

NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Newsbits

Council-hopefuls set to battle

There will be a debate for candidates seeking executive positions in the Student Union's upcoming General Election to be held on April 1 and April 2, the Chief Returning Officer announced on Tuesday. The debate will be held on Wednesday, March 27, in the SUB cafeteria at 11:30 a.m.

Uncontested candidates will present an opening argument for one minute, respond to any questions from the audience for fifteen minutes, and make closing remarks for one minute. For those positions with more than one candidate running for election, the candidates will enter into a debate which will be limited to a half an hour after opening remarks.

The debate will be moderated by David Gourlay, the Chief Returning Officer.

Overseas seminar held

Professors and graduate students from Fredericton and Nottingham, England, recently shared their research across the miles via audiographics.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time this technology has been used for an overseas seminar," said Robert Douglas, holder of the D.C. Campbell Chair in Highway and Pavement Research at UNB. "It's a simple but reliable medium for a transatlantic connection."

Using two telephone lines, modems, computers, and presentation software, six researchers from UNB and the University of Nottingham were able to discuss and display their work in real time.

While many people are using the Internet for videoconferencing, Douglas finds that at least for now, audiographics by modem is faster and more dependable for an overseas seminar. "There is a severe bottleneck in the one existing Internet line linking North America and Europe," he said. "Right now I'm working to establish a culture of working sites internationally - then I'll upgrade the technology as other media overtake audiographics."

The seminar with UNB and the University of Nottingham participants was a prototype for a future seminar series. Douglas hopes that the success of these international sessions will gradually lead to offering joint graduate and possibly undergraduate courses.

UNBEA contract tentative

UNB and its 360 member UNB Employees Association have reached a tentative contract with the aid of a government appointed conciliator.

Eighty three percent of the membership who turned out at a recent meeting voted in favor of the deal, according to LaVerne Deakin, office manager with the UNBEA.

The contract runs for three years and is retroactive to July 1st, 1995. The deal calls for a general wage increase of one and a half per-cent on July 1, 1996 and a further increase of one and a half per-cent on July 1, 1997.

There were several other minor changes to the contract for the two employee groups, represented by the UNBEA.

The Association represents secretaries, accountants, library assistants, clerks, security personnel, maintenance workers, snow plough operators, general laborers, graphic services and audio-visual services workers.

Student Loans for summer

Advanced Education and Labour Minister Roly MacIntyre has announced improvements to New Brunswick's Student Aid program.

Beginning this year, students who are registered full-time for both Intersession and Summer Session will be eligible to receive Student Aid support, providing they meet certain eligibility criteria.

To qualify for a Canada Student Loan, students must register in a minimum of 60% of the normal full-time course load for the periods of study between May and August (Intersession and Summer Session) or the extended Spring Session. For example, two courses in Intersession and one in Summer school would constitute 60% of a full course load.

In addition, to qualify for a New Brunswick Student Loan and Bursary funding, you must be registered in a minimum of 80% of the normal full-time course load for the same periods of study as noted above - any combination totalling four courses over these periods of study.

Students studying in less than 60% of a normal full-time course load are eligible to apply under the part-time Canada Student Loans Program. Further information is available from the Student Services Branch at 453-2577.

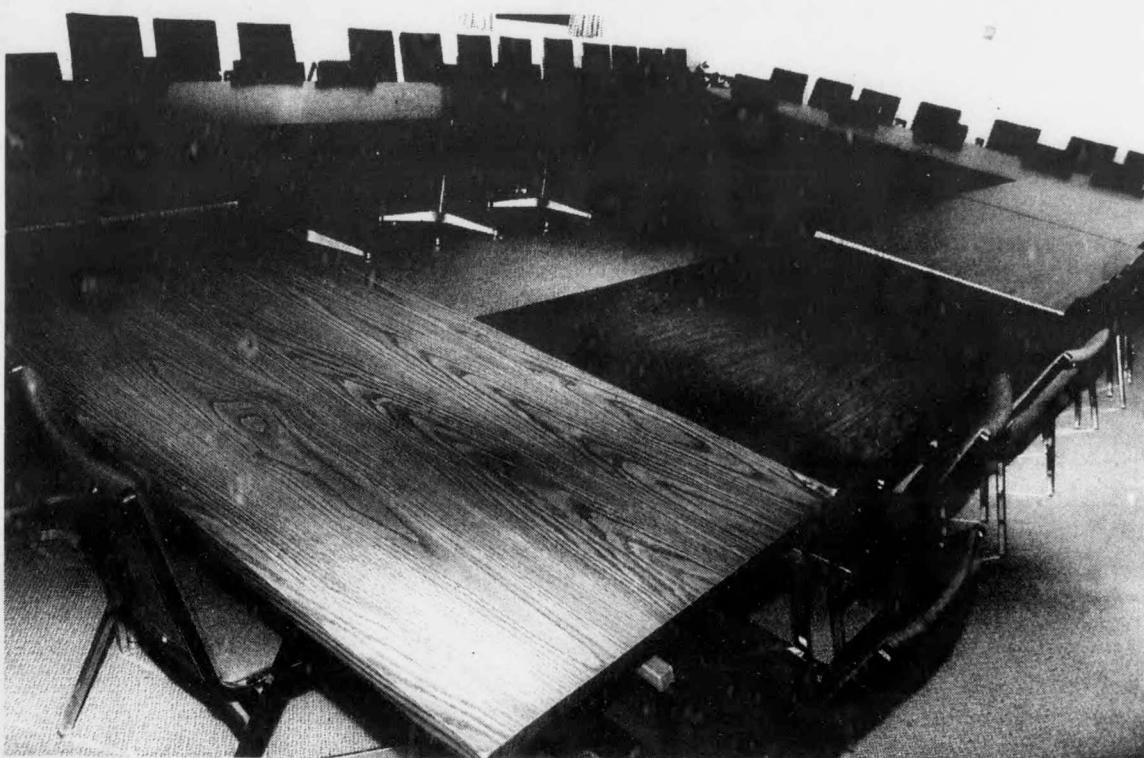
Nurses' bursaries awarded

The New Brunswick Nurses Foundation (NBNF) has awarded its bursaries for the 1995-96 academic year.

Kathy Rush, associate professor in the faculty of nursing, is the recipient of a \$2,000 NBNF Bursary for studies at the doctoral level.

Brenda O'Blenis received the Muriel Archibald Bursary, valued at \$1,500, to pursue a full-time bachelor of nursing. Gina Reed-Levesque was awarded the Judith McKay Slipp Memorial Scholarship valued at \$600, and Michelle Saunders was awarded an NBNF bursary valued at \$250 to pursue the same degree.

Executives, Student-at-large set good examples but Councilors have poor attendance



Is the council half-empty or half-full?

Photo: Peter J. Cullen

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Ten of 25 voting members of the UNB Student Union might have explanations to provide at the next regular meeting as a result of their attendance records.

Statistics compiled by *The Brunswickan* this week show that as of March 19, four councilors have missed more than six meetings since September and will be automatically dismissed according to the SU attendance by-law unless they can provide compelling reasons for their absence.

The four are Computer Science representative, Hilton Lem, Education Rep. Charles McCarthy, Engineering Rep. Mike Blanchard, and Nursing Rep.

Becky Tozer who has missed the most meetings (12).

Six other councilors have missed more than three meetings but less than six and could be subject to dismissal proceedings according to the SU attendance by-laws unless they can provide a reasonable excuse for their absence.

The six are Arts Representatives Jonathan Bishop, Melanie Quigg, and Jason Scarbro; Business Rep. Derek Ferlatte; Engineering Rep. Jules Michaud; Physical Education and Recreation Rep. (Kinesiology) Tara McKillop.

A further three, Arts rep. Chris Rogers, Business Rep. Tom Liston and Science Rep. Margaret Lamrock have missed three meetings to date.

If all ten Councilors in question are asked to leave, the SU will be reduced to 15 voting members, 14 of which are required for quorum. Without quorum, the Council would be unable to pass the 1996-97 budget or conduct regular business until a new council is seated after the upcoming spring student elections.

Of the 22 SU meetings held this academic year, attendance statistics also show nine councilors have maintained good attendance records. These are: Law Rep. Shona Bertrand; Forestry and Environmental Management Rep. Blair Saulnier, Arts Reps Sarah Mullaly, Business Rep. Joie Hellmeister, Education Rep. Bryanna White,

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Two of the candidates for President say

UNBSU President should be full-time

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Two candidates running for President of the UNB Student Council in elections set for April 1 and 2 want to see their office converted from a part-time to a full-time position.

The SU President is currently receiving a \$3,440 honoraria during the academic year for what is considered a part-time position. There is no restriction on academic course loads.

The President receives just over \$5,000 in full-time summer wages. But candidates Jeff Clark and Jeff Melanson want to change all this.

"I don't think it's reasonable to ask any person to work for 12 months for approximately \$9,000," said Jeff Clark in an interview with *The Brunswickan*.

"The President should be a full-time position just like my other large organization," he continued.

"Nine or ten dollars and hour is a reasonable amount. A \$15,000 - \$18,000 salary is not too much money for working 40 hours a week for a year," Clark maintained.

As far as compensation levels for SU Vice-Presidents are concerned, Clark

thinks a substantial raise should be looked at.

Clark has served as Acting VP External since November.

"VP's should be asked to work between twenty to twenty-five hours per week," Clark said, allowing them to continue as full time students.

VP's should continue to receive a full time summer job with the SU as is now the case, according to Clark.

"Compared to other universities in Canada, UNB SU Executives are low-paid," Clark said.

Clark's opponent, Jeff Melanson, supports making the SU President a full time paid employee but is talking about a more modest salary for the position.

"If you are spending 40 hours a week in the office a fair wage is not unexpected," said Melanson.

"If you elect a person who will work full-time on your behalf there has to be some kind of compensation."

Melanson maintains that the average wage for student of \$5.75 to \$6.00 per hour based on a set amount of hours per week would seem fairly reasonable.

Melanson also feels the President's academic work load should be restricted to one course per term if a full time position is created.

A course restriction of one course per term for President and four courses per term for Vice Presidents beginning next year was defeated at a SU council meeting last week when a two-thirds majority vote to change the SU by-laws failed.

There is no indication whether Melanson intends to raise the matter again should he be elected SU President.

As far as salaries and work loads for SU Vice-Presidents, Melanson says a set number of hours based on their schedules and based on student needs will have to be established.

"It will all depend on priorities around the SU," Melanson said.

"A VP's workload may vary from week to week but there should be an established constant," he said.

As far as Melanson is concerned ten to fifteen hours may be enough for VP's to work in a week.

But he remains flexible about this and says he hasn't fully made up his mind on VP's workloads just yet.

Currently, SU VP's receive a \$3,125 honoraria during the academic year with no course restrictions. V-P's are also guaranteed summer employment at full time wages that total approximately \$4,800.