

Set to be first full-time, salaried top SU executive Duguay would consider position a "privilege"

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The Brunswickan

Scott Duguay, a fourth year Business student, could become the first full-time President of the UNB Student Union on May 1*, if students give him a critical vote of confidence in elections that finish today on the Fredericton campus.

Duguay is running unopposed for SU President but must still win favorable approval in a yes/no vote.

Despite the lack of competing candidates, he remains hopeful and full of ideas about the direction the UNB Student Union should take in the next year.

Duguay has been involved in several projects this year including Snow Odyssey and a controversial report on future SU funding for clubs and societies.

While the Student Union Council will make the final decision, Duguay agrees with the idea of getting clubs and societies to be more self-sufficient, with initial help from the SU to move in that direction.

"The UNB SU still provides a high percentage of its current operating budget to clubs and societies in comparison to many other student unions at other universities across Canada," Duguay emphasized earlier this week.

"I think there is some room to be made here so that the SU could possibly provide more services that all students could benefit from."

Duguay outlined at least nine suggestions that he would like to pursue should he become SU President.

They include increasing general services for students on campus, the addition of a one-stop, centralized campus information centre and the revitalization of the SU telephone directory that would include student telephone numbers with an opt-out provision.

He would also like to build a new games area in SUB Room 26 to give UNB students under 19 a place to gather on campus and work on creating a Campus Credit Counselling Centre, perhaps in conjunction with the Bank of Montreal and UNB's Financial Aid Office.

Other platform ideas include an Earth Centre to raise

awareness about environmental issues and upgrading such services as the SU website, renovations to the SU office to make it more accessible to students and adding a computer in the Paper Trail that could print materials if students arrive with a disk.

"I will have the privilege of being here full-time from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday, if I do win the election, so to me one important thing is getting the Student Union name out there and offering services students need," Duguay said.

The one exception will be when Duguay has to be absent from his office to attend meetings or take a limit of two courses per term.

Duguay would also like to bring the Student Union to a new level by making it more self-sufficient through various unnamed new revenue generating operations.

"If the SU can grow its own revenues from operations then there is no reason the student fee cannot be lowered in the future or new endowment funds created to gain annual interest," he said.

While the SU recorded a \$93,206 surplus at the end of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, Duguay is not a big advocate of dropping SU fees phenomenally until finances stabilized enough on a regular basis.

"If we were to drop the SU fee because we won a big surplus one year, the next year the SU might be in grave danger if unforeseen problems are encountered," he maintained.

Duguay also believes that the majority of students on campus are not completely satisfied with the services the SU is currently providing, necessitating improvement through the injection of new funding.

With two other services the SU is currently providing, Duguay wants to see improvements.

For various reasons, the Beaverbook did not arrive from the publishers at the beginning of September 2000.

There were also distribution problems. Many Beaverbooks are still stacked in boxes outside the SU Office to this day.

"The books should not only be distributed through the

Paper Trail but should also be put in the lobbies of buildings around campus so students can pick up a free copy," Duguay said.

"I would also like to see some improvements to the 2001-2002 edition of the Beaverbook with perhaps a CD inside the front cover with information about SU services."

"I think we could find a sponsor that could advertise a product on the CD and that would pay for the CD," he said.

The UNB Yearbook has also carried no advertising for at least the last two years, including the 2000 edition due out in May.

Asked if it is not a double-standard to require clubs and societies to raise their own funds when applying for SU funding or a grant yet the Student Union does nothing to raise extra funding from advertising to subsidize its yearbook operation, Duguay replied in the affirmative.

"I've been preaching all year that Clubs and Societies should become more self-sufficient and I think that holds

true for the SU as well," he said.

Duguay noted that the SU has dropped its subsidy to the Yearbook operation this year and intends to drop it a further \$4,078.65 to \$23,389 if Council approves its operating budget currently being proposed for 2001-2002.

Duguay, who is one of the five candidates seeking election to the university's Board of Governors as student representative for 2001-2002, intends to tackle the persistent problem of parking on campus.

He would also like to see the university spend some money to improve student parking lots, especially along lower Windsor Street, from gravel lots to chipseal or asphalt surfaced lots.

In addition to Duguay, four other candidates are seeking election to the Board of Governors in student elections this week including Scott Dechesnes, who has been admitted to graduate school in Engineering next Fall; Brian Crothers, a second year law student; Stewart Sarchfield, a first year Science student and John Campbell, a fourth year Computer Science student.



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