

Planning director ensures future development

By ANDREW L. STEEVES

The Director of Planning for UNB, Eric Garland, works with UNB's architects Murray and Murray to ensure that future development of the university is carefully thought out.

The UNB campus is located on one of the best sites in the Maritimes. It is in a small city, with a fine view of the Saint John River Valley. Finally and very importantly it has a lot of room for future expansion. However all these advantages could be easily lost by poor land use. Piecemeal design or design without planning could easily hinder access, block views and waste land.

UNB did not have a campus planning authority until recently.

The University grew slowly building by building as the need arose. However, the 1960's changed all of this. Expansion accelerated and the campus grew rapidly. This was the time of the great university boom when whole universities were built from scratch. Some campuses took the appearance of boom towns with haphazard construction while other universities hired experts and through planned construction such fine campuses as Simon Fraser were constructed. It combined a beautiful mountain site with Arthur Erickson's skilled architecture.

A comparison of the two results made it obvious that planning and co-ordination would be necessary. UNB saw the need and formed a

planning authority, which has been at work for about two years now, conducting studies and bringing forth resultant proposals.

The planners started from scratch conducting a basic study of land holdings and future growth. The study placed special emphasis on the lower campus area, that is the area below Montgomery Street. The results showed that the Lower Campus area could easily contain a campus of 9,000 students. This enrolment compares with the present student population of 5,000 students.

The designers then went to work investigating areas of future faculty need. However it was about this time that student enrollment began to level off. There has not been much of an enrollment increase at UNB the last two years and as a result a moratorium has been placed on many planned projects such as improvement of graduate facilities. The emphasis is now upon improvement of facilities rather than upon expansion. Even so there are many projects under consideration.

The university, influenced by recommendations in its housing study, has looked into the possibilities of running apartment-type student housing. The preliminary report is now before the Central Mortgage and Housing Commission awaiting initial approval. The scheme would involve construction of 5 village apartments containing 10 units. They would be located above Montgomery Street near the Co-op residences. The apartments would be leased to either married couples or groups of four students. If the project is approved the units could be ready for occupation by next winter.

A project which has received a lot of publicity recently is the Arena complex. The project has received initial approval and now is under detailed study. Some problems under survey now are the noise levels and traffic access. Reasonable solutions to these problems must be found if the Arena is to be built on the Dunn site.

One of the results of the 1960's construction rush was a neglect of landscaping on the campus. UNB has an overabundance of temporary stairs and gravel walks. A landscape report has been undertaken to try to find ways to tie together the elements of the campus.

One academic project still being studied is a joint Administration-Forestry-Physics complex. This structure would be located beneath



UNB's planning authority has determined that the lower campus area (below Montgomery Street) could contain a campus of 9,000 students.

the lot between the Chemistry and Old Arts Building. The area here has a heavy above ground density of building, so the complex will provide needed facilities without blocking views. The structure would be almost entirely underground having only north light windows above ground level. The roof of the structure would provide parking and terraced landscaping. The project is now past the initial drawings and potential users are now being interviewed as to their needs.

One of the major jobs of the Planning Authority is the efforts made to co-ordinate and streamline campus activities. This helps to save costs and eases communication. If the faculty members are scattered in buildings throughout the campus this communication becomes difficult. An example of this co-ordination is the combining of the Education faculty with the former Teacher's College.

Another example of the effort made for co-ordination is the proposed Forestry Complex above the Trans Canada Highway. This

complex would unite the faculties of Forestry and Forest Engineering with the Forest Ranger School and the Federal Dept. of Environment and Provincial Dept. of Forestry. Co-ordination does not have the publicity and interest of new construction yet it is a very necessary part of the planning process, especially now that construction has slowed down.

The Department of Planning provides an obvious and necessary service to the university. In these times of 'tight money' and static enrollments, capital projects by UNB will be kept to a minimum. Planning finds the needs and attempts to find solutions. The Planning department helps to decide the future course of the university. Because of its role in decision-making is so important and because its decisions are made on assessments of university needs, the Planning Department warrants student attention. Good communication between the Campus Planners and the students could help make UNB a better school in the future.

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