

Residence life wrap-up

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The academic year is coming to a close and campus will not be its typical hub of activity for the next four months.

It has been a good and quiet year for Residence Life, according to James Brown, Executive Director of Residence Life and Conference Services.

Brown begins his year-end review of Residence Life on a positive note by highlighting the charity work contributed by houses this year. Neill House, for example, has raised close to \$9,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society throughout the academic year.

He also mentions that this has been a relatively mild year for UNB residences as far as disciplinary issues go. A more formal process was introduced this year for appealing disciplinary issues to the Board of Dons and Brown says that the Board has only heard two appeals in the past year.

Residence Life's financial situation also echoes that of previous years.

They operate on a deficit budget, meaning that monetary output is typically one million dollars more than what is taken in per year in revenue.

"That's our approved budget, which reflects that the university is going to subsidize us to that extent. We stayed within our budget parameters this year," says Brown.

Roughly \$800,000 was spent by Residence Life this year on capital renewal or the maintenance of buildings. This encompasses everything from elevator upgrades to roof replacements, says the Executive Director. This also met the budget requirements.

"That's what we budget and it's close to the total amount we should be spending," says Brown with a laugh. "We do have a deferred maintenance backlog that we are working away at."

Occupancy in residences this year has also been similar to that of recent years.

The new suite-style residence almost at 95 per cent occupancy, according to

Brown, as were the McGee apartments. Res Life budgets for this level of occupancy.

"Traditional undergraduate residences" were at over 90 per cent occupancy of the space offered to residents. A floor in McLeod House and a hall in Joy Kidd House were closed this year. In terms of total occupancy, 85 per cent of space is filled, says Brown.

Residence Life tracks what Brown thinks of as "capture rates." These are based on the percentage of undergraduates on campus who are living in a typical university residence.

Brown says that the number has increased from 16 per cent to 18 per cent since 2005.

No major changes are expected for Residence Life next year, says the Executive Director. Some dons are graduating, but applicants are being interviewed to replace them.

Despite the recent revelation of UNB's financial woes in President McLaughlin's Presidential Report on the provincial budget, Residence Life's budget for next year has been approved thus far and will resemble that of previous years.

Brown says that no plans have been made to close any more residences or to close floors of buildings. Decisions of this nature, however, are not made until after residence applications have been submitted in May.

"It's very early days to judge, but we're planning on the same number of students choosing to live in traditional undergrad residence as they did this year and all of the indications are that that number will be the same or better," says Brown.

He also dispels rumours that immediate plans have been made to move Renaissance College from Maggie Jean Chestnut House on Charlotte Street to the Lady Beaverbrook Residence.

"Honestly, that's been a discussion that's been going on in the background for a year. It hasn't moved forward," says Brown. "I can tell you for sure that I haven't been asked to surrender the building."

Applications for students returning to residence must be submitted to the front desk in the Residence Administration building by Apr. 15.

Sick prospective immigrants barred from Canada: study

CHELSEA HOWARD
THE MUSE (MUN)

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) – Peter Coyte, professor of health and economics at the University of Toronto, has found that immigrants are being denied entry into Canada based on their medical burden.

Canada's Immigration Act outlines three major reasons why a person would be deemed medically inadmissible to the country.

Coyte's research deals with the reason that the immigrant might cause excessive demands on health and social services.

Immigration Canada's definition of excessive demand is \$4,867.40 per year. If an immigrant could potentially incur more than this amount, he or she won't be permitted to enter the country.

The study was designed to address whether or not Immigration Canada's current cost threshold is reasonable, and if it isn't, what would be a more appropriate threshold.

"We want to look at factors that would yield a HIV-positive immigrant admissible if a new threshold was invoked," said Coyte.

Coyte, a chair in health services research, focuses primarily on research, education, linkage, and exchange activities within Canada's healthcare community.

This particular project has been ongoing over the past year, and is in the final stages of research.

Coyte, and Kednappa Thavorn from U

of T's Department of Health Policy, have been working toward finalizing research that assesses Canadian immigration decisions that deal with immigrants who are suffering from health conditions.

Based upon these consultations, Coyte and the other researchers involved constructed a statistical test to measure the amount of cost before a prospective immigrant's healthcare burden is deemed to be excessive, or statistically different from that of Canadians.

The study shows that the current cost threshold is too low.

Coyte says it should be almost three times higher, at around \$15,000.

This conclusion was reached based upon the distribution factor involved in health-care costs.

Research has shown that while average health-care costs are known, neither the variance nor the cost distribution is known with any certainty.

Councillors drop like flies, lose quorum at final meeting

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The last UNBSU council meeting of the year kicked off without having met quorum. As a result, the meeting was not officially called to order until approximately 5:45 p.m.

After enough members were present, the agenda was juggled so that items requiring quorum could be dealt with. Half an hour later, quorum was lost again as councillors

left to meet other engagements.

A highlight of the meeting was the report of Eco-commissioner Jens Ourom. He discussed plans to implement a bike-share program, in which students would pay a 15 per cent deposit at the beginning of the year to cover maintenance, and then be permitted to borrow a bike for a 3-5 day period.

As of right now, there is a verbal agreement with Campus Recreation regarding the plan. In this proposal, the UNBSU Eco-Committee allocates \$2,200 (±15 per cent) towards the bike-share program.

This was voted in unanimously.

The Eco-committee would donate 10 Canadian-made bikes, UNB Sustainability would donate 20, and

campus recreation another 10.

Ourom also said that \$600-800 would be donated for a bike shelter.

In order to borrow a bike, students will have to be prepared to put a \$200 deposit on the table. Deposits will only be taken if bikes are damaged.

The Eco-commissioner said that this will be a good way for students to reduce emissions, as the option of a bicycle will reduce the use of taxis.

It is also in the works to reserve a small number of bicycles for students who wish to use them for quick trips.

UNB VP Finance Dan Murray and VP Academic Anthony Secco also attended the meeting to give a presentation on provincial finances and UNB's operating budget for the coming year.

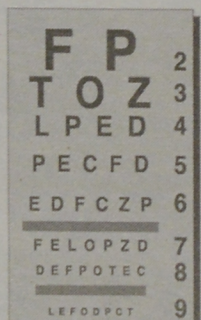


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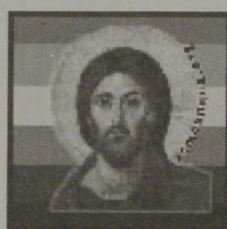
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queerandchristian.org/conference