

Senate passes language policy

By CHRIS CHAPMAN
Brunswickan Staff

Chief Returning Officer Timothy Lethbridge called for by-elections February 2 to fill three vacant seats on the Student Representative Council (SRC). Lethbridge, who is C.R.O. by virtue of his being Vice President said the upcoming elections subject to council approval will be the first under

new election rules he expects to pass council next Monday.

The three seats are nursing, which has been vacant since September, science, vacated by Don Higgins, and engineering, open since David Reckziegel resigned. The Chief Returning Officer is to call a by-election as soon as three seats become vacant.

The election reform committee is to study a number of

changes in the way elections are run, and its recommendations will be presented at the next council meeting. Most of the proposed changes were called for after the Fall 1982 general election, which many people thought was badly run. In the future, communication will be by walkie-talkie between the Deputy Returning Officers and the Pollsters. There will be three D.R.O.s instead

of just one, and they will be in charge of counting, polls, and campaigning, respectively. The latter will ensure all campaigns are run fairly and by the rules. The rules will be set down, in their entirety, in a document which all candidates will receive. Pollsters and counters will also have their duties set down, in the form of a contract which they must sign.

Lethbridge feels that by defining the responsibilities of all those involved in the election process, things will run more smoothly than in the past. He also hopes to remove the university administration from the process. In the past, the ballots were counted in the Old Arts Building, and it was supervised by the Secretary of the university. If the SRC approves, future ballots will be counted in room 103 of the SUB, where candidates can watch the counting through the windows. As usual, candidates may not enter the room, but they may appoint scrutineers. Lethbridge feels that none of

these innovations will generate much debate, however there are three suggestions that may be a little more controversial. Reducing the number of polling stations is being considered. This would lessen the confusion and expense of an election, but would probably also reduce the voter turnout, which is traditionally dismal. To counteract this, there is a proposal to hold elections over a two day period to give students a greater opportunity of voting. To increase voter awareness of the candidates and issues, Lethbridge would like to see a mandatory "Meet the Candidates Night", and all candidates would be obliged to appear.

The new rules for elections, subject to council's approval, will be first tested on the February 2 by-elections, and will be analyzed in time for the Spring general election, sometime in March. Nominations open Tuesday, January 18, and close a week later, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.

MacDonald takes the chair

by DAVID MOGILEVSKY
Brunswickan Staff

Randy MacDonald applied for the position of chairman of the SRC because he felt that he could do the job better than anyone else and believes that

there are aspects of the meetings that are inefficient and could be improved. By inefficiency, MacDonald said because councillors do not have a complete knowledge of the formal aspects of running a

meeting unnecessary delays occur. In order to make councillors more knowledgeable about the rules the new chairman will soon be printing some information to make the SRC



Randy MacDonald
New Chairman

better informed of the proper rules and procedures. MacDonald also mentioned that since Robert's Rules of Order, the rule book for many meetings, is so formal and the Student Union by-laws so informal in comparison conflicts can and do occur. When such conflicts occur, the weekly SRC meeting is further delayed in dealing with the actual business of the Student Union.

When a councillor wants to bring an issue up at a meeting it must get on the agenda and be presented at the meeting in the form of a motion. Recently the practice has been to write the agenda the day of the meeting rather than the constitutionally required 48 hours before. The SRC has been ignoring this rule by voting by two-thirds to proceed with the hastily written agenda. Motions which used to be written up prior to the meetings are now also hastily written during the meeting. MacDonald wants both of these practices to be discontinued because it would allow him to perform his job better.

When asked if he thinks a councillor as chairman would be better than an appointed one he replied that it probably would because such a chairman would be more accountable to the SRC.

African Students Union

The Executive of the African Students Union would like to wish all the members a happy and a more fulfilling year in 1983. It is hoped that all the successes and failures of the past year will inspire us to do better this year.

Recalling the past year, the efforts of the contributing members of the Union yielded admirable results. Those deserving members who completed their programs and left the University last December were presented with presents and membership certificates as tokens of appreciation. This was in recognition of their efforts and contribution to the Union. It will certainly do the Union proud to have every member deserve this kind of recognition.

We can claim that the Union, with the help of other organizations on campus, did a great deal last year to make the life of overseas students in Fredericton more bearable. This year it is hoped that the few flaws which undermined the dedication of the Union will be trimmed and that members will be all out to perpetuate an enviable image of our Union. We hope to protect the interests of the Union members and also provide for the enjoyment and enlightenment of the general public.

Several activities such as the African Nite celebrations, games, sports, parties, radio programmes and others traced the course of the year in 1982. This year is expected to be better still. Plans have already been extensively made towards the annual African Nite celebrations. Other activities, which include radio talk shows, speech presentations in nearby schools, excursions to places of interest, parties and more, are planned for 1983. The success of these plans depends on the co-operation of every member. All members are therefore implored to exercise a more co-operative spirit, and contribute in every way toward the implementation of all planned activities.

This year's African Nite celebration is to take place during the first week of February. Among the activities lined up are: a film show, cultural displays, informative speeches, the serving of African dishes, the play *SIZWE BANSI IS DEAD*, traditional dances and many more. You are guaranteed to enjoy every moment of it. A general meeting to finalize the African Nite programme has already been scheduled for Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m. in room 103 of the SUB. A more specific announcement will be made during the meeting and all members with the interests of the Union at heart are requested to attend.

Later in the year, members will be called upon to participate in radio talk shows and speech presentations in nearby high schools. Interested members who wish to participate should admit their names to the Public Relations Officer, Mr. O. Felix Amiri at 472-3163 or the President, Mr. Rino Zhuwarara at 454-9960.

Who's going to meetings?

From October 25 to January 10 there have been eight meetings of the SRC. This is approximately one-quarter of the meetings that are held in a representative's term of office. If a council member misses three meetings without giving notice before the meeting that councillor must resign. The first column shows the number of meetings missed without prior notice. The second column shows how many meetings a councillor has missed in total.

John Bosnitch President	0	1
Timothy Lethbridge Vice-President	0	0
Mary Strickland Arts	2	4
Brent Blizzard Business	1	2
Katy Boyle Education	2	4
Terry Laurence Physical Education	1	3
Elizabeth Lynch Rep-at-large	0	0
Hope Nagle Rep-at-large	1	3
Randy Brodeur Education	0	0
Laughlin Murray Engineering	0	0
Steven Richard Engineering	5	5
Donald Coombs Engineering	0	0
Darrell Stephenson Law	1	3
Mike McCormick Forestry	1	1
Felix Kofie Arts	0	1
Debbie Watson Business	0	0
Oliver Koncz Business	0	0
Allen Roulston Computer Science	0	0
Daizal Samad Graduate Study	2	3
Michael Pringle Rep-at-large	0	1

Availability of special fares for February Break

are very limited

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