

No referendum on SUB issue

- Council AGAIN rescinds motion

By HAROLD DOHERTY

The referendum to decide on the proposed student fee increase was cancelled at an emergency meeting of the SRC held Monday night.

A \$15 increase in student fees had been proposed to pay off the SUB mortgage within the next year and save the Student Union \$15-\$20 thousand in interest charges. At Monday night's emergency meeting council voted 10-6 to rescind a motion passed by council a week ago which had called for a referendum to decide the issue.

The emergency meeting of council was called for 10 p.m. Monday night at an 'informal gathering' of council members which had taken place earlier. Several members of council and other interested students had met to voice their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the referendum had been 'pushed through' council. SRC president Perry Thorbourne spoke briefly to the group and called for an emergency meeting of the council to discuss the referendum.

Engineering rep Dave Lawrence at the emergency meeting introduced a motion to rescind motions 6, 9 and 11 of March 17, 1980 which had called for the referendum. Science Rep Mike Hughson seconded Lawrence's motion. Lawrence introduced the motion because of an ad which had been placed on the back page of the Brunswickan of March 21, 1980 by the SRC executive. Lawrence said he felt that "the students were lied to by this ad."

"The ad has prejudiced the referendum and misrepresented the situation to the students of UNB," he said. Science rep Hughson added that "democracy is not being served here. The SUB will not disappear overnight."

During the debate on the motion to rescind the referendum Thorbourne was asked who worded the motion. He replied the SRC executive had worded the motion.

"I admit that I am responsible for the actions of the executive. It was not done deliberately to mislead. If you want to rescind the motion, go ahead. Nothing has been steered here. Nothing has been railroaded," Thorbourne said.

Rep at large Ross Libbey agreed with the move to pay off the mortgage early but disagreed with the way in which it was put forth. "The decision is a sound one from a business point of view but the students have not been properly informed," he said.

SRC Vice-president Chris Earl was opposed to delaying the referendum. "If the referendum is delayed the motion would not be brought into effect until the following year. If we bring it to referendum in the fall it will be too late."

Science rep Hughson labelled Earl's remarks as "garbage, scare tactics. Chris Earl should know better." Fourth year forestry student Wade Prest said he could not believe that the vice-president could say what he did, and advised council to ask for Earl's resignation.

SRC President Thorbourne was asked again about the wording of the ad placed in the Brunswickan. Thorbourne replied "I didn't change it, I just didn't have time to do it, I had things pressing."

Council adjourned after passing the motion to rescind the referendum by a vote of 10 to 6.

Libbey calls special meeting

By HAROLD DOHERTY

The SRC met informally Monday night to discuss the referendum on the proposed increases in student fees. The meeting took place at 6:30 p.m. in room 103 of the SUB. It was called by Rep-at-Large Ross Libbey after a regularly scheduled meeting had been cancelled by SRC President Perry Thorbourne who wanted the time to prepare a brief to the board of governors.

Several councillors and students voiced their disapproval with the way in which the referendum and proposed fee increases were being presented to council and the students in general. SRC President Perry Thorbourne later addressed the gathering and scheduled an emergency meeting of the council.

In his introductory remarks at the impromptu meeting, Councillor Libbey raised the question of SRC accountability. He said he felt there was "a lack of student access to SRC financial information." Libbey said that "more access would help increase SRC accountability." He also expressed concern over the rights of students with regards to the Student Union. "The Student Union Inc. is actually a club," said Libbey referring to its incorporation under a special sec-

tion of the Corporations Act. "As club members students have rights only as described in SRC by-laws." Libbey also said he had intended to discuss, at the regularly scheduled meeting, his stance on the possibility of adding a rider to the referendum to earmark the fee increase directly to SUB renovations.

The meeting was the scene of a heated exchange between graduate student David Miller and Board of Governors student representative Steve Berube. In talking to Berube, Miller stated "there is a need for truth here. Repeated statements from you and others have been given which do not jive with reality." In response Berube said he was "fed up with people's attitudes around here. Who is leading this campus? Council? The Brunswickan? Who?" Miller responded that "it is the function of the press to question statements they believe to be misleading."

Libbey emphasized that "students have no rights except as stated in the by-laws and regulations of council. Thus if the increase is voted for in the referendum and it is not earmarked specifically it can be used as council sees fit."

Berube commented on the nature of the relationship between him-

self and SRC President Thorbourne. "I do not pull Perry Thorbourne's strings. He is a good friend of mine, I admit that. But this is Perry's show. I deal with Perry on the SUB Board at arm's length."

Forestry student Wade Prest, in referring to the referendum campaign said he has seen some pretty "fishy tricks but nothing like this one." Forestry rep Andrew Wort said he was of the opinion "that if we can get a meeting of council together we should not continue on with the referendum. It's a hurried decision. It should be talked about." Miller said "the thing should not have been railroaded through with sleazy advertising techniques. A plan should have been prepared and presented to the students for a vote rather than using misleading advertising to push it through."

Miller said it was misleading to say that the university wants to take over the SUB. Berube suggested that this question had to be considered in the context of SUB board discussions and SUB director Cindy Stacey's report. CHSR reporter Doug Varty said that "the discussions were for information only. Several SUB board members opposed any takeovers explicitly." Prest, who was on the SRC last

year, made a comparison of the referendum fee increase this year with the CHSR-FM proposal of last year. "The events are the same as last year. There is a lack of information and a railroading of issues." Prest asked councillors if they had any idea of "What's going to happen and where the \$15 increase is going to be spent, or do you not?"

Thorbourne then arrived and informed council of the emergency meeting set for 10 o'clock that night.

SRC meeting cancelled

The Brunswickan has learned that the Student Representative Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow night has been cancelled.

This meeting had originally been scheduled after SRC President Perry Thorbourne moved the regular weekly SRC meeting from Monday to Thursday earlier this week. The change in meeting date was

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