

Confrontation looms as Senate rejects engineers' offer

The University of New Brunswick Senate has refused to accept the terms offered by the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick concerning the qualifications of engineering teachers at UNB.

The new Engineering Act states that the teachers of advanced level engineering courses are classed as practicing engineers and therefore must be members of the professional association. This would give them some control over who may and may not teach engineering at UNB.

Dean of Engineering Leslie Jaeger said that APENB is trying to persuade engineering teachers to join the association voluntarily, and, indeed, most of them are already members. Difficulties in the past with faculty joining the association have centred around academic qualifications and the fact that examinations have been found distasteful.

APENB is proposing to amend their bylaws to establish the position of academic members. They would be the same as other members, except a knowledge of the engineering act would not be necessary. Teaching of engineering will be accepted as the practice of the profession. This would make disqualification of UNB faculty in APENB virtually disappear, Jaeger said.

"This is as far as APENB is willing to go," Jaeger said, and he added that this was not necessarily his stand on the issue. They believe that the teaching of engineering is a practice of the profession, but they are willing to make some moves to accommodate the university and protect the positions of existing faculty members.

One senator said that an outside group is trying to impose its will on the university, and the whole matter boiled down to whether or not they were going to accept this. "Faculty should not act as

special guests of the university. He must make the university and not the profession his first loyalty," was echoed. Outsiders must not control who teaches at universities unless fundamental changes to the nature of university education are willing to be accepted.

Senator H.A. Sharp said, "This is a definition (of professional engineers) which should be unacceptable in any free country and any university in a free country." "I don't think they have the right to check the credentials of any faculty," he said. He described the situation as an "insult" to engineering professors.

Professor Smith of Economics said "Professional Associations have too much power."

When the terms were declared unacceptable, Professor Smith moved that the Board of Governors be asked to seek an amendment to the UNB Act which would make faculty exempt from any professional association acts. This was

withdrawn in favour of a motion more general that would seek to nullify the effects on UNB teachers.

At this point Professor Neil McGill said that the UNB Act should be checked to see whether or not we are not already protected by the UNB Act.

However, Dean of Law, A.M. Sinclair, said that he believed this was not the case, and that the university should seek amendments either to the UNB Act or the Engineering Act. In any event, legislative action is necessary, he said.

It was eventually decided that Senate does not want any professional association to be able to control who teaches at UNB. Therefore, the original motion was eventually put forward again. This would simply have the legislature exempt UNB people from professional legislation.

Howard McFarlane then said that he was displeased with the

whole discussion and that there was no incompatibility between his membership in a professional association and a "top notch" engineering school.

He was scared that this may have been aired on the floor of the legislature and, "I want to avoid that at all costs," he said.

Smith then said, "I interpret that section to mean that they can take legal action if they wish, and that is intolerable." Sinclair added, "There is no doubt they can take legal action."

Sinclair continued, "My position is not terribly optimistic, and I'm terrified that this might happen to the Barristers Association." He said that this would put at least one member of the UNB Law faculty on the spot.

Jaeger said that the university must be autonomous, although he hoped that all UNB teachers had professional qualifications.

No one voted against the final motion, although some abstained.

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Canada's oldest official student publication

VOL. 109 ISSUE 23

48 PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1975

FREE

UNB asks for student aid increase to offset hike in fees

By DAVE SIMMS

The University of New Brunswick will ask the provincial government to adjust the existing student aid program due to "recent drastic increases" in residence and tuition fees.

Student representatives Brian Forbes and Richard Scott originated the proposal passed unanimously March 6 by the UNB Board of Governors.

The board approved a tuition hike to \$672 per year for all undergraduate faculties effective July 1. This will represent an 8.2 percent increase for all except those in engineering whose rates will rise 4.6 percent. Postgraduate tuition will increase 10 percent to \$550. Per course rates—for such programs as extension offerings—will be up 10 percent to \$132.

Singles' residences fees will be increased 27 percent to \$1,400 per year for single room and 26.8 percent to \$1,300 for doubles. Rates for rooms accommodating three unmarried students will be upped 28.2 percent to \$1,250. Special rooms—such as those with kitchenettes—will have their rates raised 30 percent to \$1,500.

Rates for one-bedroom married students' quarters will be increased 13.6 percent to \$155 per month. Two-bedroom married accommodations will cost \$185 per month. This will represent an increase of 20.1 percent. Three-bedroom quarters will cost \$200 each month, an increase of 17.3 percent.

Singles' double rooms are UNB's most common on-campus accommodations.

A tuition increase was necessary

to balance UNB's 1975-76 budget, said President John Anderson, and residence rates had to go up to relieve some of deficit now faced by the system.

Anderson called the 1975-76 estimate the "highest budget" in the institution's history. Total operating revenue - excluding that from residence fees - increased 17.4 percent. The inflexibility in the budget was indicated by the use next year of last year's accrued surplus and the planning of what he called "a calculated risk" by the university.

Historically, various university departments have underspent by \$300,000 due to unfilled positions, for example. The university had "gambled," said Anderson, by anticipating that this will happen in 1976.

Due to the inflexibility of all other revenue sources he said the Board's stand was justified and their positions defensible. Anderson said, however, that he wondered if it should have been done more gradually. His greatest concern, he said, was for potential students from low income backgrounds who might not be able to afford the increases.

The major revenue source for university operating expenses is the Maritime Higher Education Commission subsidy which next year will total \$22,833,500—a 19.2 percent increase from this year. UNB's Sept. 1974 proposal to the MPHEC was based on an expected enrollment increase of three percent. Evidence since then, however, indicated the enrollment increase may go as high as six percent but the commission won't alter the figure.

An enrolment increase of six percent means 15 new faculty should be hired to maintain existing faculty-student ratios. The university will hire only "one and one half," he said. Without an increase in revenue "we might have to turn them (the extra student) away."

The President sent a letter to provincial premier Richard Hatfield advising him of the Board's motion and noting the existing MPHEC funding formula makes no provision for ancillary enterprises such as the university's residence system.

The only other sources of operating revenue besides tuition

and residences fees, said Anderson, are returns from investment and services which like the MPHEC grant are inflexible. Investments such as the university's ownership of Fredericton's Block Seven - bounded by Brunswick, Carleton, King and Regent Streets - have a fixed return and the computer service UNB offers to the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission is priced now such that "we're on the verge of pricing ourselves right out of the market."

The only flexible sources remaining, he said, were tuition and residence fees. The Board of Governors however, would be

consistent with the recommendation of the 1974 New Brunswick Higher Education Commission that increases not transfer a greater proportion of university operating costs to the student without an expanded loan and bursary program, said Anderson.

"I am quite open to supporting changes (in the existing provincial student aid scheme) which lead in the right direction," he said. "Governments historically treat institutions better than students."

Organizations such as the Atlantic Federation of Students have been pressing the New

Continued on page 12



The UNB Board of Governors have hiked residence and tuition fees for next year. The meeting was held over the March Break in Saint John.

Photo by Jerome Kashetsky