

## Students disagree with government aid policy



Jim MacLean, former chairman of the Atlantic Federation of Students and law representative on the SRC. At the last SRC meeting, MacLean spoke in support of the proposed student demonstration for student aid.

By DERWIN GOWAN  
News Editor

Support for a demonstration in favour of student aid demands was passed with some misgivings at last Monday's Students' Representative Council Meeting.

Law representative and former Atlantic Federation of Students chairperson Jim MacLean said the New Brunswick caucus of the AFS has tried to bring changes to the student aid system for the last five months and has met with the Minister of Youth on different occasions.

"We are at the last alternative," he said. "If things go as planned, there will be a referendum within a week."

The referendum will be held simultaneously with referenda in other New Brunswick universities. Fifty per cent plus one of the

students voting will decide whether action will be taken. The AFS plans some form of demonstration for Jan. 21 and the Ontario Federation of Students plans action for that day as well.

MacLean said student leaders must show leadership and work hard to win the referendum if any changes are to be brought to the system. If the SRC can't work for a better student aid system then others can't be expected to said MacLean.

Forestry representative Terry Downing said proposed demonstration would be useless as students cannot stop industry or production.

MacLean said it must be shown to the general public that changes are needed in the system and added that New Brunswick has one of the worst student aid systems in the country. Students would lose in

a war of attrition with the government, he said, and he therefore proposed limited strike action to demonstrate student solidarity.

The AFS has approached the New Brunswick Federation of Labour and the New Brunswick French high schools for support.

Gerrard Blanchard, general secretary of the University of Moncton student council said, "it is only a way of showing to the government that we are serious about our demands."

Sally Davis, nursing representative, said she was skeptical of the originally proposed student strike, as staying home from classes would not help the student aid situation. However, MacLean replied, the word strike in the AFS proposal meant some form of student demonstration, not necessarily a boycott of classes, and the details would be worked out later. Science representative Kevin Garland was concerned that the vote was to be province wide and

one university might be coerced into strike action even though the majority of students on that particular campus voted against the strike. He was particularly concerned since non-New Brunswick students would be voting who had no personal stake in the New Brunswick student aid program.

However, MacLean said this was an "essential aspect" of trade unionism "which we are trying to imitate to a certain extent."

Davis moved to amend the motion to change the word "strike" to "demonstration" and this passed with seven in favour, six against and six abstaining.

Bone suggested that AF's asks the government to consider a three year Bachelor of Arts program along with other proposals and said that under the present system the New Brunswick government is making students pay for grade 13. However, Arts representative Margot Brewer said Ontario universities have a three year general BA program but one still

has to go for four years for an honours degree. MacLean said this was a good long term idea. However, business representative Stephen Berube said there was no way the New Brunswick government would consider grad 13 due to educational cutbacks.

Arts representative Chris Pratt supported the idea, saying the referendum should be allowed to let those with "legitimate problems with the system" take action.

MacLean said society pressures people to get an education so society should supply adequate means to get an education.

Vice president Gordon Kennedy was most vocal in his support of the resolution -- charging the government with only allowing middle and upper classes to attend university.

The motion in support of a demonstration as opposed to a strike passed with 16 in favour and four against. Kennedy, Theresa and Damian Bone, Garland, and business representative Elizabeth Phillips voted against the proposal.

## NUS plans future expansion

By BURT FOLKINS

Expansion of the National Union of Students seems to be the name of the game in the future said executive secretary Dan O'Connor. Monday, NUS needs to draw more member universities and colleges into the organization, he said.

O'Connor was on the campus this week for the general meeting of the New Brunswick caucus of AFS concerning student aid. The union is very much concerned over the student aid problem and this is the first real chance that the students here have to see the viability of being a member of NUS, he said.

While referring to expansion, O'Connor said it is "no longer enough to concentrate on university students, only fifty percent of the students in this country are presently attending universities". He said there appears to be a shift to non-university institutions such as technical and vocational facilities.

Membership from these institutions has taken place mainly in the Western provinces -- Alberta and British Columbia, with the British Columbia Institute of Technology a member of NUS.

As was the case last fall a number of referenda will be held at institutions and universities this spring. Approximately fifteen to twenty-five will be held throughout Canada with a potential increase of forty to fifty thousand student members for NUS.

There will be a general meeting this spring in Winnipeg representing all member universities and all proposed members. One of the main discussions will centre around whether or not to integrate regional organizations such as the AF's with NUS thus creating a national body, or to retain regional organizations. They will also discuss whether regional offices of NUS will be open -- especially in the Atlantic and Pacific regions.

Regional offices are necessary because each region has its different problems which cannot be fulfilled by the central office, he said. The AFS if better equipped to deal with problems on a provincial level than NUS presently is.

O'Connor said there is no immediate plan to increase the number of field workers before the Winnipeg conference.

However if more universities join five field workers will be

added to the original two.

Students will see results of the semi-annual conference held here in October hopefully before the present term ends, he said. Establishment of a national student newspaper was one of the proposed projects to be undertaken by NUS. First issue of the newspaper is expected this spring with regular publication to begin in the fall of '76. O'Connor expects that the cost of the first issue will

be borne by the member universities at approximately twenty-five dollars per thousand issues. This is necessitated because NUS presently cannot afford to pay for publication as they are operating on a budget of \$200,000 for this year.

Publication will be in both official languages with most of the work done by volunteers from various universities. Association Nationale d'Etudiants de Quebec is



Photo by Steve Patriquin

Dan O'Connor, executive secretary of the National Union of Students, was on campus this week to attend the AFS meetings on student aid.

co-operating with NUS and will do translation into French and probably pay for all copies to Quebec universities.

Other results of the October meeting called for a restructuring of the organization and a number of long-term proposals; one of which will be to abolish tuition at all universities with full cost going to the government, and also calling for the government to continue spending in the general student areas.

Commenting on the close vote that this campus gave on the NUS referendum, O'Connor said that it did not compare favorably to other members who voted in the fall. Some universities voted with a majority of 80 per cent in favour of

NUS with general student turn-outs ranging between 25 and 30 per cent. Nine of the ten universities who voted have joined with NUS.

O'Connor said that one of the big problems which NUS has is manpower. There is a general lack of student involvement in some universities and feedback to the central office has indicated that there are people "not happy to have NUS on their campus". He reiterated that this was due to lack of concern and a failure of students to take advantage of information provided.

Universities have the option to hold another referendum on their membership in NUS before they pay the one dollar admission fee to become a regular member.

## Non-member profs face imprisonment

By PAT MACFARLAND

About one third of UNB's engineering faculty members are still teaching illegally since they are not members of the Association of Professional Engineers of New Brunswick.

Acting Dean of Engineering Albert M. Stevens said the situation has not changed much since last May.

At that time an amendment was introduced to the New Brunswick Engineering Profession Act which included the teaching of advanced level engineering courses under the definition of the practice of engineering.

The change meant that many of UNB's engineering professors would be engaged in the practice of engineering without being a member of the professional association. The offending professors could have legal action brought against them by the APENB; with penalties for a conviction fines of up to \$1,000 or six months imprisonment -- or both.

The university administration opposed the amendment on the grounds that such clauses would restrict or remove their autonomy. The administration has approached the provincial government in an attempt to have the university excluded from the jurisdiction of all professional acts.

The professional association has agreed not to take any legal action against the professors -- at least until the negotiations between university and government are completed.

Stevens said most of the faculty who are still not members of APENB did not receive their engineering education in Canada and may not be attuned to the Canadian system of professional associations.

Making teaching a legitimate form of practice allows those who have led wholly academic careers to qualify as professional engineers. Stevens said another reason to bring it within the jurisdiction of the APENB is to keep up standards of teaching by qualified personnel.

He also cited reasons why the inclusion of teaching in engineering practice has been opposed. Some people apparently feel the association will be allowed to dictate who may or may not teach, or that it is a violation of their academic freedom. Others are opposed because they do not think teaching is a valid form of practice.

Although the more militant supporters on both sides have clashed in the past, there seems to be little concern with the topic at present and the situation remains static. Stevens said he hopes it remains so.