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Over \$2-mil needed to fund football Students to vote next week

GORDON LOANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The group "Friends of UNB Football" will need to raise an endowment fund of over \$2,000,000 if a varsity football program is to be self-sufficient and viable over the long term, says UNB's Dean of Kinesiology Terry Haggerty.

"It will also cost in the order of \$150,000 dollars a year to operate a football program at UNB," said Haggerty.

Some \$71,000 of that \$150,000 annual total will come from students, if a campus wide referendum to be held on the Fredericton campus next week is successful.

Students will be asked to approve the following question:

"Do you wish to see a Varsity Football program supported and maintained at UNB through a \$10 annual student activity fee to be collected starting September 1997 until September 2007?"

The vote takes place next Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25th and 26th, in conjunction with the Student Union General Election.

Haggerty, Athletic Director Jim Born and an alumni group, "Friends of UNB Football," met several times over the last year to talk about reviving a Varsity football program that had originally been cancelled back in 1981.

But it is the Alumni group, led by former UNB football player Mike Doolimore and others, that has been the main driving force behind the proposal. The group began work early last year setting down on paper some preliminary start-up and first year operational costs of some \$133,000 and \$110,000 respectively.

A presentation was then made to the UNB Student Council seeking financial support.

A student referendum on the matter had been set, but the lack of interest in a council by-election last Fall forced postponement until next week. Now, the Friends of UNB Football have worked up a much more detailed and far more complete organizational and financial proposal.

A copy of the proposal, dated January 30, 1997 has since been obtained by *The Brunswickan*.

Under the proposal, football would begin at UNB in September 1998. Beginning this year, the "Friends of UNB Football" would raise between \$137,000 and \$150,000 for start-up costs.

\$71,000 would come from the Student Levy, if students give the go-ahead next week. A further \$60,000 to \$100,000 would be raised from a summer football camp, while a further \$60,000 to \$88,000 would be raised from local and alumni donations.

The money would be spent on buying football, audio-visual and physiotherapy equipment for a total in the range of \$59,000 to \$64,000.

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Local band Smiley appeared at the East Coast Music Awards this past weekend in the Alternative Showcase. See Entertainment coverage, starting on page 8.

JUDSON DeLONG PHOTO

President says students will have input

AARON MACEachern
THE BRUNSWICKAN

After serving only seven months as President of UNB, Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnson is responding to students who are angry about proposed tuition hikes.

In an interview arranged by the President's office, Parr-Johnson discussed both the Task Force discussion paper and reactions to the student protest that occurred last Thursday.

Parr-Johnson conveyed the reactions of the Board of Governors and their good impressions of the student representation on the Board. "The students that you have as student representatives on the Board are very good," she said.

Following Thursday's protest, the President made somewhat guarded comments about the actions students took. "What I will say about the protest is that we are very aware of the student's concerns, that they have very real concerns and we don't take them lightly."

Parr-Johnson went on to emphasize the importance of students understanding that the document is only

a discussion paper. "No decision has been taken, not by the Task Force, not by senior administration and not by the Board."

One key complaint with the Task Force discussion paper was the lack of student representation during the formation of the document. Although Parr-Johnson pointed out that the Task Force was implemented before her Presidency, she recognized that she still had the power to place a student on the Task Force.

"The Task Force debated very carefully and I think very sincerely as to whether or not there should be a student on the Task Force," she said. "They decided since it was during the summer and there would be a fairly onerous responsibility that they would not put a student on the group."

Parr-Johnson conceded that in hindsight she may have made a mistake.

"I guess I should have intervened and said, there should be a student on the task force. I didn't. My preference is to have students on these committees. I have a history of working with students constructively."



UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnson, at a rally last Thursday where students were protesting proposed tuition fee restructuring. See also story, page 3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CBC-TV

Parr-Johnson said she distanced herself from the Task Force because they were going to report to her but said, "in the end, the responsibility is mine and I could have insisted that there was a student on the Task Force."

Parr-Johnson also emphasized the need

for student feedback and input into the development of a final report. "What we're trying to do is inform ourselves as to what the proposals are and then get students and other interested groups to provide input into the problems."

"As you know I did meet with

student leaders before and emphasized that." Dr. Parr-Johnson had met with SU President Joie Hellmeister and SU VP External Anthony Knight the Tuesday before the protest. "I said, look, we are listening to you, we want your input, but here's the process that has been structured to do that."

The process Parr-Johnson is referring to includes written submissions and formal meetings that will be held between the Task Force and various student groups.

At one point during the interview, Parr-Johnson cut a question short and said she would not speak on behalf of the Task Force. "I can speak to the process, but I haven't accepted that report. It's out for discussion. All I'm trying to say is, please let's have a good discussion about this."

"They've assured me that they will make sure they get the input. They're not going to try to cut anybody out or cut it short," said Parr-Johnson. "They're going to try to make sure that people are given a voice in the Task Force."

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