

Board of Governors meetings should be open

Now that we have student representation on the Board of Governors the next issue to be resolved is that of open meetings. This issue is not as serious as its detractors would like us to believe. Experience has shown us otherwise.

A little over three years ago the student body received the right to attend meetings and get student representation on the Senate. At that time there were fears that students would attend en masse and try to disrupt the proceedings, for this was instituted just after the Strax affair, and the campus was very unsettled.

Those original fears are no more. Students can come and go as they please at Senate meetings, providing, of course, they respect the proceedings. Very few students

attend meetings and there have been meetings at which there have been no students at all. Most attendance is by student Senate committee members.

When the press is asked not to mention an item that necessitates a little more time before its completion we usually comply. When the press is asked to handle a discussion carefully we try our best to carefully check their word usage so as to make doubly sure that the coverage given is most correct.

Now those problems have been solved for Senate.

Over the years universities that had closed Board meetings have now moved to open them to the student body. Very little adverse reaction has been recorded. We feel it is time that UNB moved in this direction.

There is very little that goes on at the Board that could not be revealed at open meetings. We now have student representation on the Board which is hopefully working out well. If our representatives felt that the Board was hiding something from the students hopefully they would pursue the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

The next step, then is open meetings. The Board has nothing to hide. The Board is a most responsible body. Students suspect that it has something to hide just because it isn't open. We do not want open Board meetings just to dispell that assumption, but for reasons that have more virtue. It would be just another element of the educational process in which we could become involved.

It is quite possible that if the Board was opened much the same

reaction would greet it as greeted the opening up of Senate. Students would probably attend in large numbers at the beginning and then after a few meetings attendance would wane and dwindle down to a few involved students. We would certainly try to co-operate when contentious

issues arose.

It took more than four years to get student representation on the Board of Governors. Let us hope that it takes less to get open meetings. It will be another step towards making this campus a more open and free campus.



'WITHDRAWAL'

Editorial opinions

For some reason or other (perhaps because we've never told you) some people have gotten the mistaken idea that editorials are written by, for, and from the editor.

Well, in part, that's true. The editor often writes the editorials you see here each week, but they are written in such a way as to express the opinions of the newspaper. Editorials are written by several people on staff, but all must be approved by the editorial board, which consists of the various editors we have.

To assume that any given editorial is written by the editor is wrong. Whether it actually is or not is of little consequence. When you see an article on this, the editorial page, you may assume that it contains the opinions of the staff.

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