

Senate meeting highlights

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

The Senate met on Tuesday to consider a variety of matters of academic importance. A short "meet and greet" with the Presidential candidate, Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, was held before the meeting began at 7:30 PM.

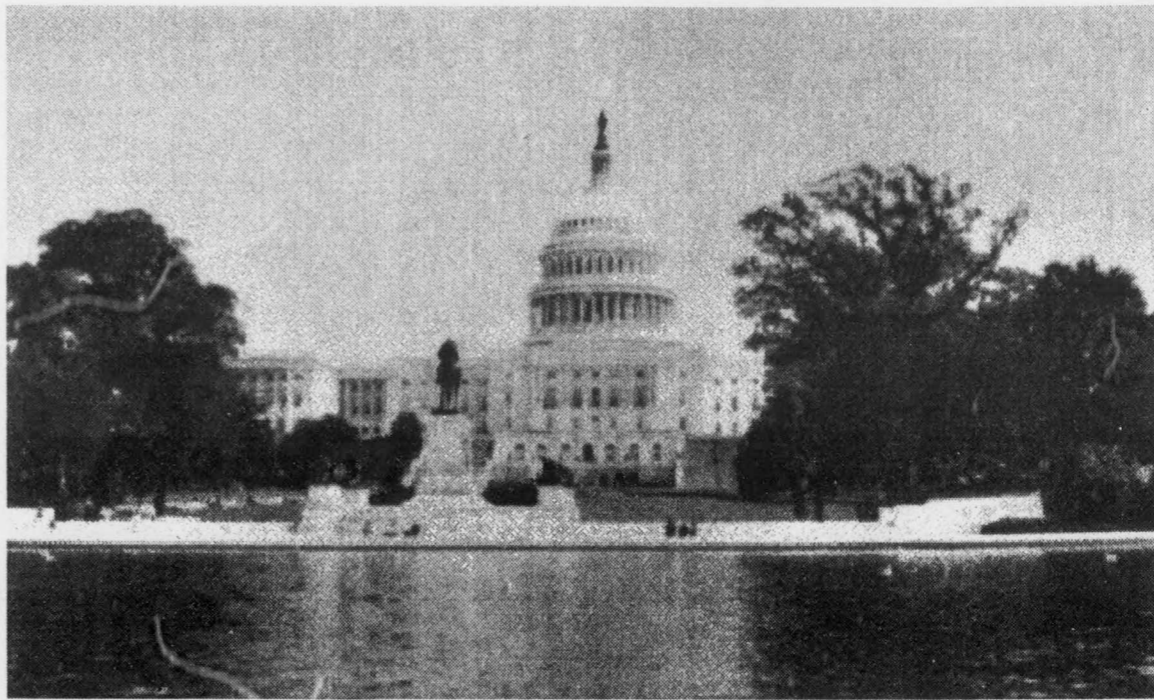
Official Withdrawal from University: This issue proved to be the most contentious. It was a proposal to revise the regulations governing official withdrawal from University.

This proposal was revised slightly from the one presented at the last meeting of Senate, at which time the matter was tabled. Al Sharp, Chair of the Physics Department, commented on the meaning of this action, "the old regulation is still in effect, but we'll continue to ignore it."

Several people, including the Registrar, Deanne Dennison, were pushing for the revision, while others, such as Dean of Arts, Peter Kent and Philosophy professor Neil Macgill, felt the new regulations made withdrawal easier by removing the requirement to get a signature from your faculty advisor as per the now-out-dated course change forms.

The new regulation, which eventually passed, was intended to reflect the new ability of students to effectively withdraw from University by dropping all of their courses.

The registrar and the Director of Computing Services, Dave MacNeil, were asked to devise a message to make



The United States Capitol Building.

students aware of their options when withdrawing from their last course.

Transcript changes: Several changes were made by Senate regarding University Transcripts. A new "median grade" will now be included in all courses with enrollment over 10. This new item is intended primarily for "guidance to those who will be preparing the new student information system."

Also, the format of the transcript will be reworked to "create a more professional and appropriate record." Most of the changes will be aesthetic, but more information will be included to authenticate the document and to give more complete information to the

recipient. This will include adding the embossed seal of the University to each page and a notation that only the Registrar can issue official transcripts and that the document must be signed by the Registrar to be considered official. In addition, a key explaining the information on the transcript, which is currently issued on a separate sheet, will be printed on the reverse side. An investigation into "security paper" is underway.

International student quotas up 5% in Computer Science and Engineering: The quotas for international students will be increased by 5% for the Faculties of Computer Science and Engineering. The

new quotas stand at 10% overall anticipated enrollment for Computer Science and 15% for Engineering. No other Faculties have such limits.

The quotas were first implemented in 1982 at which time, according to a report by Associate Registrar Mike Shanks, "there were severe pressures on Faculty resources and there were genuine concerns that the quality of programs would be affected unless limitations were imposed."

A preliminary approach of dropping all quotas was rejected at the committee level in favour of "a stepwise introduction of higher ceilings." The quotas are set to be revised in 1998.

Awards down 5.5%

The total amount of funds paid out by the University of New Brunswick in undergraduate awards is down by 5.5% over 1994-95 figures.

The numbers were released in a report presented to the Senate by the Undergraduate Scholarship Committee.

The total amount awarded in 1995-96 was \$994,730. This is down from \$1,052,423 in 1994-95. The largest decrease came in "endowed and established scholarships" with this portion decreasing by \$28,000. Another significant decrease resulted from the lack of the "adopt-a-student" scholarship program, which had resulted in \$28,000 in additional awards.

The refusal rate of entrance scholarships has increased from 40% to 45% of offers rejected.

The application rate for entrance scholarships is only slightly higher with 77% of students applying. (In 1994-95, 76% of students applied.)

Applications for undergraduate scholarships as a whole were slightly lower, with 82% in 1995-96 over 83% in 1994-95.

The next regular meeting of Senate is April 2, 1996.

Your student representatives on the Senate are: Chantale Walker (VP University Affairs), Jeff Clark (Acting VP External), Robert Dornan, Robert Apold, Joseph FitzPatrick, and Eugene Davis.

Chestnut

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