," Gillham said in a statement accompanying the federal government's announcement.

No exam deferment at McGill

Continued on Page 4

and Assistant Deans from Faculties across the university.

The committee had discussed the issue a week prior to the Senate meeting. "Members of the CSA respect students rights to protest and their personal expression. However, to allow such an accommodation would create a precedent that we don't necessarily want to set."

Jukier believed that passing such a motion could both tie the Senate's hands on a similar issue in the future, and question the integrity of the exam process. "This does have the possibility of abusing the system and undermining the integrity of exams, which is something the CSA seriously considered," she said.

Other Senators later agreed with Jukier's sentiments, worrying that any student with a difficult exam schedule might be inclined to use "academic amnesty" as an easy way out of exams.

It was also noted that only the first two days of the seminar at Quebec City fell during exams; the 21st and 22nd (of April) are a Saturday and Sunday.

Many Senators questioned whether deferring exams was really a necessity.

Vice-Principal Belanger speculated that most students would not have exams on both of the first two days of the Conference, making the trip more feasible to most of the student body.

He also noted that Quebec City is in close enough proximity to Montreal that students could actually take their exams and then go to the Summit at their convenience.

After much debate, the motion eventually failed in a vote of 32-31.

Many students left the gallery disappointed but still determined to work towards their goal.

"The vote was so close, it necessitates trying again," said Meredith Warren, who has been working with the FTAA-alert program for several months.

Policy at UNB

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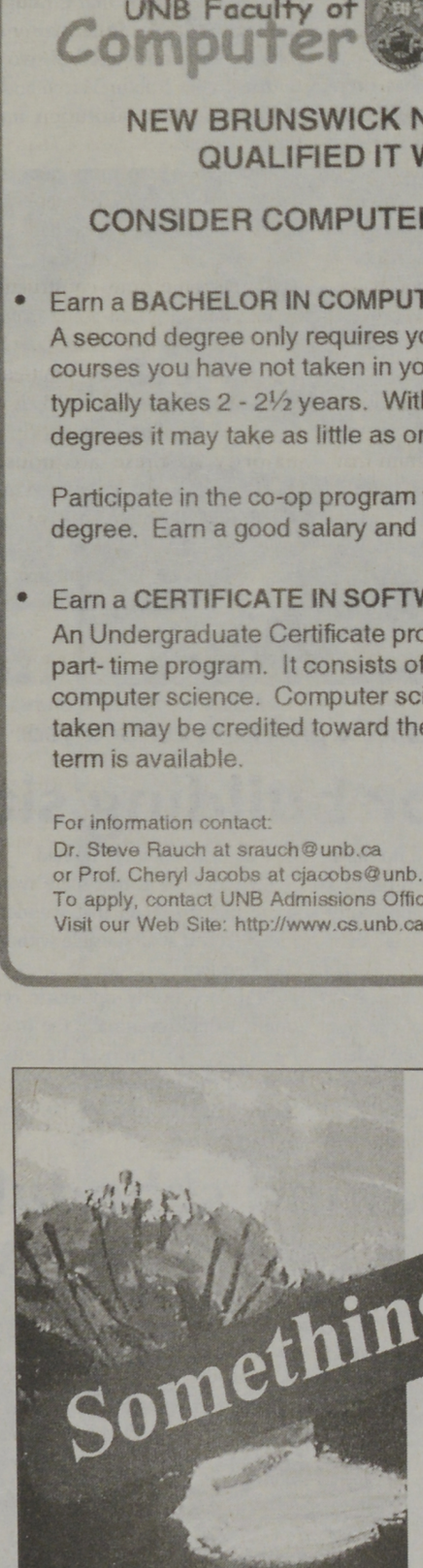
the SU with the process of deferments and students going to Quebec City because the Student Council motion recognized the rights of students to go but took no position for or against the free trade of the Americas issue.

The SU President said a meeting with petition organizers Alex Bailey and Peter MacDonald will be held shortly.

"It will be up to the petition organizers to submit the list of students going to Quebec City who need exam deferment and then I will submit it to the Registrar's Office," Goguen said.

"We would like to use this procedure rather than handle e-mails, telephone calls and visits of a separate nature from students at our offices."

Goguen is still unsure how the verification procedure after the Quebec City Summit will be carried out and plans to discuss this with both Bailey and MacDonald. He is still uncertain about the number of students who will seek exam deferrals but at this point is guessing the numbers will not be huge.



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