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## Runs Bits

**Excellent reasons to run for Student Union Executive:**

**1. Easy job - no set hours.**

**2. Get to swear in council meetings.**

**3. Can quit any time you like.**

**4. Five executive system beneficial for passing the buck.**

**Tentative Exam Schedule**

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**Report conflicts to the Registrar immediately**

# And no one came...

by Joe FitzPatrick  
Co-News Editor

A "pathetic example of apathy" has resulted in a decision by the UNB Student Union to extend nominations for the 1996 General Election for 11 days, until next Friday, March 22.

The decision came following news that candidates for only 12 of the 32 Council positions had their nomination forms in by Monday at 4:30.

Law representative Shona Bertrand, a candidate for student-at-large, raised the matter at Tuesday's Council meeting.

"That is the most pathetic example of apathy I have ever seen," the second-year law student told Council.

Quite aside from the embarrassment of the low turnout, Bertrand was concerned about the legal implications. "Assuming all 12 [are elected] we don't have quorum for a Council meeting."

Quorum, which stands at 16 for next year's Council, is the minimum number of voting members required to make binding decisions.

Chantale Walker, Vice-President (University Affairs), initially did not support the extension of nominations.

"I realize that this is the lowest it has been ever, but we always have a by-



Some students always show up to vote, but nobody wanted to run. Photo: Roxanne Robinson

election in the Fall," she said.

At 19 vacancies, the number of unseated positions this year is more than four times greater than last year's, when only four voting positions were without candidates.

"There was enough notice: one week before the break and the March break,"

contended the political science honours student, who is running for valedictorian. "The advance poll is Friday," she continued. "We can only extend it for one or two days. But how would we get the word out?"

Vice-President (Student Services) Trish Davidson, who was uncontested

in her bid for re-election, laid some of the blame on the current council. "The fact that several faculties have no candidates is not a very good indication of how well you communicate with your constituents."

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# STU Presidency contested

by Joe FitzPatrick  
Co-News Editor

**What are the issues in this campaign, and what are your priorities for the next year?** The first issue in this campaign is money, or lack of it for students. The number one priority will be looking for ways to make university more affordable for students. I'd like to see STU do more about jobs. We should have a place where students would be able to find out about jobs that are available, as well as a volunteer bureau. Opening up the University budget is another priority. We've already had some movement on this. One of the things I want to work on, over the summer, is to work with the government and put together a guide to student loans, which is a big priority for



Carrie Ricker  
Photo: Jud Delong

**What do you see as the issues in this campaign, and what are your priorities for the next year?** The number one priority is to make the STU student union as much of a separate entity as possible. By that I mean I think we've been not in the shadow of UNB, but it looks like the UNB Student Union is Gippetto and we're Pinocchio. We seem to be the puppets [of UNB], at least that's the perception from the general population at STU. That's my main goal, but I have others in my platform.

**What do you see as the role of the President in providing leadership?** The president should provide the leadership and make decisions when they count, even though they might not be the most popular decisions. The president has to be able to say what's best for the

## Carrie Ricker, currently VP External

me. This would explain the fine print of the student loan process. I also want to increase communication with clubs and societies and the residences.

**What do you see as the role of the President in providing leadership?** I think the role of the President should be one of coordination. The President is there to set priorities. There needs to be a sense, at Council, of where we're going. It's not up to the President alone to choose that direction, but it is up to the President to make sure that Council doesn't veer off into the little issues which can sometimes bog us down. To my way of thinking, the Action Plan is the most important aspect of the President's job.

**What should the University's tuition**

**policy should be?** I think the University's tuition policy needs to recognize that STU is a very unique institution. We have a large number of mature, native and part-time students. Any increase in excess of \$150 per year is beyond what students are able to accommodate and does not reflect our institution's mission statement, which emphasizes dedication to the individual.

**Do you feel that the student fee should increase this year?** No. I think that if we're advocating that tuition shouldn't go up, we can't increase our student fee. Whether it's five dollars to the University or to us, it's the same to students.

**Do you think STU executives should have Student Union credit cards?** No.

## Rob "Knuck" Suffron, Council Chair

students. I think the executive and Council should say 'this is the president, they know what they're talking about and maybe we should do this, like they say' instead of letting other people railroad the president into saying things so they won't start an internal fight.

**What should the University's tuition policy should be?** I think you have to remember that STU is a special place. There should be a cap definitely put on it. I think STU is a rich enough university—they've got extra money in the bank—not millions of dollars—so that if tuition is \$2,500 and it costs \$2,700, that's \$400,000 that the University can make up.

**Do you feel that the student fee should increase this year?** No. The only way I'd

like to see the student fee increase, is if students were guaranteed a yearbook, so that the cost of the yearbook would be divided by four. For example, if it costs \$28, then for \$7, added onto the student fee you would be guaranteed a yearbook. You get a bigger, better yearbook, and you don't have to scrounge for the \$30-35. That's the only way I would ever raise student fees.

**Do you think STU executives should have Student Union credit cards?** I definitely think it's a good idea in theory, but in practice, there would have to be a check and balance system that is so tightly checked. I don't know what that would be, but I'd want to see one before we ever received an application.



Rob "Knuck" Suffron  
Photo: Jud Delong