

# Anthony Knight – VP (External)

By Cynthia Kirkby  
Co-News Editor

Student loans are the top priority of VP External candidate Anthony Knight, a first year student of general science.

"We all came here for the number one reason to get a job ultimately when we leave. If we leave university going into this global race that we're all told about with some huge debt, then it's going to set us back in the race. Currently this year, NB students are coming out with the highest student loan debts that the country and this province have ever seen. It's not only in New Brunswick and Canada, but in the rest of the world." Knight would like to see more of a partnership between students, the Student Union and the community than there is now. "It feels like we're fighting this battle on our own and we don't have the partnership within the community and that sort of backing that we need to propel this into a centre stage priority for the federal government.

"Another issue for me is entrepreneurship. I think the government as well as the UNB Student Union should promote self-employment as well as entrepreneurship, to create their own avenues. It always seems that past generations have sort of looked on to the government for their opportunities and to other people for their opportunities, and I think that UNB students should try and be encouraged to take the initiative to create their own opportunities."

Knight, who is on the New Brunswick Youth Council, has some ideas for SU restructuring, arising from that experience. "One thought that I've been dealing with is maybe the implementation of an Executive Director. With the Youth Council we had one, and it's sort of a nice gel when there's a changing of the guards, so to speak. It kind of keeps the council focussed on the issues that pertain to the council and the ways in which to deal with it in maybe an acceptable way."

As for course loads, Knight thinks "it depends on how the students feel towards the role the President should play. If we were to ask the President to cut back on his course load, then maybe it would be fair to ask for more honouraria, and I don't know if anyone feels comfortable increasing honouraria where everyone else feels the restrictions and the cutbacks in daily life."

Honouraria for executives, he feels, "is probably a little excessive. I think if there's a minimum requirement of hours put in by the executive and the President, then some honouraria should be noted but there should be a limit on it."

"I didn't even know there was honouraria when I put my name in. It was a pleasant surprise so to speak."

With regards to the external committee, which has not met since October, Knight suggested that it "could probably change its role and look for maybe a stronger mandate and work towards a reasonable goal of initiatives." He believes that communication and respect are essential for any committee, and "to propel UNB students to a higher level."

He also feels that more diplomacy is in order "in the way that we put forth our statements and how we feel towards certain government policies. By simply disagreeing, you're not really solving the problem, you're just complaining about it. I think that unless we put forth some sort of solution to whatever we'd be lobbying against, i.e. student loans, then what good are we? I mean, there lacks logic if you're not willing to put forth a solution."

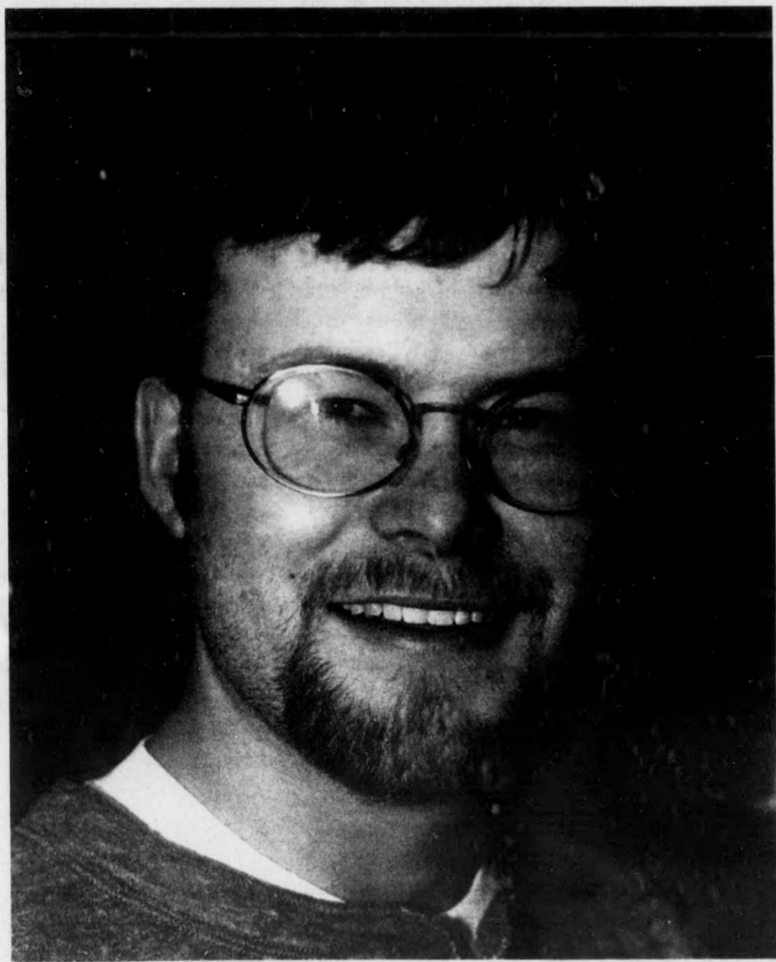


Knight, who is considering running for a position on the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), is a supporter of both of UNB's lobbying groups. "I think [CASA] is a great cause. It's only an improvement on our connection and our stability with the rest of the universities. I see no problem with it."

When asked whether or not he supports the proposed NBSA fee increase, he stated that "if the Student Union is willing to treat it as an increase, and if the students are going to be able to see that the increase is going towards something, then yes." However, since, with the fee increase, UNB would contribute 72% of the NBSA's budget, he added that it might be wise to "change the connection with the other universities so that it's a more even keel partnership within the alliance."

Knight concluded that he'd like to wish luck to all candidates.

# Erik Mooers – VP (External)



By Cynthia Kirkby  
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Candidate for VP External Erik Mooers thinks it's time to lower our voices, literally. The fourth year Spanish student feels that "working with people" in a non-confrontational manner is the key to change.

"It's no good yelling at people. You can accomplish more by being quiet than by screaming at someone who's going to make a decision regarding you. You have to work with people, and be responsible."

Mooers, who does volunteer work at the Student Resource Centre and as a peer mentor, would like to "patch up misunderstandings" that have arisen recently. "There's a perception within the university community that there's always fights and nothing seems to go right at UNB with the resignations these

last couple of years, with over-spending on Orientation, with the CASA fiasco and the rejection of CFS. I'd like to improve relations between the university and the community."

With regards to CASA and the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), Mooers feels that the Student Union should "continue to support those organizations as long as they continue to fulfill their mandate." He does not intend to hold a CASA referendum in the fall, explaining that "with all the problems they've had this year, it's hard to even understand anything they've done. It's best to write this year off as growing pains."

"As long as CASA fulfills its mandate to lobby federal government for student policies, which they have, and provided they can put their finances in order and show honesty and dedication," he continued. "Once they deviate from that, if they fly off the handle, we either have to reign them in as much as we can, or try to stay on a more local basis because it's very important to lobby the provincial government because it's where you can really affect the most changes."

As for the proposed NBSA fee increase, Mooers is hesitant. "If NBSA can show that it's in the students' best interests. I don't know much about it, but if you're asking for more money than you definitely have to have, there must be a definite reason for it. They have to prove that they're getting results."

He does not intend to seek a position on either NBSA or CASA, however. "I'd like to do my job as VP External and not expand my own resume. There's a tendency to spread yourself too thin."

Mooers' approach to the recent debate on restructuring the Student Union is to investigate objectively. "I've heard an awful lot about making the President take only one course, but I understand the regulations say that the President has to be a full-time student at UNB. I think there has to be an honest examination of the job, not a self-promoting one. I think it's ludicrous to think you can be a full-time president and be general administrator of the building. I don't think that's the place of an elected position - that should be a professional matter."

"I think the guidelines for each executive position should be laid out in a much more concrete and public fashion. I know it's been very difficult to get concrete examples of what each person is supposed to do, and what they have done, so it's difficult to measure. I think that they have to again be honest when they examine [compensation levels]. I don't have enough information about the other universities across Canada, about how they pay. It's possible that maybe it should go up, but before that gets done we have to really examine it. Do they need to be paid more? Is there more work than there was before? Why are their wage levels set at the levels they are?"

To improve Student Aid, Mooers "would look at lobbying for realistic and fair programs that would recognize that students are an exception, and are at the mercy of the greater economy."

He also intends to make use of the External Committee, which has not met since October. "We could do with a meeting," which he hopes would draw all sorts of students. "If you're not having meetings, then you can't be representing anyone's ideas but your own. That's very irresponsible." Mooers added that "responsibility should be shown by all members of council."

As for tuition, Mooers would like "to make sure that it doesn't go through the roof. The government is going to decide the rate of tuition, and to be honest, you can scream until you're blue in the face and it's not going to help. If you work with the government and make sure they understand our feelings and our outlook on it, I think you have a better chance of affecting change."

"Like I said, it all comes down to working with people, not against people. Carry on open and honest meetings with them, keep communication lines open and remain on friendly terms."