

Study recommends big cutbacks

The elimination of 250 courses or their equivalent and a decrease in teaching staff of 87 people are the most outstanding recommendations of the draft on the future of the University, prepared by the Senate's Academic and Campus Planning Committee. The report was released last week to faculty and members of the Senate and Board of Governors.

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The report suggests that the university eliminate or consolidate those courses having fewer than 6 students, unless it can clearly be shown they are essential to the existence of the academic unit. In conjunction with this the committee said that a decrease of 87 persons in the teaching staff is

necessary by 1982 to reach a student faculty ratio of 13-1. They consider this necessary in view of the fact that salaries provide about 70 per cent of UNB's total budget and since the total income is dependant on student numbers

and enrollment is expected to decrease, then even a relatively small change in the ratio can have "a profound influence on expenditures."

This step should be carried out with the guidance of other recommendations, such as the departments of english, econo-

mics, history, mathematics, chemical engineering, forest resources, chemistry, geology, physics, and romance languages, and the faculty of education are to justify

their large number of offerings at the third, and fourth year level, and the University should accept the necessity of maintaining a

balance between resources spent on academic facilities, student services and cultural activities.

Another recommendation is that faculty members not extensively involved in research should be required to teach intersession and summer school as a part of their normal teaching load.

Faculty will also be affected in that the report recommends that leave of absence be encouraged, voluntary early retirement be encouraged, and the University intends to seek ways of streamlining the administrative processes involving faculty in order to allow more time for research and teaching.

The report said that new and academically legitimate programs, especially those involving research beneficial to the community and province can only be developed if they are granted "sufficient priority to warrant diversion of support from existing programs". It said that many programs must be eliminated and others will "undoubtedly be weakened or eliminated." The above recommendation should be initiated by the Vice President

Academic and after consultation with the faculties through their respective deans, according to the report.

Also in conjunction with the implementation of a 13-1 student-faculty ratio, the report said that the University should ensure that service courses which are largely attended by students from departments other than that in which the course is offered, should not be curtailed. A list of faculty positions, in order of priority was to be solicited from all departments and divisions and submitted to the Vice-President, and the University should attempt to assist in the re-establishment of those for whom employment is no longer available were two further recommendations. This would involve formal approaches to both the Federal and Provincial governments, CIDA, United Nations and other agencies which may profit from the "availability of highly skilled experts."

The Committee said that the administrative and support staff must also reach a level of economy and thus would be asked to justify their present staff as well as urged to seek ways of achieving new measures of economy.

Among recommendations which were tendered in view of the long term disruptive effects of short term financial difficulties financial uncertainty and enrollment decline, was the recommendation that the University continue its efforts to convince Government of the necessity of long range budget planning, and a re-examination of the adequacy of budget formulae designed for periods of increasing enrollment. A major fund raising campaign was also suggested, which would be instigated immediately.

A University policy of granting tenure to a large proportion of faculty was also considered by the committee who suggested this practice be reconsidered, as should the promotion criteria (especially at the senior ranks).

To offset expected enrollment increases, the University was advised by the committee to increase recruitment activities and increase its public relations program. It also said the University should increase its efforts to attract and generate funds for student awards, and that a strong program in High School relations was advisable.

The above recommendations would be instigated through the office of the President; under the aegis of the Vice President it was suggested that members of the Professional Faculties should be encouraged to develop in-service training programs for government and industry.

In the view of the committee it would be to the University's benefit to inform the public to a greater extent than has been done in the past about the contributions his university makes. To facilitate his, increased efforts in giving out information about research projects and of their direct relevance to Atlantic, as well as establishing a policy of liaison and co-operation between the University, Government, and Industry and

Labour.

The Committee said that further efforts to maintain and increase student services should be developed as "we recognize that the University revolves around our students". Thus the Counselling Centre should be expanded in the field of preventive counselling, including increased competency in counselling at the Department

established for those not wishing an open room life style, and a single individual be designated to co-ordinate summer programs which will promote the use of University facilities especially residences. One recommendation which has already been implemented is that a budget committee be established to report through the dean of

libraries on campus and that further erosion of the budget for acquisitions not take place.

The advisability of continued audio-visual services was also recommended, and the increasing demand for computer services the University should consider the advantages of maintaining the centre as a community service.

Among recommendations which should be initiated immediately according to the committee was the recommendation that the comptroller be encouraged to continue his examination of ways of saving through bulk purchasing and through co-operation with outside agencies.

The report was not yet complete for submission but comments can be submitted to co-ordinator A.L. McAllister or committee secretary Dugald Blue, before December 8.

Nearly 60 groups were met with representing all aspects of the university community as well as outside groups. Taking approximately 18 months to prepare, the study is intended to identify and establish clearly defined objectives and priorities as a basis for major decisions to be made over the next 10 years.

ABOUT 250 COURSES CUT, AND 87 TEACHERS ARE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY ON THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY.

level, counselling in both french and english, more active participation by the departments of Sociology and Psychology, the full time services of a psychiatrist be available and expanded program of health education be made available.

The Residence system was also discussed, the committee recommended that a detailed analysis of the cost of residence system be provided by the Dean of Students, that one of women's residences be

students

Other areas which the report considered was that of creative arts and the library. The most notable recommendation in the creative arts area was the long range plans of the university should include either substantial upgrading of Memorial Hall facilities or new space provisions.

A high priority according to the report was the library and it suggested that additional space should be granted to the various

Cornerstone found



photo by Kavanagh

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The Old Arts Building cornerstone may have been found according to Vice President (Administration) Eric Garland. In a bid to find the cornerstone in time for UNB's celebration of its 150th Anniversary this coming New Year's Eve, University officials have spent a considerable amount of time recently searching through records, references, plans and their like to discover where the stone was laid in the original structure.

Garland said that it was not the practice to mark the cornerstone when the Old Arts Building was built and that despite references

to the laying of the stone no information had been found as to where it was located.

Several methods had been used previous to the current method of digging up the corners in search of the elusive cornerstone. Garland said that experts were called in from CFB Gagetown with metal detectors in the hopes of discovering the stone which was described as being placed within the stone in a glass case with a bronze covering. Newspapers, documents, coins and other paraphernalia are believed to have been secreted within the case.

Garland said that UNB officials would like to remove those

objects for study and then replace the cornerstone with added documentary from this period.

He said that two corners of the building were dug up, and that searchers met with success when the corner near the Brydone Jack telescope was revealed. He said that according to the description in the Royal Gazette there is an opening similar to that which has been found in that cornerstone.

He said researchers will not know for several days whether the cornerstone is indeed the correct one as several steps have to be taken before the stone can be opened.