

ELECTIONS: SPRING 1995

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE



President KELLY LAMROCK

I say — please look at the ideas I have to make the Student Union matter to more students. I think you will find something there you'll care about.

There's no easy way to fight apathy, except with ideas that make a real difference. I think my platform makes a good start.

What one issue do you feel is the most important for the student union to tackle next year? I'll give you two: one on campus, one off-campus.

On campus, I believe that helping students cut through the red tape that screws us over is important.

Off campus, stopping cuts to post-secondary education. This year, as Chair of the New Brunswick Student Alliance, which represents students at all universities in the province, I helped develop a plan that would pre-

serve education funds, freeze tuition fees and student debt, and offer work experience to students while saving the government money. I will work to get more politicians to endorse the plan and to mobilise public opinion against the cuts.

What is your position on the CFS referendum issue? This is a question I have a unique perspective on, because I was National Chair of CFS for two years before coming to law school at UNB. I always told people to stay in CFS for two reasons — it did good lobby work and it was democratic.

These things aren't true any more. It is hard for me to say after putting 5 years of my life into CFS, but there is only one way to take students' voices back from the Ottawa elite who have hijacked them. Sadly, that means voting NO to CFS.

YES/NO

What did you do on National Student Strike day? I went to Shippagan where I spoke to a group of 400 Acadian students about alternatives to the Asworthy cuts. Then I came back to Fredericton and prepared for town hall meetings on the issue at UNB and STU.

I must say, however, that I was also involved in the October protest during the Cretien visit that got national media attention, and appeared on Canada AM and other national media to promote the 10,000 student rally in Ottawa on November 16th against the cuts. I appeared before the Parliamentary Committee to offer alternatives to the government plan, and have met with 50 MP's this year to promote the NBSA alternative plan. I find it odd that this question focuses on only one day of a year-long fight just because the CFS office in Ottawa said so. The student unions here started fighting

the government's plan since July, months before it was even announced.

Why are you worth your honorarium? I spent 3 years on the STU executive, including time as President. I am currently head of the provincial student union. I've been head of a national student union. I get re-elected because in every job I've put in long hours and gotten real results. Elect me and I will do it again.

How would you use your position to act as an advocate for students at UNB? At UNB the key is to find new ways of getting students' input and then going to bat for them. Advocacy also means setting up services that tangibly affect students' lives. After six years in student politics at all levels, I know how to speak up to get those things done.

What do you say to students who aren't planning on voting at all, to convince them that they should come out and vote for you? If people aren't voting, that means that the Student Union has not made itself relevant to their lives. That is the true mark of success or failure. When I was president at STU, I was proud that during my two years, voter turnout increased from 13% to 41%. To students not planning to vote,

Vice-President (External Affairs)

PAT FITZ PATRICK



idle promise — the Student Union has been successful in this field before. Working in conjunction with the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), the Union successfully lobbied in 1993 for a tuition freeze, the result of which was that the province allowed universities a 5% increase over a 2 year period — that's why tuition was the same this year as last. The next step would be to have it frozen permanently — this will be my primary focus as V.P. External.

What is your position on the CFS referendum issue? It is no secret to anyone who has read the Brunswickan this term that I am opposed to our continued membership in CFS and am a leading member of the "No Side" in the coming referendum.

What did you do on National Student Strike day? The day of the National Student Strike was a busy one for me. As the Union's Vice-President (University Affairs), I was busy organizing a boycott of the strike on behalf of Student Unions across the country which objected to the means used by CFS and the International Socialists in their self-declared "Day of Action". What spare time I had that day I spent organizing the Canadian Academic Round Table (CART) conference and the founding conference for CASA, both of which I co-hosted here in Fredericton.

Why are you worth your honorarium? In a word: experience. In the past, I have worked for the Brunswickan and the Yearbook, was Student Publications Editor and was a member of Council as a Science Representative. These last two years, I have served two terms as VP (University Affairs), am presently finishing a two-year seat on the UNB Fredericton Senate and am nearing the end of a one-year seat on the UNB Board of Governors. I know the campus, I know the issues and I know how to go about doing the job. In terms of experience in External Affairs, I was UNB's delegate to the conference which founded CASA, organized a national boycott of the Student Strike, have been active in dealing with CFS, have a proven track-record of support for CFS-Services (the separately incorporated company which provides us with Travel CUTS, SWAP, the health plan, etc) and have been active in planning CASA's national "Real Choices" campaign. I'm worth my honorarium because I can combine UNB specific experience with a fresh understanding of how the external portfolio works, bringing to it new ideas and enthusiasm.

How would you use your position to act as an advocate for students at UNB? Across Canada? Further to [the advocacy function which I have already discussed], I see a great deal of work for my position in terms of serving as an advocate for students who want to appeal their student loans for a re-assessment. My position is thus a mix of advocacy for all students and for specific students' problems here at UNB.

What do you say to students who are not planning on voting at all, to convince them that they should come out and vote for you? What it boils down to is that you have a huge stake in your own education. The Student Union is the officially recognized organization which exists to represent your voice and ensure that your stake is protected. Through the \$ 225.00 you pay every year, the Student Union provides a health plan, a range of services, representation at the local, provincial and national level and membership in national student organizations. What all this means is that Council has power that will, in one way or another, affect your life. By voting, you are ensuring that the person elected represents your views — in other words, you are making the Student Union Council accountable to its membership. By voting for me in the upcoming election and through participation in the public issue forums I will be holding if elected, you are ensuring that the policy alternatives I am proposing are representative of what you expect to see.

What do you see as the most important function of the position that you are running for? The most important function of the Vice-President (External Affairs) is to ensure that an education at UNB remains accessible to all. If elected, my first priority would be to ensure that the provincial government freezes tuition at its current level. This is no

AARON FOWLER



What do you say to students who aren't planning on voting at all, to convince them that they should come out and vote for you? People must understand that, generally speaking, our inputs into the decision making processes which affect us are very limited. An election is the even which guarantees that the will of the majority is exercised. To not vote, due either to indecision or apathy is to reject this right. If elected, I hope to base my decisions on the will of the people informed on the situation. I hope to be a representative, not to make decisions for the student body but rather to enact the decisions which they have made. While it seems that our only voice is through the electoral process, this does not necessarily have to be the case. I hope to work together with students to change the current system.

What one issue do you feel is the most important for the student union to tackle? From the standpoint of someone hoping to represent the university externally in the coming year, I feel that the most important issue we must deal with is the ongoing CFS/CASA debate. With impending changes coming in the way an education is financed it is extremely important that students have a voice. We must determine which of the two student organizations best performs this task. Students at UNB cannot simply remain in limbo over this issue, we must come to a decision. Let us hope that the referendum results in what is best for this university.

What do you see as the most important function of the position you are running for? Clearly, the most important role of VP External Affairs is to guarantee that the students of UNB have a voice in those issues which affect them. Representing the will of our student body away from the friendly confines of this campus is what this position was created to do. VP External must be on guard for events which will impact on this school and be prepared to deal with them in a manner that most benefits the student body.

What is your position on the CFS referendum issue? I feel that the CFS is an organisation which, despite its best intentions, has lost touch with its members. The CFS has spread itself too thin to deal effectively with the issues relevant in today's world. The Canadian Federation of Students abandoned UNB long before this school withdrew its support for that organisation. The CF has not had a representative in the New Brunswick/PEI region for this entire school year - how can such a body claim to be representing the views of all members? Conversely, the CASAs offers students another option. Founded on the mistakes of the CFS, is in a better position to carry our views on to the government. On referendum day, I encourage all students to cast aside the CFS and move on to a future as a founding member of the CASA.

Why are you worth your honoraria? I feel that in my first two years at this institution I have dedicated many hours to making it a better place to live. I have served two terms on the MacKenzie House Executive,

represented UNB at an international conference, and Participated in various events, both intramural and otherwise. I have done this while maintaining a GPA in excess of 4.0. I am now turning my attention to serving this school in another manner. I guarantee that, if elected, I will treat the office as though it were my full time job. I promise to see to it that no job is ignored, that no complaint is brushed off. I will perform my duties to the best of my ability at all times, even if it comes at the expense of my grades. While I do not foresee this being a problem I do intend to put my position on Student Union first.

How would you use your position to act as an advocate for students at UNB? Across Canada? The office of VP External Affairs serves, in many respects, as spokesperson, voicing the concerns of UNB students to the community. I am currently quite well acquainted with the people holding the VP External positions at both Mount Allison and the University of Alberta; I hope, through interaction with them and others to better understand the concerns of all students, not just those in Fredericton. The better one understands someone's views, the better they can represent those views to others. I will fight for what students deserve, for what students need, not just at UNB but across Canada.