

Buckley's contract not renewed

Director of Student Affairs' position eliminated

David Smith photo

by Allan Carter

In a special meeting which lasted over four hours on Monday night, the St. Thomas Student Union voted not to renew the contract of Jane Buckley, Director of Student Affairs.

Buckley's contract had expired December 31, but no decision was made until now because a committee was created to review the position.

Jeff London, VP Administration, who chaired the committee said because the committee had a "relatively short period of time" to review the position (three weeks) it was decided to interview executive members who lived in Fredericton.

About ten former executive members who served in the past three years were interviewed and asked to give input on the Director of Student Affairs position.

London said the criteria for these participants was that they all had to live in Fredericton so that the committee could for-

mulate the results quickly.

But Patrick Washburn, senior class representative and a member of the committee said he was unaware that this was the criteria.

Luc Boulay, an alumni member and past chair questioned whether or not a review which interviewed only ten past members would be sufficient.

In addition, LeRoy Washburn, a faculty advisor appointed to the council and one of the past executive members interviewed by the committee, was wondering why most of the committee's report was negative.

Washburn told council that there were hardly any positive comments in the report and he was concerned about this.

Other people had doubts about the report's findings. Natalie Godbout a student at St. Thomas could not believe there were only "four lines of strength" concerning Buckley's performance.

Godbout stressed that she was not saying the motives of the committee were bad, but she feels the "document stinks."

But Kelly Lamrock, STU Student Union President told council that their legal counsel has supported the committee's work and he felt it was one of the most "fairest" reports under the circumstances.

Professor Myers another member of the committee, stated that they asked the university how they did performance reviews and the procedure that the committee took was a standard one.

After Jane Buckley gave a statement defending her position (see other story), council went into private sessions.

The motion to renew her contract failed.

Council voted in favour of the three recommendations of the committee and to develop a new position which would be contracted out for tender.



Jeff London

Councillor resigns after council's decision

Ferlatte disappointed

by Allan Carter

At least two people are upset with Council's decision not to renew Jane Buckley's position as Director of Student Affairs at STU.

Councillor Mark Rennick resigned on February 26, after council's decision saying it was "the only response" that he could give to the actions of the council.

In a letter of resignation, Rennick said "I do not see this council as progressive and I do not see the termination of Miss Buckley's work as progressive."

Rennick said that "he was embarrassed for the members of

the alumni that attended and watched all their work destroyed."

Irma Ferlatte, who was the STU Student Union President from 1988-1990 feels the same.

Ferlatte, who was one of the participants in the committee's review of Buckley's position, said that she was really disappointed in council this year.

Her only problem with Buckley's position is that it is not properly set up.

"She argues that the position is to direct and advise, not to do secretarial work and she feels it should be revised.

David Smith photo



Jane Buckley

"Perhaps a hate campaign" - Buckley

The following is part of Jane Buckley's statement which she read to the STU council on Monday night.

I would like to begin by stating that I am very disappointed in the structure of this committee and the way they have chosen to carry out this evaluation. It appears to myself and my legal counsel that it is a sham and perhaps a hate campaign.

I have been told directly by the President of this Student Union that the chairman of this committee wanted me out. I cannot help but think it has been the aim of the committee or some member therein that compilation of enough negative input would be sufficient to accomplish this.

Similarly, if I were to seek out negative or positive comments about myself I would also know exactly where to look just as you have. Therefore, I choose not to

answer the allegations enclosed in the document presented to me Friday Feb. 8, but to discuss the job of Director of Student Affairs and my performance level in this position over the past ten years. If the council would like to hear any of these allegations and have them replied to, I would be more than happy to set another meeting time to deal with them specifically.

If there is anything specific that anyone would like to address please do so and I will do my best to oblige here tonight.

It is my opinion that this survey is poorly written and designed to discover problem highlight areas in need of improvement and generally seek any negative information concerning my work performance.

I am angry, insulted, frustrated and embarrassed by this procedure. It is an invasion of my privacy and shows disrespect for

"It is my opinion that this survey is poorly written and designed."
- Buckley

the position of Director of Student Affairs as well as disrespect for years of loyalty and service I have given the Student Union. It was not indicated to me at any time by the committee chairman that there was any positive input. Nor was a I offered a copy of any positive comments made. I was given a list of the people who were to, or have received this questionnaire (performance review and restructuring part) and from that list at least five of these people contacted me personally to inform me of their interview date and an indication of the positive comments they had written on their questionnaires.

Committee's recommendations

The following are the three recommendations which were approved by Council this week. The last one was rejected.

1. That the position of Director of Student Affairs be eliminated and replaced with an administrative position.
2. That a committee be formed to write a job description for the new position, the responsibilities of which will be strictly limited to the following three areas:
 - a) book-keeping and general financial management;
 - b) general secretarial tasks;
 - c) serving as a resource person and doing research for the SRC and/or the Executive.
3. That something like a board of governors be established to serve as a check on the decisions of the elected officials of the Union. The person holding the new administrative position should be a member of any such board. Other appointees might include one or two representative from faculty, students elected to the board, the student members of the University Board of Governors, and a representative of the University administration.

The Committee also recommends by a 3-2 vote the following:

4. That the current Director be given the right of first refusal on the new position; that she be offered a probationary contract until December 31, 1991; and the next years SRC be encouraged to conduct a review of her performance in November of 1991.

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