

SIX STUDENTS ON SENATE

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For the first time in the history of the University of New Brunswick, students have been allowed a definite legal say in the academic future of the university.

A proposal calling for the election of six students representatives on open constituency lines to the UNB Senate was overwhelmingly approved by the Senators at a regular monthly meeting. The Wednesday night meeting was a first in many ways.

Earlier in the evening five students were granted permission to sit in on the debate, and vote on the proposed Students Representation motion. The students were admitted strictly as observers. They entered on the agreement that they would look and listen, but not debate. All five students were members of a Second Senate Committee on student representation who drafted the proposal that went before the Senate Wednesday evening.

STUDENT MEMBERS

Student Members of the second Senate Committee on student representation were Mike Start, SRC President; Dave Beck, UNB-SJ SRC; Jim Hughes, Business Admin. 3; Dave Jonah, Associate Editor Brunswickan; Jim Muir, SRC Member; and Mary Norrad, Arts 3 who had experience on the Mt. A. Student Senate Representation Committee. All members were volunteers appointed by the Applications Committee of the SRC.

This Committee was set up in order to draw together the difference between the students' view and the Senators' view of Student representation. This committee contained a one-more-try attitude but was filled with new people to provide a fresh

outlook and stimulus to the negotiations. These negotiations have stretched over the last two years and left both sides in different degrees of frustration.

REPORT TABLED

The first committee report was tabled in the Senate and never reached the voting stage. Reasons given for it's being tabled were vague.

Early in September of this year tempers flared due to a seemingly insurmountable deadlock in the senate. This caused two student observers to walk out of the Senate meeting convinced that no further advancement could be achieved in the fight for representation. Acting President Dineen immediately instigated another committee at the urging of the SRC executive to ease the tensions caused by the deadlock. Dr. George P. Semeluk, a Senate member, was appointed chairman of the Second Committee by President Dineen.

Dr. Semeluk felt himself in general agreement with the student's position and resolved to bring the two groups together. As a result meetings were immediately called to submit proposals to the regular Oct. 14 Senate meeting.

In a period of a little over two weeks this fresh committee met four times jointly with one common purpose in mind: to provide a workable solution for student representation. Dr. Semeluk correlated the common points of agreement and from the discussions drew up the proposal which was finally presented. Both senators and students met jointly to allow for exchange of ideas in the hopes of solving all differences. Since this was not possible,

Semeluk presented the report from the chair.

The student position of no constituency by faculty was up held and the first proposal presented called for only open constituencies, "Saint John as one constituency and UNB Fredericton as the other, with one member from St. John and five representing UNB Fredericton.

Semeluk in explaining the ratio of senators as to campus location pointed out that "UNB Fredericton is roughly seven times larger in population than UNBSJ. Therefore the ratio is easily explained".

The proposal brought forward by Semeluk was met with restrained criticism and general open mindedness by most Senators. Debate occasionally slipped away from the issue being discussed.

SWITCH HITTER

Desmond Pacey, Dean of Graduate Studies, opened the debate by informing his colleagues that he had "originally been in favour of only four student senators but felt he could be persuaded to view a greater number with favor, if someone could convince him that it was a good idea."

The suggestion that only four students be allowed on the Senate came from a motion of the March 11, 1969, meeting of the Senate which had initially approved the concept of students representation.

MYSTICAL RING

Dr. Bailey informed the Senators, much to their amusement, that he liked the number four because he had spent his life studying the North American Indian. The number four had a mystical ring to it in Indian folklore. He



Mike Start pres. SRC

felt four was the perfect number and conceivably one more could be added for UNBSJ. Bailey clearly indicated he wanted four to be the number of student senators.

After many convincing arguments for open constituencies and six students representatives, Dean Pacey informed those present that he felt he was leaning towards the proposal. Acting President Dineen asked if someone would care to "push Dean Pacey over."

More discussion resulted. After nearly an hour of discussion, the vote was called for and Pacey plus 13 other Senators approved the proposal paving the way for late fall elections. Only seven Senators voted against and two others abstained.

"The great advances made in student participation in university government recently" said Pacey at one point in the debate "seems to be due to a new atmosphere of cooperation felt by the students after last year's unfortunate incidents, or rather it's the old spirit returned again. We Senators don't feel like a gun is being

pointed at our heads for encouragement."

Members of the Senate who sat on the Second committee were G.P. Semeluk; D.P. Atherton; W.B. Baker, Dean J. Ker and P. Willis, representing UNBSJ.

REACTION GOOD

General student reaction to the success of the committee was one of general approval and "That's Good" comments. Michael Start, was enthusiastically pleased with the results. One student member of the committee felt that a great deal of the success of the committee should be attributed to the SRC President. "He never appeared to lose hope and would not give in and go against council policy while giving a sense of direction to the rest of us. I am really impressed with our chairman Dr. Semeluk, who so easily correlated the different viewpoints and to a large extent kept the committee strictly functional."

Nominations will be called for in the next few weeks, after finalization of election procedures. Elections are slated for the first of November.



Dr. George Semeluk, committee chairman

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