

Course changes:

Administration turns screws

To say that we live in an age characterized by increased human rights must surely be questioned when one refers to the Registrar's office at UNB. To have spent the last four or five years at UNB is to have seen the changes that have made the rules regarding course changes, drops and the like tighter than ever in an age where freedom of choice is supposed to be on the upswing.

As recently as a few years ago, if there was a course in which you were registered and for one reason or another decided you could not complete, there were several courses of action. First you could go to the Registrar and plead to have the course scratched from your records, despite your tardiness in deciding to drop it. Since this was not at the time an unreasonable request, the Registrar was often cooperative. In one case we recall, after the mid-term exam in one particular Biology course a few years back about one third of the students were allowed by the Registrar to drop it after the deadline. They found the course so unsatisfactory that they were prepared to waste a half-term's work to drop it, and the Registrar's office were understanding. Yes, it's different now, but that's not all. Read on.

In the past, if you decided to give up on a course after the drop deadline and the Registrar's office didn't allow you to drop the course, you still had a chance. You could just fail to write the exam, in which case you would just get a DNW (did not write) beside the course on your transcript, and your average (before the days of G.P.A.'s) would be unaffected. If your problem was that you didn't have the time to finish the course requirements, you could simply get an INC (incomplete) on your transcript, it would not affect your average, and you had a year to finish up the requirements of the course.

In the event that you simply failed a course, you could replace it with another course and remove the "F" from your records.

Well, that's the way it was. Today, it's a far cry from it. In the last few years, the changes in policy of the Registrar's office have been for the worse, as far as the students rights are concerned. First, the Registrar's office has eliminated the "INC" in all but the most extreme circumstances, meaning that if you can't finish a course by the final date, you FAIL. An "F" on your transcript. Period.

Next, the Registrar's office this year attempted to roll back the

drop deadlines even further, to the point that you must choose and finalize both your first and second term courses by mid-October. This was a completely unrealistic demand of the students, and thanks to a few hardworking students, especially student Senator Steve Berube, we now have 'compromise' drop deadline that is adequate.

As Steve discovered in his research, the majority of universities in Canada still have drop deadlines much later than UNB's.

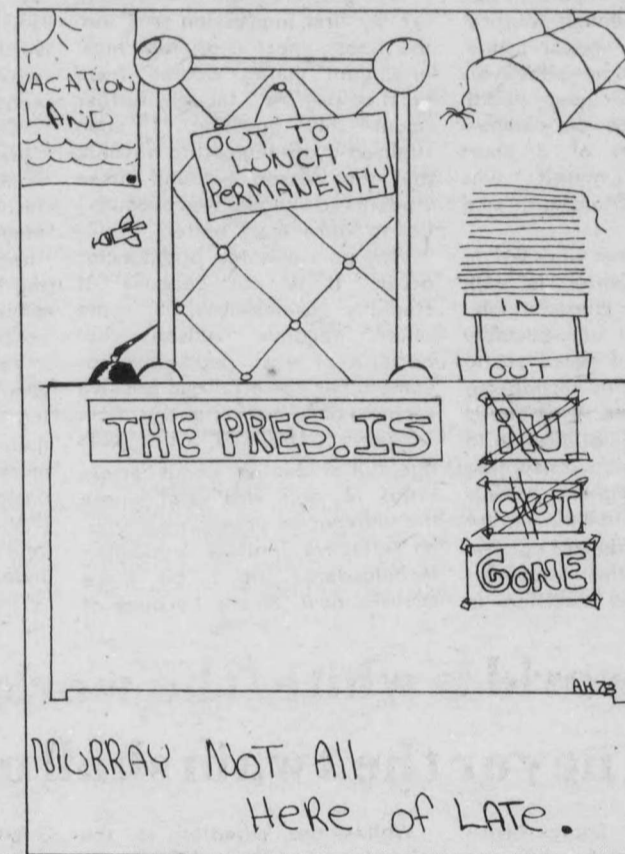
The final entry into the madness of the policies of the Registrar's office is centred around the so-called Replacement of courses. By this technique, a student can replace up to 20 percent of his courses with others to raise his/her G.P.A. For most of us, 20 percent of all the courses we take seems to be quite a healthy figure. The problem occurs in the stipulation that it take a full year to replace a course; hence, you cannot replace a course taken in your final year.

So a student who blows it in his first year can scratch all the black marks while a good student in his final year is not able to replace any courses to raise his/her G.P.A.

Why, you may ask? That's a good question, and certainly one the Registrar's office has no satisfactory answer for. The replacement of courses is now the ONLY recourse short of the Dean of Students for a student who may have one or many academic problems.

The Registrar's office has been slowly tightening the rules for the past three years and making life generally more anxious and miserable for all. It has been reported that the Registrar's office has said that it was up to the student to pick out his courses early, hence the early drop deadline. The Registrar's office has also said that they do not allow you to replace courses in your final year so that you will not end up short of credits and unable to graduate in an attempt to raise the G.P.A. Well, if they think we're that stupid, it's an insult; and if they want us to believe they are protecting us, it's out of context. There's no valid reason for it.

The Brunswickan sees the policies of the Registrar's office as confused and unfair. Students have rights on this campus, and foremost among those rights should equitable course change deadlines, and the right to waste a half-term's work to drop a course if you feel it's in your best academic interests.



Where are you?

The mystery president

The case of the missing SRC president. Jim Murray - where are you? Rumours to the effect that he is alive and well have filtered down to us, but if you ever tried to get hold of him, you would deny them.

Our beloved president is supposedly present at his second floor office sometimes. After all, one of the conditions of being SRC president is that they take only three courses. We could assume safely then, that this was instigated in order to leave the president time for his duties as head of the union. Three classes constitutes roughly nine hours a week, which leaves, say twenty hours, during which one would expect a large part of to be regulated to those duties.

Should a student have a complaint, they would find it very difficult to submit that complaint to an amorphous character whose existence is sometimes questioned.

Jim is paid seventy dollars a week; this, in addition to having his full tuition paid by the union. He also collected a lovely 120 smackers a week during the summer from the SRC while he collected full salary from Young Canada Works at the same time. Incidentally he was working at the Social Club at night, the salary is worth it too. Quite a bit eh? The question is, is the job being done?

If confronted with his repeated absences from his lovely blue carpeted floor [which gets

vacuumed twice a week, no less] then the statement "my time is taken up by meetings" glibly rolls from his lips.

Funny, that's not what we have been told. According to unnamed persons, a rather questionable amount of meetings and appointments have had to be cancelled due to our beloved pres' intangible presence. In addition, it appears that excuses have had to be made more than once for his chronic inappearance.

Election times are coming up and with Jim's term drawing to its conclusion, it has been suggested that this is responsible for the general "slackening" of responsibility.

If this, indeed is the reason, then it is a poor one. A responsibility is a responsibility and Jim was fully aware of what the job of president entailed on entering office. He has, in essence, been contracted for a full year, and it is not his prerogative to decide the term ends before it actually does.

From our point of view, one of the president's most important duties is to be accessible to the general student body and anyone else who wishes to see him. As the easiest place to do this is his office, we strongly suggest that Jim turn up there sometimes.

In addition, it is only courtesy that he put in an appearance if nothing else in at meetings he should be at, and appointments he has made.

Mug

I must admit at the duties and did not man and built the Aitken Co the present students of support of those who they might allow us to

No word yet on the v was sent to Dr. Ander Students but as of th materialized.

You might, those of who runs the place is pretty agreeable. Last S know what! As a direct for the first time in a ejected due to this cl However, this, it seems agreement was reached building is ever forced will be allowed to keep the usual CHSR mater community. Thanks Ho

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Chivalry is not dead the other day of three young man who ventur which these fair young and would not respon distress. So this young gave aid. The beast qu once again able to con word of thanks goes o that UNB students are

TNB has a great play Tosca". I thought it wo the Playhouse on Frid surprise. It seems that been changed from fir advance! Perhaps this was new to me.

The SRC is about to h we will be told how ap recently [and heard on caused by the use of overcome this problem for every person that v of 'funny cigarettes'. I'm don't usually to come a few away. Still, voter tu 75 percent. What do y 15th, and the SRC coul to election expenses. [idea but it is a thoug

Brian Pryde and the favour of campus medic CHSR has cost each stu for this year. The than manager and a sales

As I write this I am curtains. They are being They will probably fall Does anyone want to

For all staff of the Bru Saturday night I will e Hello Carol. Tell the g battle but the war is no wanna come???