

UNB fundraising efforts increase undergrad awards

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB fundraisers are reporting success in their efforts aimed at increasing undergraduate awards and entrance awards particularly for first year students.

Targeting alumni, friends of the University and some parents of students the university has managed to garner between \$300,000 to \$500,000 in each of the past two years to shore up UNB's Scholarship program.

UNB has some 43 renewable scholarships and both the number and amount of the renewals is considered weak in comparison to those offered at other institutions in Atlantic Canada and Ontario.

A bidding war among universities has broken out in recent years for top flight high school students with some offers reaching \$10,000 a year for up to four years.

Some Fredericton High School Students are attracting those kinds of offers from other universities, according to Susan Montague, UNB's Director of Development and Public Relations.

"It is difficult I think when they are being offered that kind of huge award to perhaps weigh all of the other factors that need to be taken into consideration and put UNB, where award offers tend to be more modest, at the forefront of their college or university choice," she said.

Nonetheless, UNB introduced a

scholarship entrance guarantee some three years ago where students that have a certain average upon being admitted to the university will get a scholarship of a certain value depending on their high school average.

In recent years the university has also identified some operating funds in its annual budget to put towards scholarships in addition to fundraising efforts that will continue for at least two to three more years.

The University's Board of Governors has also adopted a policy whereby the proceeds from any land sales or leases will be put towards the scholarship program.

The Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation is also helping to solidify the Beaverbrook Scholars Award by offering a total matching grant of up to \$50,000 annually for former Beaverbrook Scholars who make contributions to the Award.

The Beaverbrook Scholars Award is now valued at \$8,000 annually and is renewable; making it one of UNB's largest scholarships.

In a January 2001 report to the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate prepared by the Senate Undergraduate Scholarship Committee the value of entrance scholarships at UNB has increased from \$698,408 in 1998-99 to \$1,078,495 in 2000-01, an increase of 54%.

The total of both entrance and undergraduate scholarships awarded to UNB students on both the Fredericton

and Saint John campuses has increased from \$1,634,875 in 1998-99 to \$2,285,212 in the current academic year, or up 40%.

Since 1995-96, UNB has doubled the amount of money that it is awarding in undergraduate student scholarships.

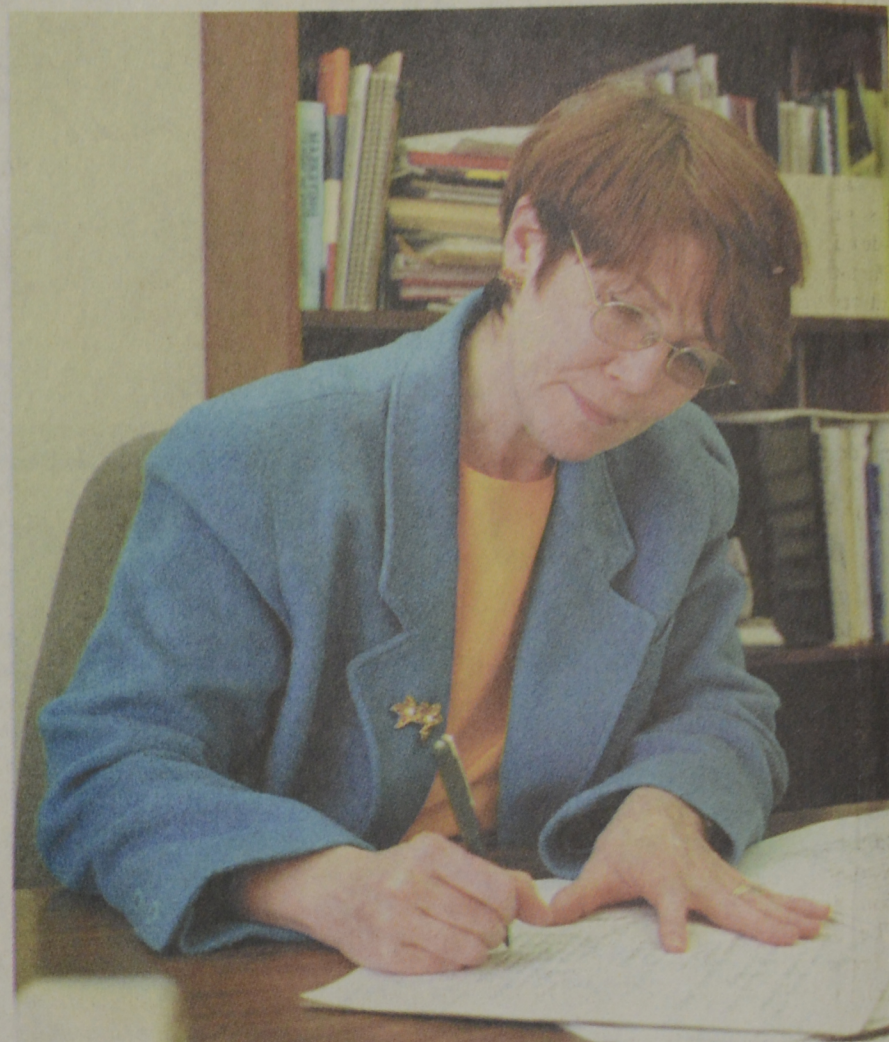
Meanwhile, in an effort to assist the Acquisitions Budget in the UNB Library System which has been racked by an inflation rate on materials significantly higher than the annual Consumer Price Index, UNB fundraisers have raised in excess of \$100,000 annually since 1999-2000 in what will be a five year campaign.

Targeting Alumni, past donors to the UNB libraries and community members has been significantly aided by a matching grant of up to \$50,000 annually over five years from the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation.

"We have been very successful in getting people to donate to the libraries who have not done so in the past," Montague emphasized.

"The matching grant from the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation gives an incentive to individuals knowing that their contribution doubles."

"While we know that the money being raised for Library Acquisitions is a helpful supplement to the regular annual operating budget, we are also certainly aware that the complete need is not being addressed but it is certainly making a difference," she said.



Mike Cormier / The Brunswickan

Susan Montague, Director of Development and Public Relations.

UNB contracts with employee groups

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Association.

Some 53 employees on the Saint John campus in the secretaries, labor and trades area, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3339, will also be without a contract at the end of June.

UNB's Associate Vice President Human Resources, Peter McDougall, who will be the lead negotiator for the university in upcoming talks with the Association representing professors and librarians (AUNBT), expects talks to begin in earnest sometime during the month of April.

Nursing Professor Gail Storr will serve

as the Chief Negotiator for the AUNBT.

While McDougall has not yet set any specific targets, he said the university is looking for a new agreement with the professors and librarians on both campuses that would last longer than one year.

"Collective agreements are difficult to negotiate, they take a lot of time and effort and they need to be given time after they have been negotiated to function to see what's working and what isn't," he said.

"One year agreements don't give you much of that opportunity."

While average Faculty Salaries at UNB are the second or third highest of some 17 universities in Atlantic Canada, McDougall

said in comparison to thirteen other universities across Canada average faculty salaries at UNB are among the lowest.

In the current collective agreement between the AUNBT and the university, a complex formula used to determine faculty salary increments compares UNB Faculty Salaries with those at Universities such as Memorial, Dalhousie, Carleton, McMaster, Ottawa, Queen's, Windsor, York, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Regina, Calgary, and Victoria.

Based on this formula and other predictions based on economic indicators, McDougall said the university will be able to make some estimates of what the overall cost of the operating budget for faculty salaries is likely to be for the 2001-2002 fiscal year that begins May 1, 2001.

McDougall said estimates are all that can be included in the 2001-2002 budget until a final collective agreement is worked out with the AUNBT.

Meanwhile, David Weizel, a Human Resource Consultant in UNB's Department of Human Resources and Organizational Development, will be the university's lead negotiator in talks with the two employee groups represented by the UNB Employees Association on the Fredericton Campus and by the group represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees at UNB Saint John.

Weizel said none of the three employee groups had yet sent a notice to bargain to the university as of early last week, which is a normal first step before formal talks on a new collective agreement can begin.

"The notice can be sent by the employee associations or union anywhere between January 1st and June 30th, 2001," he said.

Weizel indicated that budgetary estimates for salary levels will likely be used in formulating the university's operating budget for 2001-2001 because negotiations on any new collective agreements are not likely to be completed before the new fiscal year begins May 1st.

According to UNB financial documents prepared for the November 2000 meeting of the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate by Daniel Murray, Vice-President Finance and Administration, Salaries and Benefits for Academic and non-academic staff accounted for just over 75 percent of the university's total operating budget in 1998-99.

Man convicted of Cellar thefts back in court

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A Fredericton man currently serving house arrest for the March 22, 1999 and April 7, 1999 break, enter and thefts at the Cellar in the Student Union Building on the UNB Fredericton campus was back in provincial court again this week.

James H. McFarlane appeared on a charge of breach of a conditional sentence after Fredericton City Police spotted him at a local coffee shop outside of his usual residence at 102 Greenfields Drive.

Restrictions placed on McFarlane at the time of his original sentence some two weeks ago included staying at his home at all times except for work, emergencies, visits with his supervisor or Saturday morning excursions for errands or shopping.

Provincial Court Judge Hazen Strange reminded McFarlane about his conditional sentence but took no further action on the charge of breach of a conditional sentence.

McFarlane must also still pay restitution of nearly \$3,500 for money he took from the Cellar while he worked for ABC Cleaners in the Student Union Building.

Club & Society funding reforms debated

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be ultimately up to Student Council.

Meanwhile, a second aspect of the Ad Hoc committee's report that is sure to also spark debate is a plan to slash SU funding to clubs and societies overall by up to 30% over the next five years.

Funding under the proposal would be reduced from \$100,000 in 2001-2002 to \$70,000 in 2005-06.

"The Ad Hoc committee felt that too much of a chunk of the SU's total Budget from Annual Student fees is going to Clubs and Societies, Duguay noted.

He pointed out that a survey of Clubs and Societies Budgets provided by Student Unions at other Canadian universities ranked UNB near the top in terms of total funding.

While the UNB SU spends about 20% of its total budget on clubs and societies funding, Duguay said it is under 1% at many other universities.

"We don't think it's wrong that we give more money to clubs and societies than any other Student Union in Canada," he said.

"The whole ideology of reducing some of the money that goes to clubs and societies opens up money for SU services that all

students can use."

"The question is how do we get all students to benefit the most from the money they put into the SU?," Duguay questioned.

Other changes recommended in the Ad Hoc committee's report include a provisions which would prevent clubs and societies from spending over \$200 of their annual SU allocation without first winning the approval of 60% of their membership.

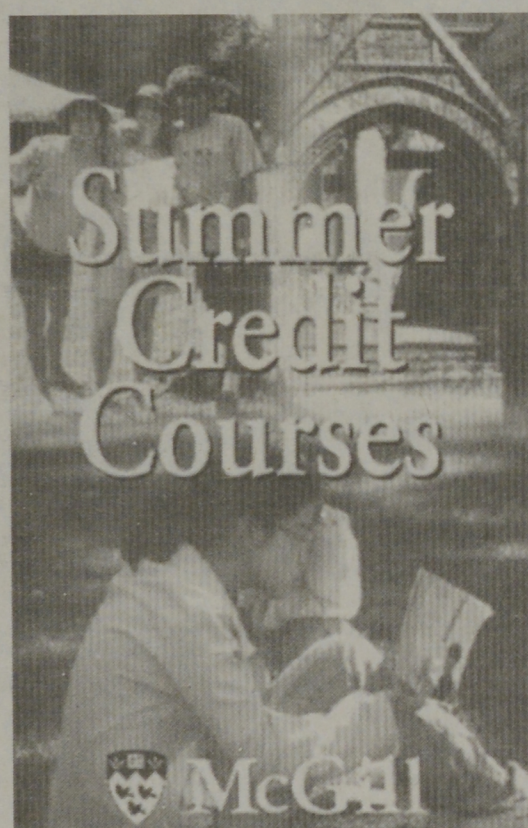
Other purchasing restrictions would be imposed preventing clubs and societies from selling merchandise (clothing) for profit, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, escorts/prostitution or items for personal use.

The SU Grants Committee would be replaced by a Special Projects Fund, according to the report.

Groups applying for money for special projects would be required to present a mandatory report of the event.

The Committee is also proposing the creation of an International Diversity Board that would act as a Student Union service to manage the relationship between International Students, clubs and societies and the Student Union.

The Board would be allocated an office in the Student Union Building.



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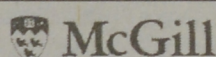
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