

# Does Colin B. want the NB Tory leadership?

Administration president Colin Mackay resigned last month and informed sources say he is ready to jump into New Brunswick politics.

People on and off campus are predicting that Mackay will attempt to gain the leadership of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative party.

A recent article in the Financial Post suggested that he might ask old friend Gordon Fairweather, a federal Tory MP, to join him in provincial politics.

Mackay carries a strong Tory tradition. His father, Hugh Mackay, was party leader and leader of the opposition when John B. McNair was premier.

The Conservatives under Hugh John Flemming ousted the Liberals in 1952 and Mackay was appointed president of UNB the next year.

The Post article said Mackay was in a good position for the leadership because he has kept in close contact with the party without becoming politically involved.

Most sources agree that Mackay didn't resign because of pressure resulting from the Strax affair.

"He (Mackay) probably felt that with the radical change in the atmosphere of the campus, it was time for him to step down and allow someone with a different viewpoint to assess the situation," said one source.

"He definitely didn't resign because of any pressure groups."

"He probably also felt the time was ripe to get into politics."

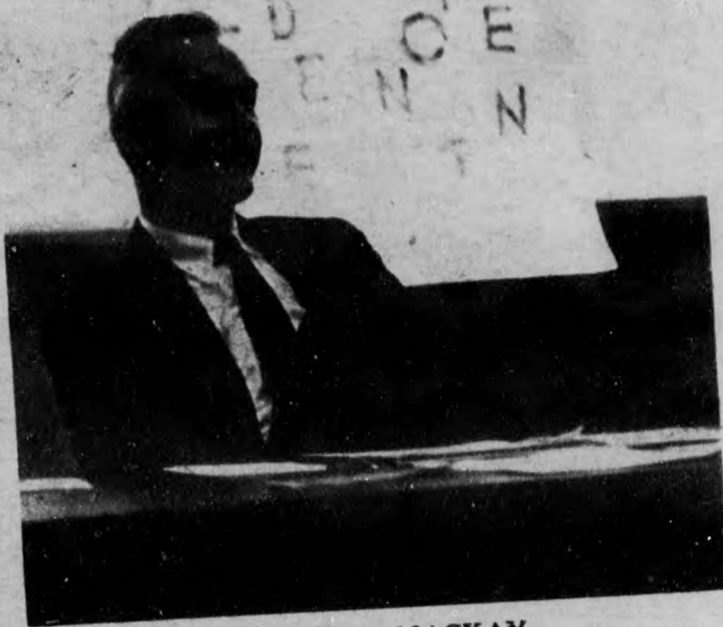
Sources also squashed rumors that Mackay was in ill-health.

The big campus issue now will be the method of choosing a new president:

The SRC passed a motion Sunday night demanding that at least one student be on the nominating committee and that a student-faculty advisory committee to work with the nominating committee.

Chemical engineering prof Shemilt and graduate studies dean Pacey are considered top contenders to succeed Mackay.

A university press release on the resignation said that Mackay told the board of governors that he would be prepared to continue in office until June 30. The board will appoint an acting president designate at a meeting this month.



COLIN B. MACKAY

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### Council wants students to help choose Mackay's successor

The SRC passed unanimously Sunday night a two-part resolution calling for a student voice in the choosing of the new university president.

The resolution said: "(1) The SRC feels most strongly that in the process of appointment in both an acting and a permanent president of the university, there be an effective student voice."

"(2) The SRC urges that (a) no committee to consider the appointment of either an acting or a permanent president come to any decision until provision is made for student representation (b) and that one place on the nominating committee for the presidency be reserved until such time as students may be able to sit on that committee, at which time a student be appointed to fill that space (c) and that the possibility of creating an advisory committee to sit with or consult with the nominating committee, be given serious consideration. Such an advisory committee to consist of faculty and students of equal number."

Acting SRC president Alistair Robertson described the method of choosing a new university president as follows: "For acting president the Board of Governors appoints a committee to nominate an acting president and their nomination has to be approved by the senate."

"For permanent presidency the B of G again appoints a nominating committee, three members appointed by the board and three by the senate. This committee sends its nom-

ination to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council effectively the provincial cabinet. This can be done three times. If the Lieutenant-Governor still doesn't agree with the nomination, the university senate has the final say. This is how the president is chosen at the moment."

When questioned about the potential role that students could play in choosing a nominee for the presidency, Robertson said, "Students can exercise an effective voice; they may not be as well informed as older members of the academic community but the information is available (ie, information on potential candidates). The students may choose from a student point of view but that's the whole point: that a president should be acceptable to faculty and students."

#### SUPPORT FOR REGINA CAMPUS

Council also dealt with recent activities at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan. Robertson read aloud a press release from that university's SRC.

"The SRC of the students' union deplores and views with alarm, the recent decision of the board of governors to discontinue collecting student union fees," said the release.

"Their decision is an infringement on the legal rights of the students to organize an independent union under student direction and free from outside control. It is an intolerable attempt to impose cen-

sorship on the Carillon the Regina student paper) and to deny the students, their right to a free press."

He said he was trying to meet a need among students which the community doesn't provide for.

"On opposition to the proposal: Some members of council were against it on principle; some members of council are not interested in services that really help their fellow students; others, I admit, objected on grounds of practicality," he said.

"There are those among the councillors who are afraid to take the responsibility of decision but that is the purpose of the council: to make responsible positions."

The press release continued that the board of governors "have chosen a policy of confrontation—not us."

Council's resolution says: "The SRC of UNB offers to the SRC of the student union of the University of Saskatchewan (Regina campus) their full, unequivocal and unreserved solidarity and support in their stand against the action of the authorities of the University of Saskatchewan in suspending collection of student activity fee, which action, it is clear to the SRC of UNB, was taken in such a manner and accompanied by such statements as clearly amounts to an attempt to blackmail, coerce and intimidate the duly constituted and legally representative student organization of the university."

"And further the SRC of UNB calls upon the said authorities of the University of Saskatchewan to rescind their decision forthwith and restore, to the SRC of the student union, this latter's full rights and privileges."

Robertson described the act of the administration as comparable to the normalization of Czechoslovakia by the USSR and grad representative Padraig Finlay described it as "a dangerous precedent."

The resolution was passed 10-0 with four abstentions.

#### NO LEGAL AID FUND

A motion proposed by Robertson granting financial assistance to those students requiring legal assistance was narrowly defeated. The proposal read in part, "The SRC is prepared to make available legal assistance in some form to students at UNBF who require it and who are not in a financial position secure it..." Robertson said after the meeting that he was disappointed that this didn't go through.

#### APOLOGY

The Brunswickan apologizes to Mr. Justice J. Paul Barry and the Supreme Court of New Brunswick for the reflections and innuendoes apparent in the Spades Down column in the December 3 issue of the Brunswickan. The article was not published with malicious intent.