

NEWS

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Day Care administrator disappointed

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Administrator of the College Hill Daycare Centre is disappointed but certainly not angry at a decision by the UNB Student Union to cut off direct funding effective May 1st.

In fact, Wendy Lunney is very glad the SU has decided to make daycare funding in general accessible to all students who need it.

But, she feels the SU could set up an endowment fund which all undergraduate students could access and at the same time still provide direct continuing support for the co-op daycare facility on Montgomery Street.

For several years, the College Hill Day Care had been receiving \$3,000 a year from the SU to help subsidize the summer holding fee for undergraduates with children enrolled.

Failure to pay a holding fee over the summer would mean no guarantee of a space in September.

Last summer the \$25 weekly holding fee was reduced to just \$10 because of a \$3,000 subsidy from the UNB SU and \$2,000 from CAMPUS (the UNB Association of mature and part-time students.)

CAMPUS is hopefully set to renew its \$2,000 commitment but without a subsidy from the UNB SU this summer, the holding fee will certainly be higher than the \$10 weekly fee, last summer, according to Lunney.

Twenty-two UNB undergraduate students with children in the facility (ie. 46 percent of those enrolled this year) will be directly affected, although to what extent has yet to be determined.

A decision on increasing the summer holding fee will be made in the next few weeks.

"It will certainly affect our students in a very large way," she said.



College Hill Day Care student with her pet horse. PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTO

Meanwhile, Lunney did a survey last week of eight other Day Care Centres in the Fredericton area and the results seem to contradict statements made last week in *The Brunswickan* by SU V-P Student Services Trish Davidson.

Davidson also told UNB Student Council last week that the College Hill Day Care is one of the most expensive in town.

But Lunney's survey shows the Day Care facility on Montgomery Street is one of the cheapest in town.

"The prices in my survey ranged from \$380 to \$460 per month," said Lunney in an interview with the *Brunswickan* this week.

"Our price of \$390 per month puts us on the low end," she said.

Lunney is quick to point out that seventy per cent of the College Hill Day Care's monthly income goes directly to pay the salaries of the full time staff, all of whom have an early childhood education degree or a university education degree.

"We are not highly paid professionals but we are highly educated professionals," Lunney said.

A further thirty percent of the Day Care Centre's budget goes to rent and other operating expenses.

The co-op daycare is run as a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors made up of parents with children enrolled.

The child care centre has its policies, curriculum and fee structure set by the Board of Directors which meets periodically throughout the year.

Elections to the Board are held each year.

"So, there is not one person who owns the daycare and is making money off it," Lunney said.

Other subsidies to the non-profit Daycare facility, in addition to the \$2,000 CAMPUS donation, come from the Graduate Students' Association, although not directly.

"The GSA pays a subsidy to members who need day care services and the money is then paid to us as need be," Lunney said.

The Day Care Administrator also said the GSA is rumored to be considering funding a specific project at the Day Care Centre this summer.

Three external candidates named

GORDON LOANE

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UNB Vice Presidents Louis Visentin and James O'Sullivan have named three individuals from other Canadian universities to conduct an external review of all aspects of the residence system.

Heather Sutherland, Director of Housing and Conferences at Dalhousie University in Halifax will chair the committee.

She will be joined by Dr. Brian Johnston, Director of Student Housing and Food Services at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland and James Fleming, Director of Residences and Conference Services at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

The review is to commence immediately and should be completed by early to mid-summer.

The review team will spend three days on the UNB Fredericton campus the week after next on April 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The reviewers will be meeting with a broad cross-section of individuals and groups involved in the residence system, according to Tom Austin, UNB's Dean of Student Affairs and

Services. "The reviewers will be consulting administrators, administrative boards, elected House Presidents, Proctors and students in residence so there will be lots of opportunity for input," Austin told *The Brunswickan* this week.

"I also believe there will be an open meeting for students who wish to talk with the reviewers," Austin said.

The review is being conducted the first week of April so as not to conflict with the end of classes and the scheduling of exams.

"We also did not want to delay the review until the Fall," Austin said.

"We wanted to have the results of the review in a timely way to get into whatever the processes are for acting on the recommendations and then initiating any follow-up actions, one of which would be to institute a search for a permanent Dean of Residences," he said.

"Lead-time of several months is needed to conduct a search in this regard and conclude it," Austin emphasized.

Until the external review is completed the terms of the Acting Dean of Residences John Craighead

and his Assistant Michael Kidd are likely to be extended.

Both their terms of office were set to expire on June 30th.

The matter is now on the desk of UNB's President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston.

"The President is seeking advice on extending the term of the Acting Dean John Craighead for a period of six months or possibly more," Austin said.

The position of Residence Life Manager is also vacant and is currently being filled by an Assistant to the Dean, Michael Kidd.

"That position is subordinate to the Dean but it would be reasonable to expect that it might be treated similarly," Austin said.

Austin emphasized that the review of the residence system, among other things, will focus not just on the future of the residences and how we are doing things but in particular on the job descriptions of the Dean of Residences and Residence Life Manager.

"It would seem inappropriate to seek to fill these positions on a permanent basis while in fact the position descriptions are somewhat in a state of flux," Austin said.



JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Trish Davidson, Vice-President (Student Services) told Council that she has attended a preliminary meeting of the Senate Student Services Committee in order to discuss the proposal of an Ombudsman position. The University is considering modelling this position after the SU Advocacy Centre, with perhaps a faculty advisory, Engineering Representative Darren Thompson was concerned that the University would not be giving this position a full-time job, which he feels even if not required, could benefit students substantially. Law Rep Cathy Clark was concerned that the advocacy centre is composed of volunteers while the Dean of Students is an experienced advocate.

The lease that the SU has with HOP leasing on a Canon colour copier is still valid for another year, but Davidson hopes that they can buy it out.

Davidson also warned Council that the Paper Trail may have to pay tax penalties for not remitting the GST it has been supposed to be collecting since the tax was implemented.

The Board of Directors for Student

Union Beverage Services, the company which oversees the operations of the Cellar Pub, is in need of a Chair. The current, and only, Chair, Shona Bertrand, is graduating after serving three consecutive terms. Monique Scholten, Vice-President (Finance) and Treasurer of the SUBS Board, noted that the Board needs to come to terms with a repayment schedule for the initial \$30,000 loan from the SU.

Vice-President (University Affairs) Anoushka Courage said the meeting of the SUB Expansion committee has a proposal for SUB expansion which would entail 12,000 square feet of usable space. This is the self-financing option, which is what could happen if no other funding partners are found.

Vice-President (External) Anthony Knight met with the University Tuition Policy Task Force and told them of the SU opposition to the per course fee proposal. Knight suggested that they pursue a more open policy development strategy instead of just formulating a policy, getting a reaction and then proceeding with the original policy. Knight implored the committee to not change the fee structure until after the Maritime Provinces Higher

Education Commission completes a report on the effects of tuition levels on accessibility, scheduled for April.

The UNB Young Progressive Conservatives were recognized by the Council under its Council of Recognized and Affiliated Parties bylaw, which allows the group to hold meetings on campus at no charge, but does not entitle them to any funding or use of the SU logo.

The SU made a \$250 grant to the Student Society of Mechanical Engineers for their year-end banquet.

Vice-President (Finance & Administration) Monique Scholten told Council that the executive for the SSME changes in December, and apparently the previous executive spent money reserved for the year-end banquet in first term. She also noted that the request had been for \$650 and that tickets will cost \$18.

"The SSME has proven itself to be a solid club," she argued. "If we were facing any kind of financial situation I would not recommend this grant."

There is approximately \$3,000 left in the Grants fund. Applications are available at the UNB SU offices, Room 126, SUB.

Cocaine a major problem in Fredericton

AARON MACEachern

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Fredericton Police Department recently made a substantial cocaine seizure. However, Fredericton Police Narcotics Officer Corporal Gerald Cook, was unable to go into great detail, as the investigation is still in progress.

As of late, the city of Fredericton has been experiencing large amounts of cocaine and marijuana distribution.

"There is a huge cocaine problem in Fredericton," said Corporal Cook. "The main problem is that it is being sold by the gram, which often prevents

seizure." Cook went on to clarify, "marijuana is the biggest problem, with huge amounts of it in Fredericton."

The Victoria Health Centre confirmed Cook's statements. Managing Nurse Joan Bert explained one of the main reasons for the increase in usage of both cocaine and marijuana is an increased availability.

"The more available the drug is in your community, the opportunity for more and more people to become exposed to it arises."

The VHC is a sixteen bed unit, which serves as a detoxification and addiction centre for residents of Fredericton and the surrounding area.

The Centre is one of seven in the province and is attached to the Doctor Everett Chalmers Hospital.

The Health Centre finds themselves quite busy as a "result of the number of addicts hoping to solve their problems." Bert added, "we find our sixteen beds quite full, with both alcohol and drug addicts."

Corporal Cook sees link between a reduction in cocaine and marijuana distribution and a solution to many other of the common crimes that Department deal with frequently.

"Eradicating a drug problem solves a number of other problems, like break and enters, theft and violence," he said.

News Analysis

A look back: How has the SU budget changed from 1988 to 1997?

In 1988, many things were different. Mulroney was still Prime Minister, Frank McKenna was presiding over a one-party legislature, and the UNB Student Union was a lot smaller.

That year, the SU charged \$62 to 6,210 students for a budget of \$385,020. Nine years later, enrollment has increased 14% to 7070 and the SU fee increased by 60% to \$99. Projected revenue for 1997-98, therefore, stands at \$703,000, 80% higher. The end result, the SU receives \$315,000 more revenue from the activity fees. And the question that is of some interest is what has the Union done with this extra money?

Far and away the largest increase has been the result of operating expenses for the Union. \$180,000 of the \$315,000 in additional revenue is the result of greater operating expenditures. Of that, the greatest increase comes from salaries for permanent employees of the Union. The \$64,000 in additional salaries is largely the result of the addition of a \$41,000 General Administrator in 1994. \$70,000 of the increase for operating expenses came from more honoraria and summer salaries (see separate story).

Next, comes increases in office & phone expenses. Rate hikes for phone rates, internet usage, higher paper costs, postage and paying rent for the offices of Orientation, Grad Class and SMART-PACC account for this.

Lobbying Expenses have also increased, amounting to \$17,840 in extra expenditures.

The provincial lobbying group, the New Brunswick Student Alliance, now costs \$11,140 versus the \$3,000 it did in 1988. UNB's affiliation with a national lobbying group has risen to \$8,000 from \$1,300. In addition, UNB has changed its national lobbying group from the Canadian Federation of

Students to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

Next on the list of increases is the \$10,100 extra for conferences. In 1988, a mere \$2,900 was spent on all conferences, next year the Union plans to spend \$13,000. (see sidebar)

The annual Student Union award

Big changes (1988-89)-(1997-98)

- 1023% Summer Salaries
- 670% SMART-PACC
- 515% National Lobbying
- 421% CAMPUS subsidy
- 380% Grad Class
- 314% Conferences
- 371% Provincial Lobbying
- 225% SU Banquet
- 157% Honoraria
- 140% Insurance
- 100% AIDS Awareness
- 80% Orientation
- 79% Beaverbook
- 75% Audit & Accounting
- 14% Brunswickan
- 5% CHSR
- 2% Yearbook
- 73% Capital Equipment
- 31% Campus Entertainment

(Gross amount changes)

banquet (cut this year from \$8,500 to \$6,500) has increased \$4,500 over its funding in 1988-89.

The Union's insurance premiums have gone up by \$3,510. The higher premiums have vastly decreased the potential damage for the liabilities faced by the Union during its activities. Auditing and accounting expenses

have increased \$3,000 to \$7,000. The cost of running SU elections has increased by \$3,500 to \$8,500. An increase in the annual investment for the SU scholarship fund has resulted in an increase of \$2,070.

Rounding out increases in operating costs is the SU subsidy of the UNB AIDS education program which has doubled to \$3,000.

However, not all aspects of the Union's operating expenses have increased. Four areas have decreased a total of \$17,080. The Union's capital equipment budget is down \$9,500. Legal fees are down \$4,800.

The cost of marketing the Union has decreased \$4,500 to \$500. The fourth decrease came from lower costs associated with ID cards, resulting in savings of \$3,200.

Ranked second after SU operating expenses for increasing expenses are new initiatives, some \$58,000 of them. The largest new initiative is the Paper Trail, formerly known as the Help Centre. Located in the lobby of the SUB, this rent-free operation will cost \$27,000 in 1997-98.

The SU has also added a line item for the Cellar Pub in the amount of \$8,000.

The establishment of the Student Resource Centre in 1995, located in Room 118 of the SUB, will result in expenditures of \$7,100 which will be divided between the Resource Centre (\$3,800), the Employment Opportunities Bureau (\$2,800) and the Student Advocacy Centre (\$500). The third annual Festival of Cultural Diversity \$3,250; Emergency Student Loans \$2,500; Campus Safety \$2,000; Social Issues \$2,000; Day Care subsidy \$2,000; Men Against Sexual Aggression \$1,021; and External Campaigns \$1,000.

Third on the list of increases in

expenditures are clubs and societies. Arguably the most direct way students are able to benefit from the Union fee, the \$32,000 in increases are divided into \$14,000 for Special Interest Groups, \$12,000 for faculty groups, and \$7,000 for cultural groups.

Accounting for the nearly \$14,000

The \$12,000 increase to Faculty groups edges out increases in enrollment. While enrollment increased 14%, there was a 20% increase in funding. Faculty groups now make up \$65,019 of the \$700,000 fee, less than half of the ceiling of 20% of fees set out by the

allocation from the SU in 1988, was the Business Society, receiving \$9,500, nearly triple the funding of the next best funded group, the Engineering Undergraduate Society, which received \$3,205. In 1997, Business and the EUS will receive nearly equal funding. In the 9 years of this analysis,

Conferences Budget 1997-98

- \$5,100 Vice-President (External)
 - 3 conferences of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations \$3,100
 - 5 conferences of the New Brunswick Student Alliance \$2,000
- \$3,200 Vice-President (University Affairs)
 - 2 Canadian Academic Roundtable (CART) \$3,200
- \$3,200 Activities Director of the SU
 - COCA \$2,200
 - COCA-R \$1,000
- \$1,500 General Administrator
 - AMICCUS-C \$1,500

in new special interest group funding were 13 new groups. Of the nineteen groups receiving funding, all of those receiving over \$1,000 were new.

Large allocations went to such groups as: UNB Rugby Team (\$2,718), Student Pride and Alumni Relations Committee (\$1,625), Art Zone (\$1,550), UNB Toastmasters (\$1,270), Stage Left (\$1,190) and the Gay and Lesbian Association (\$1,080). While the SU has added many groups, it has been slow to rescind funding. Only two groups receiving funding in 1989 no longer receive a budget from the SU. The SU used to fund the Campus Ministry to the tune of \$2,400 and the Amateur Radio Club by \$550.

SU's financial policy.

Over time, some faculty groups have received increased budgets from the SU, while others have sharply decreased. Either reflects many factors, including changes in program enrollment, different levels of activities, or that a group has found funding elsewhere. Only two faculties, of ten, have neared the 20% cap. For the second year running, Engineering groups exceed the cap by a few percent, and law skates along the edge. By far the least funded. Arts faculty groups receive less than \$5,700 of the \$32,000 ceiling imposed by the SU financial policy.

The group receiving the largest

business was cut 27%, the EUS received 15% more funds.

Although much less of an increase has occurred in campus media, the \$8,000 increase is included for the purpose of completeness. If the amount of the subsidy from the SU in 1988 are compared to those for 1997, the numbers show that both media outlets cost less per student than they did in 1988. *The Brunswickan's* allocation from the SU has increased 14% to \$41,000 from \$36,173. Given enrollment, the student activity fee for *The Brunswickan* has decreased from \$5.82 to \$5.80.

Joseph FitzPatrick