

# Electoral procedure settled Women face inequality

by Gordon Loane  
Brunswickan Staff

University Secretary Stephen Strople and representatives from the UNB Student Union have decided on a course of action that for the time being has resolved a three week old dispute over certain student election procedures.

The Spring Election takes place next week on the Fredericton Campus. The controversy began shortly after the Student Union unilaterally changed the election rules to appoint whoever is Elected SU President to the University's Board of Governors.

Previously, the Seat was open and could be contested by any UNB undergraduate who chose to run.

Similarly, the Student Union decreed that its newly elected VP University Affairs would automatically take one of five student seats on the Fredericton Senate. Four other seats would be filled by open elections.

University Secretary Strople, who sees that certain election regulations are followed on behalf of the Administration, was not consulted about the changes and quickly reviewed the regulations under the University of New Brunswick Act.

He determined that the new method of election was incorrect and informed the Student Union's

Chief Returning Officer Graeme Smith by hand delivered letter late last month.

Following a meeting early this week to resolve the matter, the Student Union backed down for the moment but in the long run may carry the day.

"We will proceed with the Senate Elections by filling all five seats in an open election," said CRO Smith in an interview with the Brunswickan this week.

"Elections for four Senate Seats had already been well advertised and we decided to run an open election for the fifth seat at the same time," said Smith.

Chantale Walker, who is the only candidate running for SU VP University Affairs and faces a yes/no vote in next week's election, has also filed nomination papers for one of the Senate Seats.

As it turned out, there are five students running for five Senate Seats and all candidates including Walker face yes/no votes next week, according to Smith.

"In the longer term, Senate is expected to consider a Student Union

proposal to change election procedures and grant a possible automatic appointment to the SU Vice President University Affairs," said Smith, admitting the procedure could be in place by next year.

As for the Student Seat on the Board of Governors, Smith says a proposal from the Student Union that would grant an automatic seat for the SU President will be presented for consideration next month.

If the Board of Governor's grant is approved, SU Presidential candidate Kelly Lamrock, who faces a yes/no vote next week, would take the student seat automatically, according to Smith.

If the Board of Governors turns down the idea, Smith says the seat would be filled in an open by-election in the fall.

UNB undergraduates have already agreed to allow the Graduate Students Society President to fill the other seat on the Board of Governors, in a seat struck between the Student Union and the GSA.

Students on the Saint John Campus have one seat on the BofG as well.

## Brunswickan News

A Report Card on the status of women in New Brunswick shows that women should have a larger share of the income, earnings, and decision-making powers in the province, according to Joan Kingston, Chair of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women which released the report to mark International Women's Day, March 8.

The document reports on approximately 20 indicators of equality on women in the New Brunswick labour force, in the civil service, in politics and in other positions of influence.

"This Report Card gives us a quick statistical overview of the status of women," said Joan Kingston. "The status of women is more than statistics, but unless these statistics improve, women's lives will not improve significantly. These statistics are indicators of equality. The gap illustrated by these statistics will only be closed if we adopt corrective measures which include changes in the education of girls and boys, as well as steps to end systemic discrimination within institutions, such as pay equity and employment equity."

According to the Report, which uses charts to illustrate statistics from Statistics Canada and other sources, 76% of New Brunswick women have less than \$20,000 total annual income, which includes pension, investment as well as employment income. The average total income from all sources was \$14,102 for women and \$25,199 for men. When only employment income for women and men who worked full time is considered, the average earnings of women was \$22,799 in 1990 while the figure for men was \$34,921, giving women 65.3% of men's earnings.

Only 22% of full-time faculty in New Brunswick universities are women, and among full professors, only 11% are women. In public education, 64% of educators are women, 30% of department heads are women and 30% of school board superintendents are women.

"While women are approaching equal numbers in the workforce, true equity will only be achieved as more women advance to levels of influence in decision making combined with wage parity in those positions," according to Joan Kingston.

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