

Dr. Downey we are concerned

Monday, November 3rd was an historic day at UNB. The first ever collective agreement between the university and its faculty was officially signed. Both sides signed the agreement in a rather relaxed manner after a process of negotiation that took nearly two years. The process of negotiation had produced a tentative agreement except on one issue- the wage package. As a result of the disagreement on wages both parties agreed to submit the issue to conciliation. The conciliation board's report would be considered binding on both parties. The board awarded a general increase of nearly 29% to faculty and, like it or not, both parties had no choice but to accept the decision.

Faculty members seem to be reasonable happy with the wage increase, making them the highest paid in Atlantic Canada, for the moment at least.

What about members of the administration? Are they happy with the settlement? We think not, because the decision of the

conciliation board granted a wage increase higher than the administration expected. Members of the administration and certainly yourself Mr. President must be wondering where UNB will get the money to pay the bills.

The faculty wage settlement has finally brought UNB's financial problems to a head. Dire predictions of financial hardship from J.F. O'Sullivan, vice president finance and administration, and other senior administration officials have been heard in recent

days. The two million dollar surplus accumulated by this university last year will all but be wiped out according to predictions.

A huge deficit of nearly one and a half million dollars for the upcoming fiscal year is being predicted. The university budget is

nearly 80 % financed through government grants as recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

With the exception of 5% financing from other revenues, 15% of the total university budget is funded by student tuition fees.

It is the level of tuition fees that we are concerned about, Mr. President. Perhaps we will be fortunate and you can convince the MPHEC and the government that higher education and yes, even we the students, need a break. Maybe the government will give us more money.

Without adequate government funding, someone will have to pay the shot. The alternatives are grim indeed. Tuition fees will increase dramatically and cutbacks that will affect every member of the university community will rule the day. We can only hope

that drastic measures will not be needed. Mr. President we as students are concerned about the current state of affairs at UNB- and with some justification!



Get your act together !

Last Monday's SRC meeting was certainly not the Council's finest hour. Councillors were keen to get on with the business of the union but the same could not be said about the executive. SRC President Perry Throbourne was conspicuously absent from the meeting. When SRC Vice President Lloyd Tozer introduced a routine motion naming the polling stations for the upcoming by-election the need for several polls was questioned by Comptroller Steve Howes - a clear example of an executive that doesn't seem to communicate very much before a meeting. Comptroller Howes was then asked by a councillor when the SRC budgets for the clubs and organizations would finally be approved. Howes said he hoped that all budgets could be approved before Friday, November 21st. This is one month later than the normal process has taken over the years and is therefore unprecedented in the history of the union.

The SRC Audit for the fiscal year 1979-80 was also supposed to be presented. When asked by a councillor if it would be presented he said that he

had not expected quorum for the meeting and therefore had not asked the auditor to present the report at that time. He said it would be presented in the Brunswickan this week. Surely council has the right to see the audit and approve it before it is sent for publication.

Several issues have surfaced over the last several weeks. Councillors have not been informed by any member of the executive about the Alumni conference this weekend or the Student Union Building committee looking into SRC space allocations on the second floor of the office wing. There are also persistent rumors about changes in the operating policy of the SRC office.

If Monday's meeting is any indication this is an executive with something missing from its act - both in communication and organization. Perhaps the executive will "GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER" before the next SRC meeting. Councillors and we the students deserve better....

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