

the brunswickan

canada's oldest official student publication.



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UNB still on top

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Maclean's magazine has released its 18th annual university rankings, and for the second year in a row UNB has made the top five of comprehensive universities.

Comprehensive universities are those that have a significant amount of research activity as well as wide range of programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels. They are rated on thirteen different measures of aptitude. Rankings are weighted by a number of factors, including Students/Classes, Faculty, Resources, Library, and Reputation.

The Memorial University of Newfoundland tied with UNB for fifth place.

UNB Student Union President Bethany Vail is excited about the ranking.

"I'm super excited that we're in the top five. I think students need to be more pumped. It's pretty awesome," she says.

Vail says the faculty to student ratio is excellent at UNB, allowing for smaller class sizes and thus a better learning environment.

"We also have amazing library facilities," she adds, seeming proud of the university's assets. "There is always room for improvement with Student Services, but that's good too."

On behalf of the university's administration, UNB Communications Manager Dan Tanaka released the following statement, "John McLaughlin has been clear about his belief that UNB can be the top public university in the country and that is what we will continue to work toward."

In a recent press release, McLaughlin also expresses that he is very proud of the university. He makes reference to the fact that UNB has "continued to rank amongst much larger institutions."

He also points out that while the university has done well to maintain a position within the top 5 universities in this country, there is always work to be done.

The university "cannot lose sight of the work ahead to find better ways in which to serve our students and community."

The people who seem to be least enthusiastic about UNB's rating, according to Vail, are ironically the students – and she'd like to change that.

"A few years ago, the student senators tried to start a charter day in celebration of UNB. We should work on this. We're the oldest English-speaking university in Canada and the first public university in North America."

Vail says students should be proud of their school, and refers to the fact that aside from orientation week and graduation, there are not many events which bring the entire university together in school spirit. She plans to work on changing this at the next student senators meeting, which she says will occur in the next few weeks.

Maclean's rankings for other comprehensive universities are as follows: Simon Fraser (1), Victoria (2), Waterloo (3), Guelph (4), Memorial (5), New Brunswick (5), Carleton (7), Windsor (8), Regina (9), York (9) and Concordia (11).

UNB was ranked number 1 in the categories of Faculty/Staff ratio, as well as in library holdings per student.

ACTION LOUDER THAN WORDS



Josh O'Kane / The Brunswickan

The UNB Student Union held a Day of Action student rally last Thursday to reach out to the provincial government and prove that students loaded with debt are more than just statistics. The SU found \$8 million of debt over the last week. Above, VP External Jon O'Kane, who holds the SU's government relations portfolio, speaks at the rally.

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

In a search for one million dollars in student debt, the UNB Fredericton Student Union found over eight million in their student body last week.

On Thursday, Nov. 13, campuses across the province participated in a 'Day of Action,' where debt-laden students spoke out against the increasing costs of post-secondary. Students sent a strong message to the government of New Brunswick by building a shanty town at

Mount Allison, constructing a wall of debt at St. Thomas and rallying around the Student Union Building at UNB Fredericton.

At UNB's Day of Action rally, a massive red "debt-o-meter" was unveiled, providing attendees with visible proof that students are carrying a debt load of millions. Evidence of debt was collected throughout the week on postcards addressed to Premier Shawn Graham. Dozens of people gathered at the base of the SUB as SU VP External Jon O'Kane provided the crowd with a student voice.

"We are just one of seven schools sharing in similar demonstrations to this across the province of New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Student Alliance,

which spans from Mount Allison, to l'Université de Moncton's three campuses, to the University of New Brunswick Fredericton campus, St. Thomas University and even CCNB Dieppe are all united in the cause today to make sure that we can send a message to our provincial government, ensuring that we address our high needs students," echoed O'Kane across the crowd.

Stress rose among post-secondary education students in New Brunswick when the Millennium Scholarship Fund was terminated, which resulted in a seven million dollar loss for students. New Brunswick has the highest tuition costs in Canada with an average of \$34,000 in debt per student.

The NBSA and its member campuses are advocating for three key policy changes. They begin with the abolishment of the provinces current first year \$2000 bursary for New Brunswick students choosing to continue their education here and the \$10,000 tuition tax rebate for students that live in NB for five years following graduation.

A major aspect of the policy change recommendations is a student loan debt cap. This ensures that New Brunswick students receive no more than \$6000 per year in loans, with the rest of the government's financial aid coming in the form of non-repayable bursaries, resulting in no more than \$24,000

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Women's Volleyball go 1-1

ALEX WICKWIRE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

In the seven sets played by the V-Reds this past weekend, UNB took four. That's a slanted way to say that the team went 1-1 against their Nova Scotia competitors this past weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, UNB meant business as they took to the court to face Dalhousie. Cruising through three

straight sets (25-20, 25-13, 25-21), they defeated Dalhousie in timely fashion. Their dominant front court was led by Tanya Paulin and Barb Vriends who combined for 15 blocks on the day. Vriends' shoulder was being held in place by a few strands of black athletic tape, but anyone watching saw that whatever soreness was there did not hinder her game. Another player with an obvious ailment played a great game as well. Melanie Doucette's hamstring was kept intact with some of the same athletic tape, and she contributed a game high, 26 assists.

The Dalhousie match was a complete team effort on behalf of the Reds. Seven ace-serves were recorded along with 24 blocks. DAL recorded six total blocks and had no answer for UNB's power game.

UNB head coach John Richard was pleased with another team effort from this squad. "I thought against Dalhousie our middled played well on both sides of the ball and as a team, we blocked and served well. I thought our wing players have scored more especially once we forced the

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Sandy Chase / The Brunswickan

The Reds defeated DAL 3-0 on Saturday before falling 3-1 to St. FX on Sunday.

Thursday 20th

EAST COAST BLUES TOUR
Keith Hallet & The Big Dirty Orchestra

Draft Special Rocks On!

Bands - DJ Dance - Lounge - Foosball - Pool - Kitchen



Your Campus - Your Bar

Saturday 22nd

Hollywood Night
Take Two

Featuring - Guest Performers - The UNB Dance Club
With - DJ DIEGO & DJ VIOATOR