

Congratulations Mr. Ratcliff!

Another election, and once again another SRC President.

The campus has seen numerous presidents elected and each time the hopes of students are

raised that this time a new and fresh personality will change the stale atmosphere that surrounds

the second floor of the student union building.

Kevin Ratcliff is this year's SRC president, and we congratulate him on his election victory.

At the same time we would like to raise a few points that are important. They are issues that have perpetually been ignored

president after president and, hopefully you Mr. Ratcliff, may finally heed to their beckoning call.

First there is the Union's alienation from the student

body. Over the past few years the SRC has managed to ignore students and their pertinent

needs and wants. The public image of the president and his council is at an all-time low,

which reflects a total disregard for the area in which they are elected to represent. You Mr. Ratcliff, and fellow councillors,

represent the students of UNB, and yet the focus of attention seems to have been on the petty

inter-office politics that seem to continually arise week after week. The days of a council meeting reflecting the issues of students vis a vis the university are dying. It's time to revive them.

On the same subject, let us examine the students viewpoint towards their student union. There is a saying that goes "it may be sad but true." It's very apt because the majority of students don't know what's going on with their student union. They vote for the candidates on the ballot (some of you do anyway), they read the election results in the paper that week - and that's it. They may read about what's



happening in the SRC meetings from week to week or they may hear a bit of feedback if they know someone on council - BUT the majority of students on this campus are ignorant to what the people they took the time out to vote for are doing. It's really quite pathetic. The SRC has become nothing more than a

bureaucracy. Rather than act as a sensitive and aware voice of the students they (the SRC) has

slowly developed into a quiet office-oriented unit. How can anyone scream that students are

apathetic when the apathy is continually perpetuated by their own government? Nothing that concerns students is happening, so they let their interest slip...and the SRC maintains the same line of inter-office politicking.

As you may be able to gather, Mr. Ratcliff, the problem that exists is very real and of great importance. It's high time that the SRC started to represent the students again. The time has

come (and in reality, may have run out) to stop the office politics and return to the issues at hand - namely the students and their needs and wants.

Let's see an improvement in the rifts that exist between the SRC president and council. It is time for a more co-ordinated effort.

The amount of bickering that passes for an SRC meeting is time consuming and irrelevant to the more important issues at hand. It's never too late to institute changes in attitude as well as changes in former presidential practices.

The tasks at hand are not easy. No one ever said they would be. The need is there and it will take not only a patient, but an understanding and conscientious president to instill the much needed order that has disappeared over the past few years.

Are you going to be that man, Mr. Ratcliff? We can only watch and hope.

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