

Corrections, comments and criticism

Dear Sir:

Allow me to correct a misunderstanding created in your last issue in the story, "Students on B of G By Fall".

Your article conjectured that students would become voting members of the University's governing body this fall, as a result of talks held this summer by members of the Student Council and Members of the Board of Governors.

Firstly, admission of students to the Board would require an amendment to the University Act, such amendment being sanctioned by the New Brunswick government. Unfortunately, the wheels of government turn rather slowly even when the timing is better. In this case, the government could not even consider such an amendment since the legislature does not sit until spring.

Secondly, admission of students to the Board has not yet even been sanctioned by the Board itself. Our discussions this summer were simply the first stage to realizing that objective.

The situation is not, however, as doubtful as I may have made it appear.

As early as January, 1967, the Bailey Commission on the Future of the University recommended that students be represented on the Board of Governors.

In the past two years, the members of the university administration have been very receptive to student option. Executive members of the SRC meet on a regular basis with the President, Dr. Dineen, and other members of the University administration on an informal basis. Productive changes and valuable communication of ideas result, at least in my experience, from virtually all of these meetings. Students are full members of the academic senate, and are represented on a great number of senate committees.

In 1967, a year of student-administration confrontation across Canada, the president of the now-defunct Canadian Union of Students told members of the national Congress, "there is a very real

danger that our administrations may make concessions this year faster than we can demand them." His message was clear to the delegates who had received such concessions, and became clear to those who received them that year: when a great number of new responsibilities were shouldered by those in student government in a short period of time, they found themselves so poorly prepared to absorb them, and so reliant upon administration people for help, that in many cases their advances were largely illusory.

I remember the SRC of four years ago. And I seriously doubt that they would have been prepared to undertake the responsibilities that even now are borne by people in student government. They were not less capable people. Indeed, the student role in college policy-making could not be handled now, were it not for the valuable groundwork laid by those people.

The goal is largely the same for us as it was for them. It expresses a concern voiced by Woodrow Wilson as president of Princeton University: "a college is not only a body of studies but a mode of association. . . . It must become a community of scholars and pupils - a free community but a very real one, in which democracy may work its reasonable triumphs of accommodation, its vital processes of union."

What began as a simple clarification of an erroneous news story has broadened, or digressed, into an explanation of the significance of student representation on the Board of Governors. But your error, sir, was not simply a matter of placing a wrong date on a news item about students sitting on another committee. It was in failing to recognize the meaning of your own news story.

Your treatment of student participation is passive, a matter of passing on information about the work of students now involved, while neglecting your own role in the whole process. You are in control of the sole print media that will allow the space to develop a philosophy of student participation, and to encourage an understanding of its importance.

I realize, David, that you are as capable as I, if not more so, of deciding just what the role of the Brunswickan should be. And I know only too well the difficulties you face before you will be in a position to fulfill that role.

But let me leave you with a parting comment, by Francis E. Flavey, in Student Participation in College Administration:

"If student participation is making the most of its opportunities, it will serve to develop interest in the school,

increase school spirit, and improve the morale of the college community. These are not times for school spirit to be identified with athletic orgies of cinematic proportions or thousand-dollar proms. The work of the school is, oddly enough, education—education with its many aspects and facets. School spirit is that enthusiasm which comes, in the process of education, from contact with people and ideas greater than the self, from consciousness of a living tradition of a selfless service, from cooperation towards truly great ends, from consciousness of the broad goals of human endeavour."

Stephen J. MacFarlane,
President,

Students Representative
Council

Bookstore not hitting students

BY LIZ SMITH
STAFF WRITER.

The high cost of textbooks is a complaint often made against the Campus Bookstore this time of year.

The Bookstore is owned by the administration and the operation is managed there. All invoicing and accounting is done by the Administration secretaries, but it is handled as a separate account. All profits and losses are absorbed by the University Fund.

The day-to-day business of the bookstore is managed by Mrs. Ottis Logue and her staff of thirteen full-time and one part-time employees. In addition, ten students are hired for the summer and from two to four students work part-time until Christmas. Their salaries of course, come out of the bookstore profits.

The Administration charges a rental of \$32,500 a year against the Bookstore. This is calculated on the basis of \$2.50 per square foot of space used.

This charge includes the cost of all services, and the maintenance of the building. Most universities in Canada use this method of covering the upkeep of their bookstore.

For commercial building space in Fredericton the rental charge at this time is \$4.50 to \$5.50 per square foot.

Another charge of 3 per cent of gross sales is made by the Administration to cover payroll services, receipts, payments of invoices and financing the stock kept at the bookstore. This charge also covers the business tax. For the fiscal year 1969-70 the amount involved was \$18,104.

There are many incidental expenses that must be met. The bookstore offers a service of making special orders for individual requests. These books are sold at the suggested list price and the postal charge is paid by the Bookstore.

Last year a student ordered a book that cost the store \$1.50 by the time the letters were exchanged and the postal cost paid for. The student was sold the book at the suggested list price of \$.75.

A frequent extra expenditure occurs when a professor underestimates the size of his class and too few books are ordered. For quicker delivery, but at a higher cost, the books are ordered by phone and delivered by air freight. These expenses must be met by the Bookstore.

To cover all these costs the Campus Bookstore must make a profit of 23 per cent on all items, to break even.

The sale of textbooks is between 70-75 per cent of total bookstore sales. They are sold at the suggested retail price which gives a profit of only 20 per cent. This is 3 per cent below the necessary profit

level.

Paperbound books make up another 14 per cent of the sales. These are also sold at the suggested retail price which produces a profit of 30-40 per cent varying with the publisher.

It is obvious that this amount of profit is necessary to make-up for the 3 per cent loss on textbooks.

The remainder of sales are credited goods and writing supplies.

In previous years students have lifted the white price sticker and found that the publisher's suggested price printed on the bookcover was substantially lower.

This white sticker is placed by Canadian Publishers distributing American publications. The raised price includes a 10 per cent customs duty and accommodates for the fluctuating exchange rate of the American dollar. The result is that a book originally marked at \$1.95 is sold in Canada at \$2.25.

"I think some of the publisher's are killing the goose that laid the golden egg," says Mrs. Ottis Logue, manager of the Campus Bookstore. "They

are putting their prices too high."

Used books are bought by the bookstore for 55 per cent of their original cost and sold to students at 70 per cent. This is about a 27.3 per cent profit.

This is a profit of 4.3 per cent above the necessary 23 per cent. The explanation given for this is that there is from \$20,000 to \$25,000 in capital tied up in these books for four months. This is invested money with no return for that period.

For the 1969-70 fiscal year the net profit, after all deductions was \$4,389 - less than 10 per cent. A profit this small only acts as a buffer from going "in the red". This money goes into the University fund for maintaining and expanding the University - that is, it gets back to the students in the end.

Mrs. Logue, has calculated that books lie between 4 and 10 per cent of the general cost of living at the University. But as she explains, "They are the tools of your trade, and they will let you into higher pay fields after four or five years

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Public Invited



Mrs. O. Logue

photo by Rudnikoff