

# President initiates Task Force

GORDON LOANE  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston has set up a small task force to look at all aspects of student support on campus.

The Task Force is looking at issues such as bursaries, loans, work-study grants, and other issues surrounding student accessibility, according to Vice-President Academic Louis Visentin.

Student Support has taken on more importance in recent years as students cope with the spiraling costs of a university education, yearly increases in tuition fees, larger student loan debts, a tight summer job market and the need for part-time jobs during

the academic year. Work-study grants, for example, are now in existence on several university campuses in Canada.

Based on financial need and with the support of provincial governments, universities provide part-time jobs for students engaged in academically or career-oriented work on campus.

Student leaders on the Fredericton and Saint John campuses called on the university administration to introduce a work-study program in a recent brief to the Presidential Task Force on Future Tuition and Other Student Fee Policies.

In their brief the students pointed out that the Association of

Universities and Colleges of Canada, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations, Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Canadian Association of University Teachers, Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Graduate Council are all recommending that universities implement work study programs.

A recent external review of student services at UNB noted that "UNB should constantly be seeking ways in which to provide students opportunities to become involved in their institution and develop their leadership abilities."

To that end, the external reviewers recommended that UNB create a work-study program as proposed by UNB's Director of Financial Aid. The reviewers further suggested that the university create a fund from a portion of tuition increases to be set aside for members of the university community to create on-campus employment and hire students for these career-related experiences.

It should be noted that UNB is currently a significant employer of part-time students, but with budgetary cutbacks in recent years some part-time jobs have disappeared.

## Don't Tax Reading Coalition challenges Federal Liberals

Liberal candidates will face questions about broken promises and particularly their repeated promise to remove GST from textbooks and other reading material during the election this summer, says the Don't Tax Reading Coalition.

"Prime Minister Chrétien specifically said, in writing, that the GST would be removed from books and periodicals during his term," said Coalition Chairperson Jacqueline Hushion. Reading material is the only product

the Liberals ever promised to take out of the tax base.

"We have matching written commitments from more than half of the current Liberal caucus, made during the 1993 election campaign."

Instead, the Liberals increased taxes on reading by taxing magazines, academic journals and newspapers under the new harmonized sales tax in the Atlantic provinces.

It's not too late for the government to keep their promise, Hushion noted.

"If the government chose to take the tax off textbooks now, it would be a big help to students facing increased educational costs for the Fall. But if an election is called before federal tax is removed from reading, individual candidates will be challenged to explain their deception in the 1993 campaign."

The Liberal pledges post-date the campaign Red Book, Hushion noted. "The promises from candidates continued to be made after the Red Book was published. The Prime Minister

says that Liberal MPs are expected to keep promises they made that go beyond the Red Book. We assume that this includes his own promises."

The Liberal Party renewed their commitment to remove tax from reading at the 1994 Liberal Policy Convention chaired by Finance Minister Paul Martin.

The GST, introduced in January 1991, is the first federal tax in Canadian history to apply to books, magazines or newspapers.

## News Analysis

# UNIV 1001: UNB improves student retention with new course

CATHERINE AHERN  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

At the end of the school year, if a student has a GPA below 2.0, they are automatically placed on Academic Probation (AP), and are asked to leave the university if they remain on AP the following year. For students on AP there is a greater risk of dropout than with students who are not on AP. Until last term, there was no support for struggling students. It was either sink or swim.

This past September, however, there was another option for such students. Put forward by the Enrollment Management Committee, a course to help students on AP was approved by the University Senate in May 1996.

Called University 1001, it consists of four days of intensive study during Orientation Week and weekly weekend sessions during the term. It is free, though students in Administration, Kinesiology and Nursing will expend a sch. of electives. It is optional for second year students who had difficulty their first year, and is required by the Residence Administration Office for students wishing to return to Residence.

For those who were willing to learn, it was quite successful. It seemed to be quite successful in lifting student's GPAs and decreasing the dropout rate. In all but students in the Faculty of Science, there was a marked improvement in the academic performance of students from their previous year. Among the most improved are the Engineering Students with a 52.50% increase in

GPA from April 96 to December 96, and Arts students with a 46.20% increase in their GPA over the same period.

There was also a large gap in GPA between students on AP who took University 1001 and those who didn't. The average GPA for students who took the course was above 2.0, whereas students in only one program (Forestry Engineering) achieved this level.

Another advantage to this course was the change in the drop out rate for students on AP. An average decline in the drop out rate is approximately 25% over the past two years. This has meant that 13.3 students returned to University who may not have done so in previous years. In monetary terms, this amounts to an increase of \$37,772 in tuition income to the University, for a course which cost \$5,000 to initiate, and \$2,000 annually to maintain.

The course did not work for everyone, however. The average GPA of Science students went down 7.6% in their second year. Administrators of the course are not sure why Science students went against the trend, but they are taking measures to better the program's effectiveness for Science students next year. They plan on having more Science tutors, and having the course become more Faculty specific.

Despite its success, not all Faculty members are enthusiastic about this initiative. Many feel that if students can't make it, then they shouldn't be here, and we should simply let them fail. This follows the belief, which is held by some Faculty members, that

the University is not responsible for student success or failure.

However, UNB does have an substantial number of students put on AP and/or drop out each year. This raises the question of the acceptance grade for New Brunswick students. The acceptance grade is only 60% for N.B. residents. This practice is based on the argument that UNB is a provincial university and, therefore, has a responsibility to the community to offer as much opportunity for students to enter post-secondary education as

possible. However, if the acceptance grade is so low, does the University not have a responsibility to the students they accept with an already low academic standing?

The University has a moral responsibility to all students to help make the transition from high-school to University as easy as possible. If University 1001 can help that transition, should it not be supported? There have been some discussion of incorporating the course into Orientation week for all students arriving from high school.

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CONTACT LENS SPECIALIST  
SUITE 504, 1015 REGENT STREET  
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## Attention Graduates

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Graduates of the program in Fisheries Development compete for positions in the fishing industry and in various departments in the federal and provincial governments. The program is designed to prepare well-rounded fisheries generalists with an in-depth knowledge in fisheries development.

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Graduates of the program in Aquaculture will find opportunities for employment in a wide variety of fish culture vocations. The program is designed to prepare graduates for management level positions in the developing aquaculture industries.

\*Graduates of three-year diplomas of technology are also welcome to apply for the advanced diploma programs.

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The MMS (Fisheries Resource Management) is a one-year course based, multi-disciplinary program which will appeal to undergraduates seeking to improve employment prospects within governments, consulting companies or commercial enterprises.

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The M.Sc. Aquaculture is an interdisciplinary degree offered by the School of Graduate Studies. This is a thesis-based program offering science research opportunities in key areas of finfish and shellfish aquaculture. Graduates of this program are employed in research and development positions, both within the industry and with supporting agencies and research centres.

Contact the Admissions Officer

FISHERIES AND MARINE INSTITUTE OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
P.O. Box 4920, St. John's, Newfoundland  
Canada A1C 5R3    Telefax: (709) 778-0346  
Internet: admissions/regist@gill.ifmt.nf.ca

## Summer Employment Opportunities at the UNB Student Union

**Financial Aid Coordinator**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 12 May, 1997  
SALARY: Dependent on Challenge grants  
HOURS: 37.5 hrs/week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of an information framework for financially needy students.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Compilation of private banks student loan options via a student banking information framework which will be developed through consultation with the project supervisor.
- \* Continuation of Anti-Poverty Foundation initiative through the establishment of a food bank in search of a joint partnership with existing services within the city.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return in the fall.
- \* Willingness to continue the position in the fall on a volunteer basis.
- \* An understanding of students in financial need with the willingness to become a resource person for these students.
- \* Knowledge of administrative procedure required.
- \* Most importantly, a dedication to students.

**Publications / Ad Manager**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 5 May, 1997  
SALARY: \$7.00/hr.  
HOURS: 37.5 hours per week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for producing and editing various publications and support them through advertising and publicity. These publications include the Beaverbook '97, and the UNB Student Directory.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Production of the Beaverbook '97 daily planner for students which contains information on the campus, the community, student activities and organizations, tips on university life and overall survival skills.
- \* Coordination of the campaign and promotional material of the Student Union including materials, leaflets, and flyers in conjunction with the individual project managers.
- \* Raising revenue for the Beaverbook '97 and the UNB Student Directory.
- \* Making local contacts for the Student Lifesaver discount card which provides students with discounts from local and national businesses.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return to UNB in the Fall.
- \* Willingness to continue the position in the Fall on a volunteer basis.
- \* Highly motivated and creative individual capable of adapting to changing and new situations.
- \* Desktop publishing and design experience on Macintosh platforms is required and print advertising experience is suggested.
- \* Experience with PageMaker 5.0, Freehand 5.5, Photoshop 3, Scanning Applications, FileMaker Pro 3, Microsoft Word 5, and HTML.
- \* Strong knowledge of Macintosh internet applications World Wide Web Weaver 1.1, Fetch 3, Telnet and Netscape 3 and their configurations.
- \* Installation and configuration of Macintosh software applications and hardware.
- \* Working knowledge of Unix.
- \* Responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of a Macintosh network.
- \* Must possess computer aided graphic design skills.
- \* Able to work well with budgetary considerations and within deadlines.
- \* Must possess a good working knowledge of the UNB Student Union in order to sell the Student Union to prospective advertisers.
- \* Maintenance of UNB Student Union website.
- \* Strong oral communication skills are essential.
- \* Proven track record of success.
- \* Most importantly, dedication to serving students.

**Sexual Assault / Campus Safety Coordinator**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 12 May, 1997  
SALARY: Dependent on challenge grants  
HOURS: 37.5 hours per week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of a sexual assault information program and campaigns that will include outreach programs. Further responsibilities will include campus safety related issues and campaigns in this area.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Creation of targeted education campaigns and out-reach programs to address the needs of various on-campus constituency groups in the prevention of sexual assault.
- \* Development of campaigns to assist in the elimination of sexual assaults on campus.
- \* Working in conjunction with the Student Resource Center to develop the campaign.
- \* Creation of a training program for volunteers.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return in the Fall.
- \* Willingness to continue the position in the Fall on a volunteer basis.
- \* Highly motivated, energetic, creative with good organizational skills.
- \* Solid educational background in counselling and management/administration.
- \* Familiarity with the UNB administration and with UNB and Student Union Student Services would be an asset.
- \* Be willing to undergo extensive training in a crisis intervention and out-reach program such as that conducted by the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Center.
- \* Most importantly, a dedication to serving students.

**Research Assistant**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 5 May, 1997  
SALARY: \$7.00/hour  
HOURS: 37.5 hrs/week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of a proposal on behalf of the UNB Student Union with respect to work study programs at the University of New Brunswick.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Development of an outline and proposal of work study models that would be conducive to the campus learning environment and provide useful work experience for students at the University of New Brunswick.
- \* Development of cost analysis of proposed recommendations from student research paper "Open Doors, Open Minds" to be proposed to the University of New Brunswick, provincial and federal governments.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return in the fall.
- \* Preference will be given to a student with prior research experience in the upper level years of undergraduate study.
- \* Excellent written communication skills.
- \* Knowledge of University's operating structure.

**Student Advocacy Center Coordinator**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 12 May, 1997  
SALARY: Dependent on Challenge grants  
HOURS: 37.5 hrs/week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of the operating policies and procedures.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Development of campaigns focusing on proactive education for students on issues surrounding academic regulations and appeals, rental contracts, etc...
- \* Sitting on the Students Standings and Promotions Committee.
- \* For setting up a information available to all students on all.
- \* Further developing policies and procedures of the centre.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return in the Fall.
- \* Willingness to continue the position in the Fall on a volunteer basis.
- \* Preference will be given to a student entering the second or third year of legal study with a strong background and demonstrated interest in advocacy and litigation.
- \* Excellent written and oral communication skills are required.
- \* Knowledge of administrative procedure is required.
- \* Knowledge of the University's operating structure is desirable.
- \* Most importantly, a dedication to serving students.

**Student Resource Center / Employment Opportunity Coordinator**  
CLOSING DATE OF COMPETITION: Monday, 12 May, 1997  
SALARY: Dependent on Challenge Grant  
HOURS: 37.5 hours per week  
FUNCTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing the general operation of the Student Resource Center and the continuation of the Employment Opportunities program.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- \* Development of a series of job-searching skills seminars.
- \* Development of a comprehensive program to promote job opportunities for UNB undergraduate students on campus.
- \* Preparation of training and resource materials for the SRC's volunteers.
- \* Further develop ties between the SRC and various university departments.
- \* Design and preparation of materials for the SRC and the Employment Opportunities Program.
- \* To expand the current recruitment process.
- \* Development of awareness campaigns to emphasize the need for career-related training and skills as well as promoting recruitment sessions and training seminars.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- \* A full-time undergraduate student planning to return in the Fall.
- \* Willingness to continue the position in the Fall on a volunteer basis.
- \* Highly motivated, energetic, and creative with good organizational skills.
- \* Familiarity with the UNB administration and the UNB Student Union services would be an asset.
- \* Active participation in community based volunteer activities would be an asset, as would knowledge of career related programs currently offered by the province of N.B. and university administration.
- \* Most importantly, a dedication to serving students.

**APPLICATIONS:**

All applicants should submit a resume, a resume containing three (3) references and a 500 word essay demonstrating knowledge of and interest in the project. These should be submitted, by hand or by mail, to:  
President  
UNB Student Union  
c/o Room 126, Student Union Building  
P.O. Box 4600  
Fredericton, N.B.  
E3B 5A3

For additional information on these positions, please contact the UNB Student Union Office, Room 126, SUB or call 453-4955.  
THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE POSITIONS IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL WAGE SUBSIDY FINANCING