

Draft study done poorly

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

A Draft Study on the Future of the University released shortly before Xmas has met with dissension from many sectors of the University community.

The Academic and Campus Planning Committee Draft Study shows inaccuracies, errors and contains misleading information, as well as revealing a defeatist attitude according to replies from the Departments of Biology, Physics, and the Senate Committee on Summer Session and Extension Operations.

'Quantity rather than quality' the rule

Biology chairperson Joseph A. MacKenzie said it has "little understanding of the concept of the University being primarily a community of scholars." He attributed this to the number of voters on the committee who are administrators. He said the committee was informed that several members who represented the academic sector resigned because the predominant view was quantity rather than quality. Members also pointed out that recommended cuts in the teaching sector were not apparent in that of the administrators. The Physics department feel the recommendations made by the ACPC threaten "to destroy the academic viability of the institution". While the Senate Committee noted that no statement on the function of continuing education is in the draft study.

The "defeatist" attitude of the report is remarked on by all three replies, with Biology department attributing the attitude as a result of "yielding" to the anti-education propaganda of the new media. The Physics department labeled the effort "gloomy and fatalistic", pointing out the failure of the committee to recognize that declining enrollment is not inevitable.

The role of the University as seen by the Committee was not viable according to the replies. The Physics Dept. questioned the justification for the introduction or elimination of undergraduate

courses, degree programmes, or areas of research. They also questioned the "quantity rather than quality" approach of the report saying that intolerance can be seen in the committee's attitude that those who do not wish to pursue the University goals (as seen by the Committee) should be elsewhere. The Senate Committee points out that while the study speaks of maintaining a pool of knowledge and expertise "available to the growing needs of society" no mention is made regarding direct service to the community.

The validity of various statements and graphs in the draft study were also questioned by the departments with the Senate Committee stating that Table 301 of the report (those reserved for the Student/Faculty Ratio data), figures for the Extension students

are excluded. In a similar oversight the Enrollment data in Table 3-3 does not contain data on Extension and Summer School students according to the Senate Committee. The chairperson points out that their department handles more than 2000 students and questions the validity of the grand total in view of the exclusion and the type of results presented from inadequate data.

The Physics department report said the 13:1 student/faculty ratio chosen by the draft study members as the desirable figure is "arbitrary" and is based on incomprehensible data. The report states that the ratio "cannot have been computed by the accounting procedures adopted by the ACPC but should be arrived at by an examination of the programmes offered, faculty teaching loads and faculty research involvement.

Rather than insist on that ratio the University should concern itself with giving students as good an education as possible according to the Biology Dept. who feel a lowering of the student ratio could aid this. Other comments from the Department of Physics points out inconsistencies in the draft study such as Table 3-2 which compares UNB with other universities in the Atlantic Provinces placing UNB on the lower end of the spectrum. According to members of this department the table actually shows five institutions with higher student faculty ratios and six with lower rates. It also vetoed the study's recommendation that faculty be cut to reach the average rather than make an effort to

attract more students.

Data was insufficient or incorrect for the enrollment predictions and subsequent recommendations made by the committee according to the departments. Currently participation rates in most secondary education in Nova Scotia are about 14 per cent while it is only 12 per cent in New Brunswick according to the Physics report. Members questioned the reason for the decline in New Brunswick which was 13.1 per cent in 70/71 and suggest that it would be more appropriate for the committee to study the reasons why Nova Scotia is high and to correct it.

The enrollment predictions by the committee were labled short sighted and pessimistic by the Senate Committee report which pointed out among other things the failure of the committee to consider students over 24 years old. The Senate Committee report also felt that increased attendance was a possibility if an economic

"poor both in the Fredericton area and in the rest of the province". They do not feel this will be enhanced by proposed faculty cutbacks pointing out that increased teaching loads will drive the "most capable and mobile researchers to greener pastures." The recommendation to cut 250 courses by the committee would also prove detrimental to the public relations program according to the report which stated the Physics department (and others) could not offer degree programs with the proposed cutbacks.

The Senate Committee said the study mentions the public relations accruing to the University from various aspects of its athletic activities but fails to mention the public relations represented by the 2000 or more students who are "currently in weekly personal contact with a faculty member teaching Extension". The Senate report suggested that adult students could be a "rich resource" and one which could not

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depression occurred as people with enforced leisure try to increase their employability.

The University Public Relations program came under attack from the reports all of whom criticised the current program and questioned the validity of recommendations of the Committee for the future. The Physics dept. report said the University image was

be reached through high school relations.

Research efforts were given high priority by the Study but the Biology departments report felt it did not recognize the role of basic research. The Biology dept. report points out that while the "proliferation of research institutes" may be good for politicians

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Government may cut support to university

By FELIX UNDERWOOD

Government fiscal restraint could lead to a crisis for smaller post secondary education institutions in the Maritime region according to a report published by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The commission's 1979-1980 financial plan outlining recommended levels of government support for post secondary education in the region for the next three years said the commission may be forced to recommend a cut in increases in government support levels to smaller institutions.

The report said the commission has adopted a policy of recommending a minimum support level for all institutions guaranteeing minimum increases.

"This has been a form of protection for those institutions whose enrollments have declined due to shifts in programme popularity," the report said. "However, for other institutions who have continued to grow, it has meant further pressures on scarce financial resources."

The commission would not be able to continue recommending this policy since due to the impact on larger institutions which could lead to an adverse effect on educational quality in the region as a whole.

"This means that the future financial stability of some institutions will be in question if

government post-secondary education expenditures continue to decline when discounted for inflation."

The report said universities and colleges in the region have coped well and provided a wide range of course offerings, but, "However, the situation has reached the point where institutions face decisions on whether to take action that will result in further quality deterioration or to reduce programme offerings."

In its recommendations the commission maintains its position that tuition fees should continue to rise with inflation, particularly since tuition fees have declined to about 15 per cent of university operating budgets in the last ten years.

The figure was 35 per cent 10 years ago.

The commission recommended an 8.75 per cent increase in operating grants to allow for increases in wages and salaries and non-salary expenditures and a .75 per cent increase to allow for equalization to all institutions receiving a relatively low level of support over a ten year period.

There was also no allowance recommended for enrollment increases since enrollments were expected to remain "relatively stable" for next year.

The report said spending power of universities and colleges declined further since tuition fee increases were considerably below cost - the inflation rate.

The commission maintained that post secondary institutions should be subject to fiscal restraint the same as other public institutions but maintained that support levels for universities were increased at lower rates than other government agencies.

Without a tuition increase it would take a 10.5 government grant increase to achieve the funding level envisaged by the MPHEC, the report said.

The report said the provision of the 8.75 per cent increase was to allow institutions to maintain present levels of service although the institutions asked for a 17 per cent increase once an allowance for inflation was included.

The revised budget estimate of operating assistance to Maritime institutions for 1978-1979 is \$150.2 million unrestricted funds and \$7.3 million restricted funds, and \$500,000 to operate the commission.

For next year the commission is recommending \$164.4 million in unrestricted operating funds and \$8.0 million restricted funds, \$13.2 million capital assistance, and \$500,000 for the commission. The forecast for 1980-1981 was \$180.3 million unrestricted operating funds, \$8.7 million restricted funds, \$19.0 million capital assistance, and \$600,000 for the commission's expenses.

For 1981-1981, the level would increase to \$196.8 million unrestricted funds, \$9.5 million in restricted funds, \$5.9 million in

capital assistance, and \$600,000 for the commission.

The recommendations for capital assistance were only to complete projects contemplated now or underway, and not for new construction.

The restricted portion of the operating assistance referred to non-space (equipment) purchases and alteration and renovation assistance which used to be included in the capital budget but were moved to operating assistance "because of the on-going requirement for these forms of assistance."

For New Brunswick next year the recommendations would mean an increase in restricted and unrestricted operating assistance of from the \$58.5 million allotted this year to \$64.6 million.

Grabs for capital expenditures would be \$4.8 million for New Brunswick institutions.

An appendix to the report ranks New Brunswick with the third highest tuition fees in Canada ranking after Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Room and board fees in New Brunswick ranked eighth highest,

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King's College 1829-1856
BY Pam Saunders

Did you know that:
1. The Old Arts Building, formally King's College, is the oldest university building on any campus in Canada.

2. King's College was designed to be an 'Oxford on the St. John'.

3. Students, professors and their families and the college staff all lived and worked in one building, now known as the Old Arts Building.

4. The core of the curriculum consisted of classic, history, moral philosophy, logic, Hebrew, divinity and metaphysics. Scientific studies were added in the late 1830's.

5. Tutors were assigned to every student to assist the student's studies, to provide moral guidance, to control his expenses and

to generally regulate his behaviour.

6. Women were admitted to the lectures, but not to the degree programme, in 1839.

7. Only women who were "elderly or happily married" were allowed to work in the college as house staff.

8. Students had to appear in academic dress even when in the town.

9. Students were not allowed out of the college, or guests in the college, after 10:00pm., and cease at that hour.

10. The students day began with chapel services, followed by at least four hours of lectures, then private studies.

11. Lectures and tuition cost about \$9.00, while room and board were approximately \$25.