

News

Enrollment numbers down by 200

by Mark I. Minor

The number of first-year enrollments at UNB Fredericton is down for the academic year of 1993-1994.

The decrease appears to approach two hundred students but the count is not yet final.

Associate Registrar (Admissions and Enrollment) Michael Shanks told *The Brunswickan* that there are various reasons for the drop.

He said that follow-up phone interviews with those who abandoned application and confirmation deposits indicated financial need as a major concern.

He commented that the number of grade 12 students is essentially consistent over the past few years and therefore there is no lack of potential applicants from this group.

Shanks said that "UNB Fredericton has actually posted increases in past years from grade 12 FHS applicants while their

numbers have remained roughly the same, but this year the total is down by approximately 60 students."

Shanks also claimed that a "psychological" effect is apparent when considering capacity restrictions being set and admission requirements being made more stringent by faculties.

It seems that knowledge of such guidelines can cause potential students to refrain from applying at all.

He said that ever since the Faculty of Arts established its capacity, the number of applications has not reached the maximum.

This year, applicants have met with more rigid standards for admission to the Faculty of Administration. The minimum overall average for high school graduates has risen from 60 to 65 percent with specific requirements of 60 percent in Math 122 and English 122.

According to Assistant Dean

(Undergraduate), Bob Maher, reduction in the number of admissions to the faculty exceeds the prediction of 40 students. There were 261 admissions last year and only 134 this year.

Maier said he suspected that the "specific requirements (Math and English) caught more students" than did the overall average requirement.

Maier broke down the figures by category: 60-65 percent, 65-70 percent, 70-75 percent and above 75 percent overall grade averages.

He stated that "there was no great difference between this year and last for those who had at-

tained a high school average above seventy-five percent."

Last year in this category, 87 students were admitted to the Faculty of Administration and this year there were 82 admissions.

As well, Maher is not surprised at the difference from last year of 51 students who fall into the lower range because they don't meet the overall average requirements.

"The concern lies in the middle categories", suggested Maher. There are 51 fewer students admitted whose averages fall between 60 and 65 percent and 39 fewer in the 70 to 75 percent

range as compared with last year.

He speculated that some of these students may not have met the Math and English standards and that others may not have applied due to other reasons including monetary considerations or, as Shanks concurred, a "psychological" effect.

Maier noted that "approximately 50 students who applied to the Faculty of Administration have been admitted to other UNB programs."

He said that these students may be reevaluated as soon as January if they reapply to the faculty.

GSA concerned with introduction of teaching diploma

by Erin Campbell

The motives behind the recently implemented Teaching Diploma have been brought into question by the university's Graduate Student's Association.

Although he believes that the Teaching Diploma is a "fabulous idea", Ramaswami Sammy-naiken, president of the GSA, admitted that he has reservations about the diploma.

It is his opinion that the Teaching Diploma does not address the findings of the Excellence in Education report which question the teaching ability of university professors.

"What has been done to improve the faculty? Nothing," he declared.

Sammynaiken is concerned that due to the possible involvement of "bad teachers", there will be a "decrease in the quality" of teaching at UNB.

According to Dr. Reavely Gair, director of UNB's Teaching Centre, the teaching diploma was created in order to meet the demands of both the public and graduate Students.

The purpose of the diploma, Gair maintained, is "to create, at the university level, a BED program".

Gair said that any full- or part-time graduate may register for the diploma as long as he/she is deemed "acceptable" by the student's supervising department.

Students in the program will receive training in the areas of cooperative learning, planning curriculum, mature students and learning disabilities, Gair added.

Sammynaiken also raised the issue of the possible "exploitation" of

the graduate Students. He expressed the concern that "Students would be doing too much".

Gair stated that the Teaching Centre has made provisions to remedy this situation by creating a "learning contract".

According to Gair, the contract stipulates precisely the amount of teaching that will be required and keep "the level consistent across campus."

Sammynaiken believes that the University must address problems regarding possible conflicts in the Student/Supervisor relationship and resulting "experimentation" on undergraduates.

He said that, in order for the diploma to be successful, there should be additional studies "to ensure that graduates can teach".

He added that the university must "make sure [the diploma] is not another meaningless piece of paper".

Although he confirmed his belief that the Teaching Diploma is a "beautiful idea", Sammynaiken is worried that the Teaching Centre is running "too fast to be first" to implement the program.

He maintained that the issues were not looked into "thoroughly", and that the university was late in addressing the resulting questions.

Sammynaiken hopes that both the university and the Student Union will be able to remedy his concerns regarding the Teaching Diplomas.

According to Dr. Gair, there are currently 32 graduate students enrolled in the program for UNB alone.

UNBSJ students were expected to register Wednesday.

Social issues group formed on campus

By Mimi Cormier

Students interested in social issues related to the developing countries of the world may also be interested in a new organization on campus.

Concerned Youth for Development (CYD) was established four years ago at St. Dunstan's as an activity for the youth of the parish.

Now that the original members of CYD are attending UNB and STU, they would like to continue with what the old CYD was doing and "take it to a higher level," as Janette Seirano said.

"There is so much potential at the university level, with the different cultural concerns here," she added enthusiastically.

Over the summer, CYD members attended the International Seminar on Youth and Development at Lester B. Pearson College in B.C.

Members have also gone to the Dominican Republic, and the group is looking forward to welcoming guests from that country to Fredericton this winter.

CYD also holds periodic retreats "to recruit new members and make the old stronger," according to Seirano.

CYD's roots in Fredericton began with Charles Rowan, a Catholic Formation director, and Rick McDaniel, an international YMCA representative.

The two men facilitated a retreat weekend for youth in the parish, where a film was shown and a speaker from El Salvador participated.

Seirano, who came to Canada from

El Salvador herself six years ago, pointed out that the speaker "gave a testament from true reality" that left members of the group asking, "What can we do now?"

CYD then became involved in acting as a sponsor for a youth project in the Dominican Republic.

McDaniel, who had worked previously in the Dominican Republic, helped start a partnership with a Pension Comunitaria.

The Pension Comunitaria is a community directed by Father Marrero, a Jesuit Priest, and provides a place for young men to live while they receive an education and job training.

CYD was active in fundraising to help the Pension Comunitaria buy a farm two years ago.

Besides its involvement with the Pension Comunitaria, CYD also organized a "host program" at Fredericton High School for students from Third World countries.

Their program works as a buddy system, pairing new students with more experienced students who have similar interests.

The host program has proven successful and is still active at FHS. CYD has also done work with the local Red Cross.

Regular general meetings are being held Tuesdays at 7 pm at the home of UNB Chaplain Monté Peters, Apt. #2 at Bridges House.

Anyone who would like more information on CYD can phone Janette Seirano at 452-2859 or come to the next general meeting on Tuesday, October 5.

The Brunswickan
Newsline: 453-4983

Any questions, comments or story ideas are welcomed. We also accept volunteers at any time, no experience necessary.