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Cutbacks may lead university to 'disaster budget'

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

Increases in tuition and residence fees and cutbacks in university operations for the 1976-77 academic year will be the result of a 6.6 limit on increases in

ting cost and it is no longer a question of whether or not the fees will rise, said Anderson. The question is how much.

Anderson said in an interview that it would be unrealistic to raise tuition to a level where they would balance government budget cuts,

purpose of giving reasonable guidelines for the universities to operate by.

"What's the use of having a commission if the government is not going to listen to it," said Anderson.

UNB's quarrel is with the

the universities were ill regarded by the public. "I think they do want their children to have the best education at all levels," he said.

However, at last Tuesday's Senate meeting Anderson said, "I'm hopeful...that the government might reconsider its failure

by surprise as, although they were expecting a tight budget, no one was prepared for the government's announcement. Concern was expressed by some Senators that UNB, which presently has a "respectable" stature across Canada, would become a second rate institution.

With this in mind, Senate unanimously passed a motion suggesting the Senate and Board of Governors form a joint Committee to examine areas where savings can be made and revenue generated.

This would include raising tuition fees, reducing enrolment at both campuses and closing facilities at both campuses.

"We may have to put our fingers in dikes this year," said Senator H.A. Sharp, but he added that in case such policies are continued in the future, the university will have a "contingency plan."

Senate also passed a motion seeking a meeting with cabinet officials. There was some opposition to this as it was felt that nothing could be achieved by talking to the cabinet as their minds were made up. Further, they suggested, it might be possible for the government to turn such a meeting against the university in the public eye.

However, Senator I. Unger said the university deserved an explanation from the government as to why they did not accept the MPHEC recommendations.

Anderson said, "At the moment the best friend we have is the commission," and said Senate should wait to see how the opposition and the public reacted.

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Photo by Tom Wong

University officials are hoping the New Brunswick legislature will up the grants allocated to the universities by the government. University president John Anderson has expressed dismay at the government proposals.

government grants to the university, predict university officials.

The university senate passed resolutions to look into cutbacks with the Board of Governors and are also looking for a meeting with cabinet officials. President John Anderson expressed concern to the press, saying the proposed austerity measures would lead to a "disaster budget".

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission recommended an increase in grants approximately twice what the government allowed in their recent announcements. According to Anderson, the 6.6 percent increase represents only a five percent increase in the total budget as the university depends on the government grants for only about 70 percent of its budget.

Further, said Anderson, there will be over a five percent increase in enrolment next year, meaning the grant will amount to less than a one percent increase on a per student basis.

Compared with other provinces, New Brunswick institutions are being treated particularly hard, said Anderson, as the Nova Scotia government is increasing grants by 13.9 percent and Prince Edward Island 12.8 percent. Ontario is up 14.4 percent, Manitoba 13.8 percent and Quebec 13.3 percent. In Alberta, the grants were increased 11 percent together with the suggestion that tuition be increased 25 percent.

Tuition fees represent 15.5 percent of the university's opera-

as they would be "ridiculously" high. He suggested fees would be increased to maintain their present level of the university budget.

This means that cutbacks will be made. However, "You just can't cut programs," said UNB Comptroller S.S. Mullin in an interview. Cutbacks will have to be made in other areas than academic, he said, "We don't want to raise it...but we may have to," he said.

On residence fees, he explained that past university policy has been to reduce the residence deficit or maintain it at the present level. This means that increases will depend on increases in food and maintenance costs.

Anderson was not sure which buildings and services could be closed, but he said, "It's a very painful business." Besides looking for ways of cutting costs, he said the university would take all "responsible" steps to lobby the government into supplying more money.

The cuts only apply for the 1976-77 academic year, and Anderson said he was hopeful similar measures would not be taken for the 1977-78 year. The president said UNB "can't possibly afford" another similar cut.

Anderson said the government does not "appreciate" the university's plight. He further accused the government of not accepting the recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a body created by the governments of the Maritime provinces for the express

purpose of giving reasonable guidelines for the universities to operate by.

Anderson also said he was hopeful public opinion would pick up on the university's behalf and that the opposition would take up the cry. "I'm hopeful anyone will take up the universities' cause," he said.

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government, not the commission, stressed Anderson. Anderson also said he was hopeful public opinion would pick up on the university's behalf and that the opposition would take up the cry. "I'm hopeful anyone will take up the universities' cause," he said.

Residence fees will definitely be increased next year stated SRC President Jim Smith in accordance with the information he received from Brian Ingram, UNB registrar.

How much the increase will be is not yet known but with the loss in university revenue and the new Saga food contract, the increase is expected to be fairly large.

At the present time tuition is exempt from the guidelines of the Anti-inflation Board said Smith. Smith based his information on a letter he had received from the National Union of Students executive.

Thirty-five percent of the tuition fees now paid are used towards paying university expenses. Next year it is postulated that only 15 percent of the present tuition fee would be available to be placed

to accept the commission's recommendations...but I must confess, I wouldn't bet much money on it."

He said the university could take such austerity measures for one year, but if a trend is set for future budgets, then New Brunswick Universities are in "deep, deep trouble."

It seems all persons were taken

Budget cuts will force fees up

By PAT POTTER

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towards university expenses. In order to maintain the 35 percent now used, this would mean a minimum increase of 20 percent in next year's tuition fees.

If this were to follow a student in residence would have to pay approximately \$3,200 to cover all of his expenses for the calendar year.

The SRC's answer to a possible increase in tuition fees next year was a unanimous motion to support the present expression disappointment by UNB's administration and urge that everything possible to change the situation be done.

It was generally felt that all action should be taken against the provincial government in the matter.

The action should not be taken against the university but should be joined with the sentiment of the university administration in complaint to the provincial government, said Peter Davidson, SRC

Comptroller.

Also speaking on the question, Damian Bone felt that since it is the university that is spending the money that how it spend it should be investigated.

Also a direct result from budgetary limits was a memorandum sent to all of the professor on campus. "Next year professors will have to increase their workload more than 15 percent," the memo read, according to Smith.

"We can't look for a compromise. If we wait, then next year we will be faced with a tuition increase" said Smith.

Also commenting on the situation, Allan Patrick said, "The cutback isn't even finalized yet. We should put something down on paper."

The SRC is waiting to see what recommendations will be put forth by the university senate.