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Buckley wins case against STU

by Aime Phillips

Jane Buckley, former STU Student Union Director of Student Affairs, has been awarded close to \$20,000 by New Brunswick's Court of Queen's Bench.

Monday's decision by Justice McLellan leaves Buckley, an employee of 10 years until the elimination of her position last February, an amount totaling \$19,706.87, as well as court costs which are as of yet undetermined.

STU Student Union President Jeff London says his student union is quite happy that the "charge of malicious intent to damage some one's character was deemed unfounded."

"Its long been our stance that Ms. Buckley wasn't fired as part of a hate campaign. The organization chose to restructure, and the position itself was eliminated and we decided to go in a different direction."

In February 1991, when the STU Student Union chose not to renew Buckley's contract, the March 1, 1991 issue of the

Brunswickian reported that two STU councillors resigned as a result of the review committee's decision. As well, STU student Natalie Godbout stated she "could not believe there were only 'four lines of strength' concerning Buckley's performance." According to the previous Brunswickian article, "LeRoy Washburn, a faculty advisor appointed to the council was wondering why most of the committee's report was negative."

In Tuesday's March 31 edition, the Daily Gleaner quoted Justice McLellan as saying the review committee "made various negative findings against Ms. Buckley. Those negative findings based on allegations of people who did not face Ms. Buckley with their complaints were then used to justify the decision of the student's representative council to end her job."

Although Justice McLellan noted "in my opinion, the union committee acted unfairly in expecting Ms. Buckley to respond and to defend herself from confidential or

anonymous complaints from people who were not called upon to make their allegations to her face," he also said "The court cannot take sides on the policy dispute as to whether or not the employment of Ms. Buckley and her position as Director of Student Affairs should have been terminated."

London said it was "a relief" to have this matter of an "out to get Jane Buckley" charge cleared up.

London also stated that since the time of the decision to eliminate Buckley's position, the plan to restructure the union's organization has gone well and the union is "very happy with the structure."

When asked how the STU Student Union would cover the expense of giving Buckley a total of nine months pay, London stated the union "knew this was a realistic possibility, and the union has very wisely spent this year in expectation of a potential situation like this."

London says the student union has "spent accordingly"

and that "currently within our budget we have money allocated." He feels that the union is "not going to be hampered in its operations "in any way."

Jane Buckley, in a prepared

statement reported in the April 1 edition of the Aquinian, said "I am tremendously relieved that this decision is behind us, and I am very pleased with the results."



Jane Buckley Michael David Smith photo

Student Union fee increase approved

by Karen Burgess

At the Student Union Council meeting on Wednesday March 25, several motions were approved which will mean increases in the Student Union fees to be paid by students next year.

As a result of these additions, the Student Union fee now stands at approximately \$99.00, up from last years total of \$93.00.

James van Raalte, SU VP Finance, explains that this total is likely to change pending some further considerations to be made before the final reading of the Budget on April 8.

The additions to each student's fee includes a five dollar SUB expansion fee, a one dollar scholarship fund contribution, and an allocation of somewhat less than one dollar to CAMPUS (Continuing Adult Mature and Part-time University Students).

van Raalte explains that the five dollar SUB expansion fee, in addition to an allotment

made from the SU's accumulated surplus equal to five dollars per student, will contribute \$67,250 toward the construction of a new Student Union Building.

The scholarship fund will go towards the establishment of scholarships for an as yet undecided group of candidates. Suggestion made about who should benefit of the new scholarship included full-time students who are single parents, and international students.

The allocation to CAMPUS, van Raalte explains, makes full time students eligible for CAMPUS's scholarship program during the University's summer session and intersession programs.

van Raalte points out that even if the Student Union fees increase by a few dollars more before the budget's final reading, it will still be "on par with, or under, (the fees) of other universities in the area."

UNB's fees, he says, are low in comparison with those of other, comparably sized universities across Canada.

Brunswickian corrects article on Mechanical Engineering professor

The Brunswickian

On March 27, 1992 *The Brunswickian* published an article concerning Esam Hussein, an associate professor of Mechanical Engineering at UNB, who was found guilty of assaulting his wife. *The Brunswickian* has now learned that there were errors in the article it wishes to correct.

The article suggested that Hussein had admitted to hitting his wife on more than one occasion in front of the couple's children, and that such an admission had been made when he entered a not guilty plea to the charge. *The Brunswickian* has now learned that Hussein made no such admission when he entered his plea. During the trial on the charge he did admit to striking his wife in the presence of their son, but only on one occasion.

The article also suggested that Hussein was threatening further assaults on his wife.

That was incorrect. Mrs. Hussein did testify at the trial that, at one time in the past, Hussein threatened that he would continue to hit her until she "grew up." However, *The Brunswickian* was wrong to suggest that Hussein threatened or intimidated further assaults on his wife during the trial or following his conviction.

The article also failed to make it clear that, at the trial, Mrs. Hussein requested that her husband not receive a criminal record.

The Brunswickian extends its regrets to Professor Hussein, to Mrs. Hussein, and to their family for the inaccuracies in our previous article.

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