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Engineering dean Jim Dineen, the acting president designate, sees little possibility he will be offered the president's job permanently.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

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The Presidency:

Who gets it?

by john blaikie
brunswickan staff

Will the new President of UNB come from inside the University? Rumoured candidate for the job, Dr. L.W. Shemilt, basing his answer from present Canadian trends, feels there is roughly a 50/50 chance. "Both kinds of appointments, from within the university and from outside, are common in this country", said Shemilt.

If a new President is not chosen by the nominating committee and approved by the board of governors and the provincial government by the first of July, present Acting President designate, Jim Dineen, Dean of Engineering, will assume the duties of the office under the title acting president.

Dean Dineen sees little possibility that he will be offered the job on a permanent basis. "I have plenty to do in the Engineering Department", he

said. Dineen agreed to be acting president, if the necessity arose, out of a sense of loyalty. "I have been here many years. The university has been good to me. And I could do no less than offer my services where they are deemed necessary."

Dineen is genuinely concerned about student unrest on this and other campuses. He asks the perennial question, "What do they want?" In defending the present structure he argues that though to an extent students are pigeon-holed, the present system facilitates realization of the nature of the slots and permits individuals to decide on their own course of action.

Dr. Shemilt, Head of the department of chemical engineering came to UNB in 1966 from British Columbia. He had previously held teaching positions in his native province of Manitoba and in Ontario.

When asked if he would accept the position if he were approached he said: "I have plenty to do in Chemical Engineering. I enjoy it very much."

Dr. Shemilt feels that the nominating committee should look for possible candidates both from within the university and from outside. "I think that they (the committee) would be derelict in their duty if they didn't use the whole world as a market place."

Should students be involved in the decision of the joint Senate-Board of Governor's nominating committee? "I think they should," said Shemilt. "in terms of effective solicitation and concerned appreciation of their views."

Dr. Shemilt pointed out that a student could have been on the nominating committee

There is provision for student representation in the Senate. This was made apparent to the SRC in the fall term but it was not acted on until a few days ago. Had there been a student on the senate he would have been eligible for appointment to the nominating committee.

Dr. Pacey is presently Head of the Department of English and Dean of Graduate Studies. His opinion is that it may be difficult to attract a qualified man from outside the university to the position. He said that the presidency of a university is very demanding and it would be very difficult for one from outside to familiarize himself with the UNB situation in a short time.

Pacey said that he didn't think that he would accept the position if it were offered him: "I have a little formula I apply whenever I begin to weaken. I remind myself that if I took the job it would only be out of vanity."

Dr. Pacey plans to spend some time doing research in England during his sabbatical next year. He feels that the administrative load he now carries impedes his work on a few books.

He also recognizes the value of student participation in the nominating of a new president but senses a difficulty in determining student opinion. "The SRC," cannot really represent the ideas of the students", he said, as most of the seats are filled by acclamation.

A committee of interested students might prove more valuable, he suggested, "but again there is the problem of convening such a committee."

It appears that there may be some difficulty in finding a qualified candidate for the position. Professional scholars don't relish the idea of abandoning the excitement and security of their disciplines for head aches of the number one administrator.