

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

SUB expansion estimated at \$2.7 million

by Mark I. Minor

U.N.B. Fredericton students may, in the not so distant future, see the SUB expanded so that it can better serve the needs of its users. The student population has dramatically outgrown the facility over the last two decades.

The total estimated cost of the project, listed in the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission's (MPHEC) Financial Plan 1992-93 is set at \$2.7 million.

This figure is included under Capital Projects not yet considered. The reason that SUB expansion falls into this category is that no detailed plan or cost estimate has been submitted to the MPHEC by UNB.

When asked about the modest figure, UNB Associate Vice President (Administration) Eric Garland explained that it was a "very preliminary" figure based on, among other factors, roughly-estimated square footage costs.

Garland added that the SUB expansion project was part of an "annual projection update" which is submitted to the MPHEC. Apparently, the university wants to keep the project on paper so as not to lose sight of it until a more solid formal plan is developed.

The development of a formal plan is an involved project in itself. Both UNB and STU student unions must gather input from their respective bodies regarding what types of things the expansion should include. Also, recommendations from the SUB Board and SUB Director Kim Norris will be considered.

Current commercial tenants and any potential tenants will also be asked for estimates of their space requirements and any facilities they may need.

After all the information is gathered, a consensus must be reached by the interested parties on what will actually be included and then the design and cost estimation can begin.

Garland indicated that the

university must keep the MPHEC abreast of any developments of building plans whether or not provincial funding is being solicited. This is accomplished by submitting a series of forms at certain stages of development. At each stage, more detail is revealed.

SUB Director, Kim Norris says he will continue to offer his advice and input to any of the parties involved and review their ideas with them. He has thus far discussed the expansion with former and current student unions, the University Administration and the commercial tenants and maintain that the topic is wide open for suggestion.

Norris told the Bruns that when he is consulted about any additions to the buildings he points that, for each of these, there are also costs for factors such as hallway space, washroom facilities and accessibility for the handicapped to be considered.

The planning process for an adequate SUB expansion is

obviously a lengthy and involved process. Norris said that S.U. President Greg Lutes suggested to him that four students be employed to coordinate the development of an expansion plan, adding that he is in agreement.

When, asked about hiring a student to accomplish the coordination, S.U. Vice President (University Affairs) Derek Dunnett told the Bruns that Mr. Lutes had asked him to look into the matter after Christmas and that it would indeed be considered.

Lutes was also consulted. He offered that a committee would be set up shortly to investigate this possibility but that this was a busy month and all councillors are currently tied up. He said that the scope of the job, rate of pay and sources of funding for the position would need consideration before anyone could be hired.

Lutes also said that the job would probably be more than a summer employment position

because of the length of the development process. He added that compromise would be needed among those involved in planning the expansion (the building users) because the resources are not unlimited.

Lutes, Norris and Garland are all in agreement that, as well as the costs of the expansion, annual operating costs will have to be considered. After the project is completed, the heat, electricity, maintenance and cleaning costs will continue to be a burden on funds.

Garland said that the University certainly sees the need for expansion but that operating costs are a major concern in these trying economic times.

Lutes said that the Student Union also recognizes the operating costs as a concern and that part of the S.U.'s role will be to look at what could be contributed to both the expansion and the operating costs.

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To protest government funding freeze

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The Honourable Vaughn Blaney
Minister of Advanced Education and Labour
Province of New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Blaney:

I am writing to express my disappointment with your government's decision to cut funding to the Universities in New Brunswick. This decision will have a terrible effect on my education. This past year, as a student at UNB, I had to accept a 6% increase to my bill for tuition. Mr. Blaney, I cannot afford to shoulder the cost of your government's further budget cuts. Please do not rob me of my chance to receive a good education.

As a student in New Brunswick, I am already paying one of the highest tuition rates in Canada - one academic year at UNB presently costs me \$2100. As stated above, students cannot afford to pay much more. As a student, I must accept the increase in tuition that our administration sets. The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has recommended that your government and students share in the costs of post-secondary education. They have suggested we each increase our contribution by 4% next year. However, as a direct result of your government's decision to ignore this recommendation, students in New Brunswick may be faced with \$400 tuition hike. Mr. Blaney, this is unfair.

Many classes at UNB are already full and these further cuts to the Universities will create even larger classes as the administration announces lay-offs. Mr. Blaney, Universities exist to teach students and do research; however, both of these objectives are becoming increasingly difficult as a direct result of inadequate government funding. As a student at UNB, I have already seen your government cut \$1.9 million from the NB Student Aid Program. Mr. Blaney, how am I going to afford to finish my degree in New Brunswick?

Mr. Blaney, these are serious concerns. The province of New Brunswick cannot afford to lose its next educated workforce. The University of New Brunswick cannot afford this latest budget freeze. Finally, students at UNB cannot afford to pay higher tuition. I am one of these students - budget cuts affect everyone.

Sincerely,

UNB Student

Tell me, Mr. Blaney, what are you going to do for Post-Secondary Education?
I look forward to your response.
Name & Address

Please fill out this form letter, clip it out, and submit it to the Student Union office in the SUB.

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N.B. CRIMESTOPPERS INC.

IN CO-OPERATION WITH

N.B. ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCY COMMISSION

by Elise Craft

Students at UNB may have noticed new posters around campus lately that proclaim "Drug Pushers Wanted".

These posters, put up by Crimestoppers, have been placed in junior and senior high schools around the region, and on campus.

A representative of Crime Stoppers New Brunswick said that the poster is to remind people that "they might be going to school with a pusher" and "to let the pusher know that they are after him."

UNB Security Director Rick Peacock said that the posters are part of Crimestoppers ongoing campaign to reduce the number criminals at large in New Brunswick and was not initiated because of an increase in drug related crimes on campus.