

### Task Force recommends changes for Grad Students

UNB's School of Graduate Studies should review its current method of charging tuition for students who elect non-thesis programs with a view to adopting a per course fee, says the Task Force on Tuition and Other Student Fee Policies.

Currently students in Graduate Studies who elect a non-thesis option are required to pay a program fee per term and a continuing fee per term whether or not courses are taken.

"Some part-time graduate students have expressed concern about paying a continuing fee per term when no or few courses may be offered by the university which they can take towards their program", the Task Force Report notes.

No per course fee is mentioned in the Task Force Report. UNB graduate students currently pay \$960 per term in tuition fees or a total of \$2,880 a year.

As for future tuition policy in Student Services, the discussion paper says other universities charge graduate students higher fees than undergraduates.

The report points out that graduate fees at UNB are currently approximately equal to those charged undergraduates. The report recommends that the School of Graduate Studies look into whether graduate fees should be set at a higher rate than undergraduates in the future.

It also suggests that graduate students should be charged on a per-course basis for courses taken as "extra" electives or personal enrichment.

### International students will continue to pay more

International students attending UNB can expect to pay a supplemental tuition fee for the foreseeable future.

In 1996-97, UNB increased its supplementary tuition fee to \$2,000 from \$1,700 the year before.

"The additional \$300 is being used to help finance the extra cost of recruiting", the discussion paper on Tuition and Student Fee Policies notes.

In comparison to fees charged in most other parts of Canada, fees for International Students still remain low in the Maritime provinces, the report states.

The report goes on to say that fees and living costs for international students in Canada continue to be lower than at universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The report notes that the Government of New Brunswick continues to review its policy on international student fees, with the possibility of providing a financial incentive to attract large numbers of students from abroad.

"Given the continuing uncertainty about long-term government policy in this area, it is difficult to make a firm recommendation about future fees for international students attending UNB."

In the meantime, the Task Force recommends that the differential fee for international students should continue to be levied on the basis of a fixed amount for full-time students regardless of program and on a pro-rated basis for part-time students.

### No extra tuition for off-campus or distance education courses

UNB's Task Force on Tuition and other Student Fee Policies has decided not to recommend extra tuition for students taking off-campus or distance education courses.

However, the Task Force suggests the university should continue to monitor the situation periodically.

There are two lines of thought on the subject of off-campus and Distance Education fees, according to the report released last week.

"One asserts that the university is providing a service and possibly even a convenience which students might not otherwise be able to obtain or would have to incur personal costs to travel to the closest campus," the report says.

But a second line of thought suggests many of the services which are available to full and part-time students in regular tuition prices are either unavailable or only partially so to students at off-campus locations.

"UNB's current tuition practice is to include university services such as registration, libraries, laboratories, creative arts, athletic facilities, student support services, etc. in the basic tuition fee", the Task Force report points out.

### Report recommends no waivers for seniors

A Task Force set up to look at Tuition and other Student Fee Policies is recommending that UNB continue its policy of charging full tuition rates to seniors who take courses for credit and half the normal fee when courses are taken on an audit basis.

The City of Fredericton recently wrote the University expressing its support for a request by its Municipal Seniors Advisory Council that UNB be asked to provide free tuition for seniors auditing a course.

But the request was turned down by the Task Force which concluded that the economic challenges faced by other students as well as the University have not changed since the Board of Governors decided to delete the tuition waiver for seniors, effective September 1, 1994.

For many years UNB had a policy which waived tuition fees for degree courses taken by students aged 60 or more. But the waiver was eliminated by the University for several reasons.

"The decision was based on the increasing fee levels for other students, the growing importance of fee income as a component of the University's operating budget, the policy of the Provincial Government which reduced operating grants to universities for part-time students who do not pay regular fees, the increasing number of senior citizens potentially interested in taking university courses and the availability of the Provincial Government's need-based Student Aid program to individual's of all ages", the report notes.

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