

NEWS

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Faculty association gives hiring plan mixed review

GORDON LOANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The President of UNB's Faculty Association (AUNBT) has a mixed reaction to a plan announced last week by Vice-President Academic Louis Visentin aimed at the gradual replacement of 56 professors who took early retirement in 1994 and 1995.

Psychology Professor Peter Kepros is disappointed the university could not see its way to hiring more professors than the plan indicates.

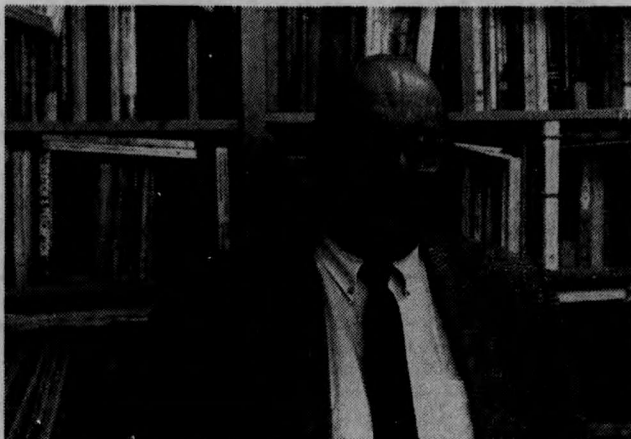
Twelve new professors will be hired this year and ten in each of the next three years.

"Enrollments have increased and in certain departments things have gotten to the point where faculty members are simply going flat out," Kepros said. "The hiring plan does not quite meet the targets that we probably need."

"Nevertheless, if one looks at the final number given future retirements, replacements and so on along the way we will end up with a faculty complement that is about the same as the average of 500-550 over the last six to eight years which is not bad," said Kepros.

"I am, however, optimistic about what is happening and the fact that we are thinking about things and that at UNB we seem to have a broader plan," Kepros told The Brunswickan in an interview late last week.

Asked about Visentin's plan, which gives priority in the first round of hirings to the Faculties of Arts, Kinesiology and Computer Science, Kepros said he assumed that the needs



of all faculties were taken into consideration before certain priorities were determined.

"If one looks at where the early retirements came from closely, Arts took a big hit and the fact that they are getting some priority at this point in time is helpful," he said.

Kepros is also encouraged that the new full-time hirings will reverse the trend of recent years where an increasing number of term appointments and full time equivalent stipends were made. "You have to get some money for new appointments from somewhere and one of the sources is part-timers as well as the people who are here on terminal contracts."

Kepros is most encouraged as well by Visentin's willingness in his new plan to engage in a university wide dialogue about the future of academic programs

and possible restructuring.

"If we can find different ways to do what we have to do and we save some money in the process that is all to the good," said Kepros. "But Visentin wants to involve us all—professors, students, support staff—and I think that is a very, very healthy move."

Kepros does describe comments made by Visentin in The Brunswickan last week about reviewing curriculum as "nothing new."

"Basically we do external reviews of departments from time to time and by and large many of the suggestions made in these reviews are implemented," said Kepros. "Within departments we review curriculum periodically and get rid of things that simply are not working or may be out of date."

Kepros engaged in some general and specific comments about moves aimed

at consolidating departments on the Fredericton campus, and began by asking what is really being gained by consolidations. "If departments are not common in terms of what they teach—take two languages that are entirely separate—it seems to me that all you are going to gain is a stipend for a department chair and that is not a lot of money," he emphasized.

Kepros, a former Dean of Arts on the Fredericton campus, said recent discussions in the Faculty aimed at creating a possible Modern Languages Department are not new.

He said consolidating all the language departments except French into a Modern Languages Department was discussed when he was Dean.

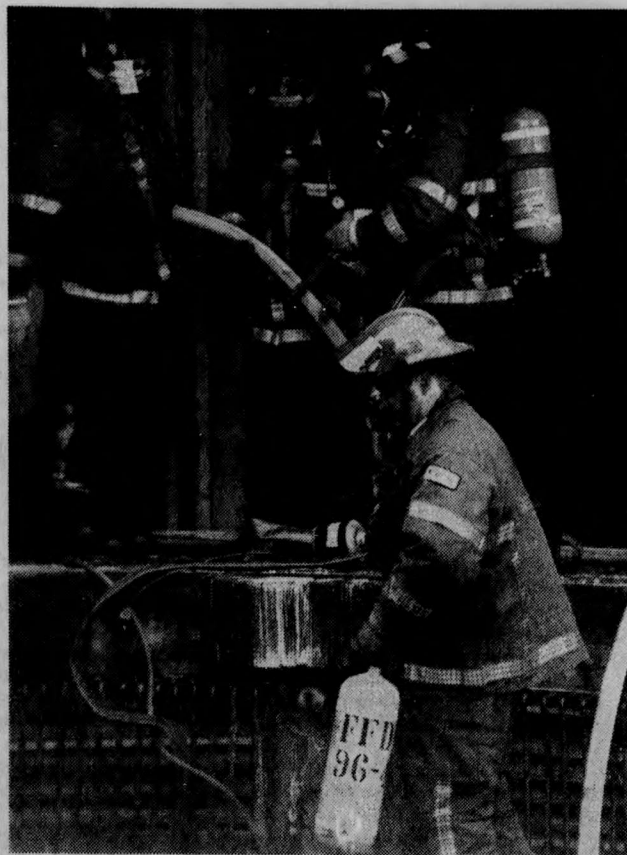
"Its feasibility was noted at the time, questioned and never implemented," he said.

"If it is important to have a cultural component to your language teaching, then to bring in another language at the same time to share the space, perhaps even simultaneously, you can't do it."

"That is not the way these languages exist in a mixed culture like that," he said.

"If you simply want to be a language teaching institute and not worry about the cultural component then we can put Berlitz in here, but I don't think we want to do that."

"If the languages department can find some way, however, of accommodating what should be done in a tighter administrative structure, I think it should be seriously considered," Kepros concluded.



AARON MACEachERN PHOTO
Firefighters at Toole Hall on Monday when a burst pipe threatened to ignite ether stored in the chemistry building.

Burst pipe in Chemistry building potentially dangerous

AARON MACEachERN
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Firefighters faced a powerful Toole on campus this week.

When ether and steaming hot water are combined, the mixture produces explosive vapours which can ignite with the smallest of sparks. This was the main concern of the Fredericton Fire Department on January 20th, when nine men and several vehicles were dispatched to Toole Hall, UNB's chemistry building.

"The possibility was indeed there for an explosion to occur," said Richard Peacock, Director of Campus Security. "Some pipes had frozen and when

they thawed out, that's when the danger of the pipe breaking occurred."

Peacock went on to say, "A pipe going through the rad [heater], leaked out steaming hot water, this is when the danger arose."

Crews worked for an hour and a half, in an attempt to cool the barrels of chemical solvent with a cold spray. Platoon Chief Keith Hunter (of the Fredericton Fire Department) told The Brunswickan, "Our job was to cool it down, keep it from having an explosion."

Officials told The Brunswickan that there were no injuries and that the incident simply caused janitors to mop up after the accident.

SU offers students financial awareness workshops

Entrepreneurship education - Fredericton style

KURT PEACOCK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

If a workshop were given on how to start a successful business, a participant would probably expect to hear from a successful businessperson.

That was not the case on Monday, January 20, as the UNB Student Union held the first of its workshops that were part of its Financial Awareness Week - a workshop that was intended to better prepare UNB students for the challenges of running their own enterprise, yet did not have a single speaker who represented themselves as a business person!

The speakers who did participate were all government bureaucrats, representing Federal and Provincial Departments who want to help all New Brunswickers - including UNB students - to try and become the next K. C. Irving. The various Department Officials who spoke listed a myriad of government programs intended to help a budding entrepreneur - the most important for a UNB student being the Student Venture Capital Program and the Entrepreneur Program.

The Student Venture Capital Program offers an interest-free loan of up to \$3000 to help students set up a business

Knight declares

GORDON LOANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB Student Union VP External Anthony Knight has decided to run for President in the upcoming February General Election.

Knight declared his candidacy this week.

There are rumored to be other candidates interested in the President's post, but so far none have officially stepped forward.

Nominations for the election open on Monday January 27th and close at 4:30pm February 7th. The election will be held on February 25th and 26th.

as their summer job. In Fredericton, 45 applicants were received last year, with business ventures ranging from lawn mowing to painting houses. The Entrepreneur Program is somewhat similar in scope, but directed more towards graduating students who are looking to take a bigger plunge into the world of free enterprise.

Perhaps reflecting the absence of full-time entrepreneurs as speakers, there

were no success stories discussed at the workshop. As Hugh Hicks of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency noted, opening a business is "not an easy road, but a good business plan is the place to start." Mr. Hicks was one of three speakers at the workshop who can be found at the Business Service Centre on 570 Queen Street.

When asked about the absence of business speakers at a business

The great student credit crunch

KURT PEACOCK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The wonderful advantages of having credit-paying your cable bill, buying your drinks and purchasing your new VCR—often become nightmares once the monthly bill comes in the mail. This is the message that students heard on Tuesday, January 21st, as two Bank of Nova Scotia Officials were the invited speakers to the second workshop of the UNB Student Union's Financial Awareness Week—Managing Your Credit.

The keys to an excellent credit history? Paying off your bills, and never missing a monthly payment. This is because the majority of your bills—the

power bill, your bank credit card (MasterCard, Visa), your charge card (Sears at over 25% interest) and your student line of credit—are all watched over by the Credit Bureau of Canada. If you pay bills regularly, you probably have a rating of R1, while those with less stable payment plans might be teetering towards R9, better known as bankruptcy! This is not a credit rating to wish for, since it is on your credit record for seven years. As Dixie Long of the Bank of Nova Scotia put it: "You don't want to go to that place that they call bankruptcy."

For those who are having trouble making payments, the suggested route is to meet with your creditors. Ms. Long spends part of her day meeting with

money-troubled clientele. "There is no shame in admitting that you have a problem," she says.

The best defense against such measures, however, is to pay your bills on time, since the Bank of Nova Scotia officials admitted that student credit card rates will not be coming down any time soon. Dixie Long defended the Bank's policy by pointing out that "there's better things to spend your money on than interest."

UNB Student Union President Joie Hellmeister hopes that Financial Awareness Week is continued by next year's council. Workshops on credit and other topics are important, according to Hellmeister, since "67% of UNB students are on some form of student aid."

Men campaign to stop violence against women

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

A campaign designed to raise awareness of violence against women is using an innovative approach to enlist men in the fight against this enduring societal problem.

With a petition asserting a woman's right to respect and personal security, the campaign asks men to pledge to "denounce all forms of violence against women" and "foster an understanding of the feeling of insecurity experienced by women." It also calls on men to join

with women to take part in the solutions to violence by "acting individually or collectively to put an end to all forms of verbal, psychological and physical aggression against women."

The campaign is being launched by the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, located on the UNB campus, in conjunction with the New Brunswick Ministry responsible for the Status of Women.

But the campaign has a purpose beyond simply raising awareness of violence against women and potential solutions. It also calls upon men to

recognize that they have a role to play in the solutions and that their continued silence is one of the factors which slows efforts to raise awareness of the problem and the implementation of potential solutions.

Students wishing to obtain more information on the campaign or are interested in signing the petition are asked to contact Sylvia Priestley-Brown at the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation at 453-3595 or fvrc@unb.ca.

Did you know?

In North America, 70% of revenue derived from state-run lotteries comes from only 20% of the players.

Get bored waiting for the Canadian anthem to play at the hockey game? Think of what it would be like to live in Greece, which has the longest national anthem at 158 verses. Of course, there are very few hockey rinks in Greece.

Think you're the pinnacle of evolution? Think again. The average IQ of a dolphin is 100, the same as humans. Can you say convergent evolution, boys and girls?

The provincial minister responsible for universities, the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, does not sit on the UNB Board of Governors; the minister responsible for primary and secondary schools, the Minister of

Education does. This harks back to the days when the Teacher's College was part of UNB.

Don't look to a polygraph (lie detector) to vindicate your alibi. The esteemed "lie detector" machine, which measures various physiological signs such as blood pressure, pulse and galvanic skin response (how much you perspire) is accurate only 72% of the time.

Turkey has almost twice as much protein as chicken.

If you have dikophobia, don't run to the doctor, watch a Dirty Harry movie. Dikophobia is the fear of injustice.

Five hits and you're out? That's all it takes for the average major league baseball to become unusable.

UNB's post office sub-station in the Old Arts Building projects that UNB will spend \$449,600 in postage charges this year.

The most deadly accidents occur in July, the most murders in December.

May the Force be with you! Since the release of Star Wars 20 years ago, the words "Darth Vader" have appeared in the leading paragraphs of 1,239 US newspaper and magazine articles.

UNB Physical Plant charges a premium of only 1.5% for the heat it sells to the Chalmers Hospital, the Provincial Archives, the Provincial Sols Lab, RPC (Research and Productivity Council) and Inutech compared to the price it charges Residence, the Aitken Centre, and STU (\$5.98). Everyone else on campus gets it at cost.

Next time you do your laundry, be very, very careful. Of all household appliances, the washing machine is the cause of the most accidents.

67% of professional football field goals are successful.

UNB spends \$30,000 per year, on average, to cover the cost of exam booklets.

Last year, UNB spent nearly 2.5 times more than usual on the disposal of hazardous waste following the completion of a campus inventory of labs and storage rooms.

Give that cat some shades! Your cat's eyes are 6 times more sensitive than yours.

COMPILED BY JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

Council Watch

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB Student Union Council meetings will take place a half hour earlier in now on, at 5:00pm on Tuesdays. This was the result of a debate that lasted from the scheduled meeting time of 5:30 to 6:00.

Trish Davidson, Vice-President (Student Services), has been busy preparing budgets for items in her portfolio, which includes student publications, the Paper Trail, and the Health Plan. Davidson plans to bring a report on both the Health Plan and the Paper Trail to Council in the coming weeks.

The report from the Paper Trail will focus on setting the prices for the coming year, which will include the 15% Harmonized Sales Tax. Davidson would also be looking for input on pricing levels. The experiment with movie rentals is ongoing, and Davidson asked Councilors to raise awareness of this service so that the Union can get a good idea of its potential.

VP External Anthony Knight is off to Ottawa to kick off CASA's Education Builds the Nation campaign. This campaign will focus on raising awareness of the benefits of post-secondary education to students and Canadian society. From the national scene, Knight will move into the provincial, attending a meeting of the New Brunswick Student Alliance in Sackville next Sunday.

Knight also brought a policy document from CASA outlining policies proposed by the lobby group. Council passed every policy except one. This policy touched upon the sensitive matter of differential fees. The CASA policy accepts that such fees are permitted at university by the government, but that it is incumbent on government to insure that this does not affect accessibility.

This matter is a hot topic in the university community after a Presidential Task Force released a discussion paper which recommended tuition levels be determined by the number of courses taken, rather than the current system of a flat fee for all programs. This would have the effect, Knight said, of increasing tuition for Science, Engineering and Business.

"Is the University sending a message that only rich students should be Engineers?" Knight asked. Adding that he and Davidson were preparing a brief for the Task Force in response to their document.

The 1997-98 Budget is well under way according to VP (Finance & Administration) Monique Scholten. She is currently in the process of taking a preliminary look at the submissions and doing some background work in preparation for the presentations to the UNB SU Finance Committee.

University Affairs VP Anoushka Courage has been able to see her efforts on Winter Carnival come to fruition. There are 8 teams registered for the Rowdy Bowl, and many more in the works, she reported.

In other news, she reported that three UNB SU representatives on the Student Union Building Advisory Board resigned because of conflict of interest. All three: Courage, Shona Bertrand, and Blair Saulnier have positions with the Board of Directors of SUBS Inc. whose lease is up for renewal this year. Council appointed Law rep. Cathy Clark, David Teskey (Business), and Jonathan Penney (Engineering) to fill the vacancies.

The SUB Advisory Board is composed of 4 UNB students, 4 STU students, 3 appointees of the UNB Board of Governors, and 3 non-voting members: UNB SU president, the STU SU president and the SUB Director. Its purpose is to advise the Director of the SUB on "matters of general policy and administration, including budgeting, personnel, planning and operations."

In other business, SU recognized the new constitution for the Arts Undergraduate Society, which has been relatively inactive lately. Arts Rep Richard Williams told Council that UNB's alcohol education program, SMART-PACC, recently garnered an award from the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Council for best banner.

David Teskey, Business Administration Rep, announced that SPARC UNB (Student Pride and Alumni Relations Committee) attended the Canadian Student Alumni relations Network conference in Sackville and successfully bid to host the conference next year.