



THE BRUNSWICKAN

Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication • University of New Brunswick

Volume 134 • Issue 21

March 2, 2001

Second Class Mail #8120

UNBSU executives back away from reforms to club & society funding

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

UNB Student Union executives have shifted into damage control mode and have begun backpedaling in recent days in light of a new report presented to Student Council last week which is sure to stir debate on campus.

The source of executive angst is a report by a special council Ad Hoc committee on Clubs and Societies which recommends sweeping changes in both the method and level of funding that the Student Union provides annually.

If the report now being debated by Student Council is adopted in the next several weeks, Clubs and Societies Annual Budgets would be decided by a funding formula based on membership.

Each Fall the 72 Clubs and Societies funded by the Student Union would be required to charge a minimum five dollar membership fee.

Memberships would be sold between the commencement of Fall classes and October 10th, at which time a full Clubs and Societies membership list would be submitted to the Student Union.

Depending on whether the particular club or society falls into one of three categories-cultural groups, faculty groups or special interest groups-the number of memberships sold each Fall would then be compared with the number sold by all clubs and societies in a particular category.

A strict funding formula would then determine funding for a particular club and society based on membership, eliminating the current budget process in which clubs and societies justify their budgets to the SU each Spring regardless of their membership numbers.

SU Vice-President Finance and Administration Scott Duguay, who together with several others spent many months studying Clubs and Societies funding methods, said the Ad Hoc committee was



Sharon Wilbur / *The Brunswickan*
UNBSU Vice-President Finance and Administration, Scott Duguay, is shown here, hitting the books on UNB Clubs and Societies.

trying to find one item or a number of items that would distribute clubs and societies money fairly.

"The criteria that came out that is most obvious is membership," he said.

Duguay and his colleagues drew up a list of eight reasons why the current funding system for clubs and societies should be changed.

The reasons include creating consistent guidelines to prevent favoritism and competition and to promote fairness during the budget allocation process and to encourage clubs and societies to be self-sufficient and financially responsible.

At the same time, the new funding system hopes to create a more controlled budget for the Student Union to adhere to, promote growth for the Student Union and encourage funds from Student fees to be

utilized for services beneficial to all students and not exclusive to certain groups.

But after a SU executive meeting held earlier this week, Duguay emerged to say his colleagues were having second thoughts about the membership based funding formula for clubs and societies.

"As an executive we have looked at the recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee and there are going to be some proposed changes to it brought to Council," he said.

"We are not sure as an Executive that membership represents every thing for Clubs and Societies in determining their budget."

As a result Duguay, who is believed to be eyeing the SU President's seat in Student general elections later this month, has placed the entire membership based funding formula for clubs and societies on hold

pending a long review over the Summer of 2001.

While the UNB Student Council will have the final say in the coming week, Duguay is recommending that the current and well established Spring budget process still be eliminated for clubs and societies.

Instead, clubs and societies would receive the same budget allocations for next year as this year.

Pending a decision in November, some six months into the SU budget year, clubs and societies would receive one-half their 2000-2001 Budget Allocation.

Duguay admitted that there would be winners and losers among clubs and societies in terms of budgets should a new membership-based funding formula be adopted but most would see little change in their current budget allocations.

For example, the Business Society would lose some funding if the new funding formula is adopted.

The Engineering Undergraduate Society would gain funding at the expense of groups such as the Civil Engineering Society, the Electrical Engineering Society, the Geological Engineering Society, the Surveying Engineering Society and the Mechanical Engineering Society.

For many clubs and societies the new complex funding formula will make it very difficult to figure out whether SU funding will increase or decrease next Fall until the membership drives are completed in September 2001.

To reassure clubs and societies until next Fall, Duguay is promising business as usual this summer and early Fall until Council makes a long term decision on future funding.

Duguay is even considering the possible creation of a special adjustment fund for clubs and societies which might lose funding under the proposed new funding system, noting that any decision in this regard will

Negotiations to begin soon

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

UNB Administrators will sit down with four employee groups on the Fredericton and Saint John campuses in the coming months in a set of negotiations that is bound to have an effect on the university's operating budget and student tuition fees.

A three year collective agreement between the university and the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT), which represents over 500 professors and librarians on both campuses is set to expire at the end of June 2001.

An agreement on the Fredericton campus with the general labor and trades group, comprised of 140 workers at UNB's Physical Plant, Audio-Visual and Graphic Services Departments, also expires at the end of June.

A third agreement also expires in June with over 200 secretaries, accountants, library assistants and clerks at UNB Fredericton.

Both the general labor and trades group and the group which represents the secretaries, clerks, et al (SALAC) are represented by the UNB Employees

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Mike Cormier / *The Brunswickan*
Peter McDougall, UNB Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)



Kevin Forneris / *The Brunswickan*
The Bridges House Polar Dip raised \$650 and two tonnes of food for the Fredericton Food Bank.

Projector worth \$7,600 stolen

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

UNB Security and Traffic personnel are investigating the disappearance of a high tech projector from a classroom in Tilley Hall on the Fredericton campus.

Sometime over the February 16th-19th weekend, thieves entered Room 304 or Room 315 in Tilley Hall and made off with a sharp LCD Data Projector valued at \$7,600 when it was purchased in 1998.

The projector has a serial # 711 311 588 and a model #XGN VIU.

The projector was purchased as part

of a recent university-wide initiative to convert certain classrooms to so-called "Smart Classrooms" featuring high tech equipment.

"At this point we don't have any leads," said Susan Montague, UNB's Director of Development and Public Relations.

"We are hoping that people in the university community might have seen something or someone at Tilley Hall over the February 16th-19th weekend," she said.

Anyone with any information on the disappearance of the projector is asked to call UNB Security and Traffic at 453-4830.

Meanwhile, two other New Brunswick universities and at least one in Nova Scotia are reporting similar thefts of projectors in recent months.

Two projectors were stolen during the first term at the Université de Moncton while another two were taken in recent weeks at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B.

A projector was also stolen from Dalhousie University in Halifax last Fall.

"We are not sure if there is a connection between the theft here and others that are being reported at other universities," Montague said.

\$200k for Old Arts Building Renos

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

MPM Construction has submitted the lowest of six bids for major renovations to the third floor of Sir Howard Douglas Hall (old Arts Buildings) on the UNB Fredericton campus.

When tenders were publicly opened earlier this week, MPM submitted a bid of \$200,594.50

Other bids were received from Red Wing construction Ltd. (\$243,915); Regent Construction Ltd. (\$261,050); Simpson Building Contractors Ltd. (\$266,340); King Construction Ltd. (\$274,574) and Global Design and Construction Ltd. (\$275,425).

According to Terry Koch, Project Coordinator at UNB Physical Plant, the work includes demolition, dry wall, suspended ceiling construction,

doors, trim, finishes, ventilation, heating and controls on the third floor of Sir Howard Douglas Hall.

While most of the construction work will take place in the centre section of the third floor, Koch said the heating and ventilation part of the project will be for the entire floor.

Once work is completed several private offices, a couple of general

work areas and a lunch room will be made available for UNB's new Student Recruitment and Integrated Marketing offices, Koch indicated.

A new mechanical room will also be constructed on the third floor.

The renovations are being undertaken in the area once occupied by Bailiwick's and the kitchen area, which were closed last year.

Software for online registration upgraded

UNB Students should notice that a new version of the software used for online registration has been made available by university administrators this week.

Web Advisor 1.5 has been completely rewritten using server-side Java servlets and no longer requires Active-X plug-ins.

It generates straight HTML and should be viewable in any browser, on any platform -no special configuration required.



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