

Alliance examines tuition fees

by CHRIS CHAPMAN
Brunswickan Staff

The Students' Alliance of New Brunswick examined their position on tuition fees and the Canadian Federation of Students at a meeting hosted by St. Thomas University last weekend.

The meeting, attended by UNB, STU, Université de Moncton, Mount Allison, and St. Louis Mailloux, again featured debate on the Maritime Provinces Higher

Education Commission, and what the Alliance proposes to do about it.

At the meeting of February 10, 11, the Alliance demanded the dissolution of the MPHEC. It now plans to meet with Premier Richard Hatfield and a representative from the commission to present their demands, including an alternative to the MPHEC. Another demand is the abolition of foreign students' differential fees. It is believed

there is nothing to be gained by these fees, and they deprive those who are not wealthy enough to attend university in Canada. It was noted that this group probably needs the opportunity the most. In addition, Canadian students are deprived of a major cultural influence, and greater academic competition.

Eventually, the Alliance would like admission to be based on academic ability alone, with no financial restrictions. For the next few years, a better system for loans and bursaries is required, until tuition fees no longer exist.

Community colleges in New Brunswick have no tuition fees, yet presumably, they cost about the same to run as universities. The Alliance will ask the government about this, and demand equal treatment as post secondary institutions.

Fears were expressed about the government having complete control over university funding, since it could conceivably make demands

as to policy financial, academic or otherwise. Even now, however, the government funds by far the greater part of university budgets, and potentially have that power.

This issue will no doubt come up when the Alliance meets with the Premier on or before National Students Day, March 23. Celebrations will be centred at UNB, and will focus on the needs and rights of students. Amongst these invited to speak are Premier Hatfield, Leader of the Opposition Doug Young. The minister of education, various local MPs and MLAs, and university president James Downey.

A representative from the Canadian Federation of Students will also be invited, and the Alliance will air some of their complaints about the CFS. Provision for full and equal CFS services and benefits across the country are demanded, as are full translation services. At present, services are provided only minimally or not at all in French.

The Alliance, which conducts its affairs in both official languages, resolved to send letters from each campus, suggesting the University of Toronto withdraw from CFS. If Toronto does withdraw, the Federation will be left without its largest fee payer and a serious reorganization will become almost inevitable. The Alliance hopes to bring this about so a truly representative national organization will result from the shake up.

The Alliance representatives ended the meeting with promises of an information exchange on such items as foreign students, entertainment, student aid, student services, university administration, and anything else which may be of use or interest to the other campuses.

The Alliance meets again on National Students' Day, with UNB, acting as host. The public will be informed of the place and time so as many as possible will be able to view the Alliance in action.

Foresters have Monte Carlo

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Students demand longer reading period

By MAC ELMAN
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The Senate of the University of New Brunswick met Tuesday evening for close to

three hours.

One of the main topics of discussion at the meeting was the length of the reading period before final examinations in April. Concern was voiced by several student senate members that a one day reading period before exams does not allow students sufficient time to prepare for exams. With the exception of UNB and Dalhousie, all Maritime Universities have a reading period of more than one day. UNB's closest neighbour, St. Thomas University has a reading period of four days.

Present University policy states there must be sixty-five days of classes each term. The reading period could be lengthened and exam period shortened by adding Easter Monday to the reading period suggested one Senator. Another Senator suggested the exam period be shortened by holding two scheduled times for each exam, allowing more time for the reading

period. At the end of the debate, a resolution was made for the Academic Policy Committee to present Senate with a recommendation for the length of reading period.

Senate passed a motion extending last year's enrollment limitation in the School of Computer Science for another year. In Fredericton 180 students will be accepted into the first year of the Computer Science degree program while 45 will be accepted at UNBSJ. Concern was expressed by Senator Bosnitch that the University was not meeting its obligation to prospective students and to society in general because it is failing to provide a service which is in great demand. It was explained to Senate that this quota was indeed needed. An international shortage of fully qualified instructors coupled with physical limitations at UNB have the resources of the School of

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Leadership conference held Sunday

by CAROL FOLEY
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A student leadership conference will be held on Sunday, March 13 at 10 am in the Tartan Room of the Alumni Memorial Building. This conference is open to all UNB students.

The first Alumni student leadership conference was held 10 years ago at the Mac-taquac Lodge and has become an annual event. The conference was conceived by the Alumni Council as a result of their Student Liason Committee which discovered that student leaders did not have a means of getting together to discuss areas of concern to students and student organizations. The Alumni

sponsors this student leadership conference as a means of becoming informed on student issues. The role of the Alumni at the conference is usually that of observer, but they will provide information explaining role of the Alumni of the university.

Student organizations that have been consistent participants include the Brunswickan, CHSR-FM, the Students Representative Council and various foreign students organizations.

The topics which have been discussed at previous conferences have ranged from students parking, the Student Union Building, the role of the media, student discipline to apathy on campus (a

Favourite).

Art Doyle, Director of Alumni Affairs, said that in the past conference participants have found the conference worthwhile and that the conferences have ended on an upbeat note. While attendance has varied from year to year, ranging from 20 to 60, this variation can be attributed to two factors. Principally, attendance depends on the level of student interest in issues secondly some conferences have lacked adequate promotion.

Issues which may be discussed this Sunday which Mr. Doyle terms as "relative new items" are student aid, tuition fees and university cutbacks.