

# New guide eases course selection

by Cheryl McLean  
Brunswickan News

Due to the enthusiastic support of last year's pilot project of the Consumer's Guide to UNB, the Student Union's academic handbook has been released in time for students to choose their courses for registration.

This second edition has approximately 275 courses from all undergraduate faculties, excluding law, as opposed to last year's much smaller edition which represented only arts and engineering.

Even though this new edition has a staggering 250% increase in content over the pilot edition, it still only represents 30% of all courses offered at UNB.

Shona Bertrand, the editor of the guide, feels "it's a good start but there's lots to be done".

This lack of participation shows that many students just do not care, or cannot be bothered filling out the surveys.

Granted, filling out two surveys per course can be annoying. However, its outcome is invaluable for both future students planning on taking the course and the professor teaching.

There is quite a difference between the two forms as well. The standard form that the university hands out is confidential and its results go to the dean of the faculty, the department heads and the professor and is put on file.

The problem with this form is that there is no room for comments to be made and therefore it does not help in specifying problems.

The Student Union form is both student oriented, giving more information for helping in course selections, as well as feedback to the professor. The comments are the most essential part of the form.

Professors that volunteer to have their course evaluated by the Student Union form are given the opportunity to scan the feedback before print and offer comments. Many professors do not

The problems and are eager to change whatever needs to be for the following year.

Hopefully enough professors will eventually allow this evaluation to take place so students no longer have to go by word of mouth and can detect the more unfavourable classes by the ones that are not in the guide.

The guide models itself after the University of Toronto's "Anti-Calendar" and UNB has now become a model for other universities. UNB feels that the Guide is an invaluable supplement as opposed to contradicting any other information.

The Guide is a year round project, but many improvements have been made, one being that the forms are computer screenable and took only two days as opposed to the previous three months. The editing of the comments takes the most time.

Bertrand mentioned that the Stu-

dent Union does not "have full support from the administration as of yet, they are reluctant either way because if the project was done badly it can hurt more than help".

This does not seem to be the case. Both students and professors are excited about the Guide. It is more than just an evaluation guide, it is an all around academic handbook.

The Enrolment Management Advisory Committee, which acts as a liaison between the Senate, comprised of primarily faculty, and the Student Union is in full support of this project.

Five thousand copies were printed and there is a possibility that a second print may run in time for pre-registration.

"Four thousand were gone in the first week, we didn't anticipate that kind of demand" said Bertrand.

Anyone interested in getting a copy should go to the Help Centre.

If you are interested in getting involved, see Shona Bertrand in the Student Union office near the Brunswickan, or phone at 453-4955.

## Low response to frosh questionnaires

by Gordon Loane  
Brunswickan News

UNB's Assistant Registrar Michael Shanks is looking for a lot of answers these days—answers to student questionnaires, that is.

About 1400 questionnaires were distributed to frosh students last week asking all sorts of questions about UNB, its recruiting methods, and inviting comparisons with other universities.

But, so far, the response rate has been extremely low.

"We've received less than 50 responses to date and we were hoping for over 1000," said Shanks. "It's very important that frosh students respond to the questionnaire for two main reasons," he continued.

"First of all, we are very interested in what first year students think of us and how we stack up with other universities that they know about," he said. "We are very interested in getting feedback."

"Secondly, the results of the questionnaire will help us plan for

the future and make some adjustment. It will help the Registrar's Office determine what works and what does not."

The four-page questionnaire should take less than five minutes to fill out and can be dropped off at the Registrar's Office.

"We have provided drop boxes at the Registrar's Office, so there should be no line-up," Shanks said.

Overall, UNB's Assistant Registrar is hoping for a good response rate.

"We're hoping for a 60-100 percent response rate. But 100 percent is a bit unrealistic, I realize."

The survey will be tabulated and analyzed by the College Board, an outside private educational company based in the United States. "The ASQ plus questionnaire was developed by this company through many years experience and we thought it would be very helpful to us," Shanks said.

The ASQ questionnaire is being used at UNB for the first time this year. The project received a grant from UNB's Futures Fund.

**Campaign**, continued from page 1

dollar fund would be created for Inter-Collegiate Athletics. An Educational Technology fund of \$4 million would upgrade computer facilities and bring multi-media technology to a new multi-media teaching centre and other classrooms. A further \$3-million would

create an Information Age Fund to put UNB's library and journals on the so-called "Information Highway."

A Research Development and International Programs Fund of \$2-million would be established. And an Academic Opportunities Fund of some \$3-million would be created.

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