

Budget cuts forecast gloom

By CYNTHIA HOWROYD
Brunswickan Staff

Buildings will get colder, dustier, dirtier, repairs will go undone..." said UNB Vice-President (Finance and Administration) James O'Sullivan in a recent interview concerning budget cuts, past and forecast. He also said books and supplies will become scarcer and the cost of photocopying will probably rise. Classes will be bigger and/or courses will not be offered. It would be a surprise to no one if tuition costs will rise, he said.

With the one million dollar deficit, the monstrous face of inflation, and those dreaded federal financial aid cuts, financial straits here at UNB will be getting worse, he said.

There clearly is a problem, and the budget of the near future will have to be even tighter. However, on CBC news Tuesday evening UNB President James Downey said that "... to cut any further would not be cutting into fat - but into muscle and tissue."

In the past the university had a surplus of \$500 thousand. That was quickly gone, and the university went into debt. The deficit is at \$1 million, a figure which the board of governors thought could be lived with. Without the budget cuts the deficit would be running at \$2 and a half - 3 million -- that is a saving of approximately \$2 million.

To achieve this large reduction in the deficit, cuts were made in every department.

There was a general non-salary cut of five per cent for academic departments.

Though the budget for acquisitions in the library has remained the same as last year, inflation has forced it to make a total cut of 20 per cent. Librarian Gertrude Gunn, says "its a real juggling act" as money is split between the needs of the Arts department, which relies most heavily on book supplies, and the Science Department, which relies on periodicals.

Automation lead the library to freeze vacant positions gradually over the past. Five or six more positions were eliminated through budget cuts. Dr. Gunn said they are "really stretched in staff".

A net of 76 or 95 positions under UNB were eliminated. There is some confusion over these statistics, and the separation of non-contract, cleaning employees with those employees under university contract when producing a net figure. CBC television reported that 60 professors had left, and had not been replaced.

O'Sullivan said the figure was 24 - rather large discrepancies. The three major areas of staff cutbacks have been made in the physical plant, the teaching faculty, and the library.

Approximately 30 people were laid off, about half of which were non-contract employees. Those others that lost their positions through budget cuts fell under two remaining categories: either their contracts expired and were not renewed, or they were retired and not replaced.

The seniority clause enabled a number of people, who had

had their positions eliminated to take over another position elsewhere under the employment of the university. This left more recent employees out of jobs unless they were lucky enough to be put in a position that had become vacant. Yet, in spite of this the majority of the employees that were laid off had to search for employment elsewhere.

Enrolment is up this year, and the teaching staff is smaller. A number of courses have not been offered that were offered last year. O'Sullivan said the budget cuts have "nothing to do with it".

Renovations complete

By Joanne Fournier
Brunswickan Staff

The major renovations in the cafeteria in the student union building have been long-awaited. The seating area has increased by over 100 seats

and the atmosphere has definitely improved. Thanks is due to the university, Beaver Foods, and Marcon Consultants Ltd. of Halifax.

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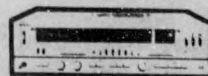


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