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University faces \$500,000. deficit,
residence fees jump, but...

NO TUITION HIKE!

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The University of New Brunswick Board of Governors voted in an unprecedented move not to increase tuition fees for the 1977-1978 academic year, although residence fees will jump.

After a meeting last Thursday (April 7) the board decided tuition fees would remain at \$740 for undergraduates. Rates for graduate students will remain at a one time charge of \$660 for masters degree and diploma program students and \$990 for doctoral students in addition to a registration fee for all graduate students of \$165 a year.

Room and board for residence students will be increased \$100 for double rooms and \$150 for singles. This will put the price of a double room up to \$1,650, a single \$1,750. Magee House apartments will jump 7 per cent on July 1.

UNB president John M. Anderson said in a press release the Magee rent increase would permit the university to continue operating the apartments near the break-even level. The release said it was necessary to raise other residence fees because the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission does not fund residence deficits, which totaled \$335,000 at UNB this year.

These decisions were made after the announcements of a 6.9 per cent increase in the provincial operating grant to the university. This amounts to a 5.5 per cent increase in the overall operating budget.

Maritime universities had asked for a 12.5 per cent increase over last year's grant of which UNB got \$25,102,000. This would give the university an extra \$3,000,000 but the final figure was only slightly over half this amount.

The university had to cut \$387,000 off the current budget because they over-estimated enrolment by 482 students. As of December 1, 1976 net enrolment was 25 less than the year before. Anderson predicted earlier (Brunswickan, Jan. 14) that the 1977-78 enrolment would be even less.

The university is calculating next year's tuition fees on the basis that enrolment will be at least equal to the current figure of 5,882. This would give the university \$4,300,000 in tuition revenue.

Anderson said this meant \$500,000 would have to be cut in next year's operating budget. The cuts this year were made from non-space capital expenditures.

This includes library books, maintenance, lab equipment, etc. There were also cuts in part-time staff and the contingency budget.

A meeting of residence students in Tilley Hall last Wednesday (April 6) was told \$75,000 had to be cut from the cost of the residence system if fee increases were to be kept to the \$100 and \$150 level.

Consensus of representatives of the residence system was that they should have been contacted before it was decided where the cutbacks would be made.

A presentation to the board by Residence Representative Council chairperson David Bartlett, student senator Steve Berube, McLeod House president Beverly Doherty, and Victoria House president Blair Sellors, said in part, "The majority realized that these cutbacks may be necessary, but those suggested to the Board of Governors are perhaps more detrimental than those which could be suggested by the residence system, with some research."

The administration proposed eight possible areas for cutbacks: close Lady Beaverbrook dining hall, eliminate daytime security service, charge rent to dons for a minimum rent of \$1,918 per year, reduce remuneration to proctors in the men's residences to 50 per cent discount on price of single room plus meals, reduce telephone services in residences from 50 to 24 sets, and reduction of projected expenditure for supplies, repairs, and equipment.

Total savings would be \$123,892 or \$85.45 per residence student.

The board's decision on final cutbacks will be made at the next

meeting scheduled for May 18.

Student representative to the board, Brian Forbes, described the board as "very receptive. I think you're going to get it," he said before they entered the closed meeting.

They objected to charging rent for dons, proctors, and residence fellows, saying, "It would change it to a glorified boarding house."

They were also opposed to closing Victoria House and the Lady Beaverbrook dining hall.

They suggested decreasing the maid service to the men's residences, eliminating partially or totally the paid receptionists in the women's residence system, and a partial closure of the Lady Beaverbrook dining hall. They also suggested that students do some of the painting and small repairs in the residences.

They pointed out that there were four rooms over the Lady Beaverbrook dining hall which could be opened for students.

There are presently about 40 vacancies in the men's residence system.

The committee complained that they were only given 24 hours to prepare their brief.

This year residence revenue totaled \$2,345,830, but costs were in the vicinity of \$2,700,000. Dons cost \$28,743 last year-\$12,454 in the women's residences and \$16,289 in the men's. Proctors cost \$28,500 in the men's residences and \$19,800 in the women's for a total of \$48,350. Part time and full time receptionists in the women's residences cost \$61,300. The university pays \$18,137 for the dean of men and \$11,321 for the dean of women. It cost \$13,472 to have residence



Photo by Jean-Louis Tremblay

CHARGE! Looks of relief show on the faces of UNB vice-president [finance and administration] Jim O'Sullivan, comptroller Sam Mullin, president John Anderson, and student board of governors rep Brian Forbes, as they file out after a six hour meeting where they decided to hold the line on tuition hikes.

buildings inspected. Salaries for two secretaries were \$15,970. A student assistant to the dean of men cost \$200 and summer school proctors cost \$300. Incidental meals, entertainment, accommodations, and telephone calls amounted to \$4,711.

Other areas over which the university has no direct control includes the cleaning contract with Modern Building Cleaners, the Saga Foods contract, heating, light, water, and maintenance. The food contract is presently under negotiation.

The specific cutbacks in the residence system and university operating budget will not be decided on until the May 18 board meeting.

Anderson did not know where the cutbacks would come from and had no answer to the question of how the university could continue to operate with continuing cutbacks in library expenditures, equipment purchases, and maintenance.

However, he said other social

services such as hospitals were facing similar situations. He said that the MPHEC would not allow the university to deficit budget.

Student representative on the Board of governors Chris Nagle said, "I'm certainly glad they decided to hold the line on tuition this year". Any cost cuts in the residence system would be done in consultation with residence students, he said. He said it was "highly likely" that Victoria House would be closed, along with the Lady Beaverbrook dining hall.

He said the main reason for the cutbacks was low government funding to the university. "We lose out," he said.

Anderson said in the press release that while UNB and Mount Allison University have the highest tuition fees in the country, other universities were closing the gap. Ontario universities, the release said, were expected to increase tuition fees by \$100, bringing them within \$50 of the Maritime universities.