

NEWS

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Paper Trail, SRC will remain rent-free SU Council reacts to hikes

GORDON LOANE THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Paper Trail, owned and operated by the UNB Student Union, will continue to occupy its current location rent-free, if a recommendation from the Student Union Building Advisory Board is accepted by UNB officials.

The decision comes as the SUB Advisory Board considers what to do about renewing leases for most tenants in the building, with the scepter of SUB Expansion looming in the background. Most leases expire in the SUB during 1997.

One of the first leases up for renewal was the Paper Trail, which has only been in operation near the front lobby of the SUB since September offering bus passes, photocopies and other items. Recently a video rental service has been added. Last year, the UNB Student Union operated a Help Centre in that location, but the style and title of the business changed with the opening of the Paper Trail.

It begged a question whether the Paper Trail was a business and should pay commercial rent or whether the operation was a student service that should be accommodated rent-free.

"I brought that question up at a recent SUB Advisory Board meeting," said Kim Norris, Director of the Student Union Building.

"But the Board felt the Paper Trail operation is a non-profit service for students and further felt it was not necessary for that operation at this time to be paying rent."

The same sort of question arose about the location of the UNB SU operated Student Resource Centre, according to Norris.

The Student Resource Centre has been located for the past two years in former commercial space, at one time occupied by Bellboy Dry Cleaning.



The Social Club has been a tenant in the SUB since 1970, this successful operation is looking for an extension on its lease and met with the SUB Advisory Board Wednesday.

"I indicated that I would like to consider putting a commercially viable operation in that location," said Norris.

"The Board received a long list from the manager of the Student Resource Center of what services are provided," he said.

In the end, the SUB Advisory Board

decided to award the space to the Student Resource Centre rent-free, according to Norris.

But in what can only be described as an ironic twist, a second set of student offices occupied by UNB's Orientation Committee and Graduating Class among others will continue to pay commercial rent.

"Those offices will remain commercial areas to rent."

"But on the other side of the coin the Student Union is providing a service to students and the SUB Advisory Board agrees," he said.

Meanwhile, it looks like at least four other long term tenants in the SUB can expect smooth sailing when it comes to their lease renewals.

The owners of SUB Hairstyling, Sub-Towne, the Campus Shoppe and Flannery Jewellers are all seeking renewals and Norris said the SUB Advisory Board has received no complaints.

Two major tenants in the SUB-The Cellar, owned by the UNB SU and the College Hill Social Club (CHSC) want renewals as well.

"Negotiations are on-going with both operations on a number of matters," said Norris, who could not provide further details at this time.

The SUB Advisory Board met with representatives from the Cellar last week and with the Board of Directors of the Social Club this week.

"With all of the tenants it is not a question of whether their leases will be renewed but a question of for how long, according to Norris.

"The question of how long leases will be renewed depends a great deal on the question of SUB Expansion," he said.

"That is why the SUB Advisory Board has asked that the university and its officials make the decision on the length of the leases because of the uncertainty regarding SUB Expansion," Norris said.

GORDON LOANE THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB Student Council will debate a motion next week which takes issue with the per-course tuition fee policy proposed in the Task Force Report on Tuition and Other Student Fee Policies.

SU President Joie Hellmeister, who will introduce the motion at Tuesday's regular council meeting, says the per course fee system is not in the best interests of students.

Hellmeister told *The Brunswickan* that students are very concerned about the matter and are worried about a general increase in tuition period.

"I have had a lot of students and Student Union Councilors drop by my office already," she said. "Some are saying-look I'm in Engineering and this means a considerable increase in my tuition and I'm barely able to afford to go to school right now."

"If they increase it like this, I won't be able to afford to go at all," said Hellmeister, referring to the plight of some students.

On the other hand some students think the new system would be great. "They are saying-a differential fee would be great."

"Why am I subsidizing Engineering students to have labs and computer systems?" they asked.

Hellmeister has a number of questions

about where money is being spent at UNB and where student tuition money is really going.

"We hear numerous things about how it is getting more expensive to run a university and having to do cutbacks, but the administration has not shown us exact papers as to why they need the money," she said.

In addition, Hellmeister feels students have not seen an increase in the quality of education even with tuition fee increases in recent years. Now with increases in certain faculties that could amount to \$1,000 per year Hellmeister feels it is high time the quality of that faculty and the quality of teaching in that faculty increase substantially, particularly if the new system is adopted.

Hellmeister is also not happy that the Task Force discussions took place without student representation.

Hellmeister has been huddled with other members of the SU Executive preparing a submission for the Task Force that is due by today. She and VP External Anthony Knight plan a joint appearance before the Task Force.

Hellmeister has been meeting with Graduate Student Association President Michael Lamoureux in an attempt to collaborate on this issue.

"We all have a similar interest in this matter and a similar concern," Hellmeister concluded.

No supplemental fees at UNB: report

UNB should continue to limit the amount of supplemental fees it charges to students, says a Task Force report on Tuition and Other Student Fee Policies.

Unlike other universities, UNB does not collect additional moneys from students to support recreational and athletic programs, student services, libraries or the maintenance of computer and laboratory facilities.

In fact the report notes that UNB levies fewer supplementary fees than many other institutions.

"The advantage of this policy is that students know ahead of time what their total financial obligations will be and are able to budget their expenses accordingly," the report states.

The Task Force recommends that the use of supplementary fees continue to be limited to cases where the use of the related service is optional. It must take place outside the regular period of instruction and must be limited to a small group of students.

The University report notes there are cases where supplementary fees are required by government policy, such as for residences and for tuition charged to foreign students.

"Any use of supplementary fees should continue to require specific advance approval by the Board of Governors," the report stated.

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Search underway for new UNB V-P

The University of New Brunswick has launched a national search for a new Vice President (Research and International Co-operation) following Dr. Frank Wilson's decision to take early retirement.

Dr. Wilson is also currently Chair of NB Power. The Vice Presidential post is relatively new to UNB, having been created during Robin Armstrong's tenure as President. Dr. Wilson was the first to hold the position.

The Vice-President (Research and International Co-operation) is responsible for enhancing the research stature and international presence of UNB, according

to a job advertisement that appears this month in the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Bulletin.

Among other duties, the Vice-President is expected to build relations with government, industry and community agencies to increase research funding and opportunities for faculty and the University.

UNB President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston is Chair of the Vice-President Search Committee.

Nominations and applications are being accepted until March 7th. The appointment is set to begin July 1st, 1997 for a term of five years.

Economics department changing with the times

MARY ROGAL-BLACK THE BRUNSWICKAN

If the economy changes every day, how does the study of Economics keep up? It gets a little innovative, if the UNB Department of Economics is any indication.

Beginning in September, the department will be offering three new courses, including one on the Economics of Information Technology. And the department will be stepping on-line itself this spring when it launches Economics 1000 on the web.

"We've awakened a sleeping giant," said Economics Chairperson Beverly Cook of her department's foray into the world wide web. "Part of the focus is that the change in the economy is continuous and we're always adjusting. At the moment we're adjusting to this change and the change in the labour force, developing skills for the moment."

Economics of Information Technology will be offered in the fall and will focus on the implications of information technology on the economy.

"It will talk about things like the changing nature of the Canadian economy towards a greater concentration on services and the labour force demand that goes with it," said Cook.

"We're moving more towards employment in areas like telecommunication, industries which just serve the public - tourism, financial

services. A lot of these industries require a lot of information and they require different skills and so there is a demand for people who have specific training in these areas."

Cook said the course was developed to tie in with UNB's new Multimedia program, but that it will appeal to students in different faculties affected by technology including Education, Computing Science and Engineering. The course represents somewhat of an experiment for the department. Cook said she is not aware of other Economics departments in the country offering a similar course.

"We're probably one of the early departments as far as this kind of initiative goes," she said.

Constantine Passaris, Economics professor and Human Rights Commissioner for New Brunswick, will teach the course, which will also focus on the implications of information technology in terms of human rights.

"You'd be talking about invasion of privacy issues, where companies can get access to personal information, giving your credit card number over the Internet and what that means to individuals in an economic sense," said Cook.

The effect of economics on humans is also the focus of two more new courses to be offered by the department in the fall. Economics in Everyday Life and Economics and Public Policy will be offered as the foundation for a new major program, The Economic Studies,

offered by the department starting in September. Students may opt out of Economics 1000 in favour of the new courses.

"These courses are designed to give students an appreciation of issues as they affect their daily lives without involving a lot of numbers," said Cook. "We're trying to have students think about issues and the economic approach to their resolution."

Cook said the new concentration is aimed at students who intend to go into public policy, government or investment careers, but don't want to study numbers.

"I guess you could say it's in response to shrinking demand for the ordinary economics stream," said Cook. "We looked at other programs and found that a lot of schools offer introductory courses that are less quantitative at the introductory level."

Econ 1045, Economics in Everyday Life, will be taught by Anthony Myatt and Econ 1055, Economics and Public Policy, will be taught by Stephen Law.

And if those aren't to student's liking, another option for Economics 1000 will

be available this April. The course will be offered on-line through Open Access learning in part, Cook said, because of demand from New Brunswick High Schools.

"We've had requests for this kind of thing so that high school students who've completed their course requirements can do this kind of thing and come into university with a credit already in hand."

Cook acknowledges that on-line courses are somewhat of an unknown for the department and said that they won't be sure of the mechanics involved until they know how much demand there is for the on-line course.

However, she pointed out, the professor for the on-line course should be well prepared-he actually wrote the textbook and he has revamped his textbook to a web format and he's done all the test banks."

Last fall, Economics introduced a minor in the economics of Forestry. The department seems determined to prove that they won't be left behind.

Changes to copyright laws could mean rising prices

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McConnell said there have been several occasions of Canadian distributors have lost orders or have not been able to get the books to him for the beginning of classes.

Although he estimates that seventy to eighty per cent of the books for the UNB Bookstore come from Toronto, he said there are times when American distributors are faster and less expensive.

"The other aspect of it that's always a concern is that once we're not allowed to get books from American book distributors who have better distribution, prices can go up," warned McConnell. He said that because the Canadian market is significantly smaller than the American one, Canadian publishers with smaller print runs may charge more per title or may sometimes raise the price on a book to recover losses on another publication.

McConnell said he hopes that students and professors will protest the proposed changes. If the Association of UNB Teachers hasn't made a good strong presentation to the Federal government it's too bad because they'll be here protesting to us [when the books aren't here in time for their classes]," he pointed out.

John Tooth is Chair of the CLA Copyright Committee of the Canadian Library Association and he is also concerned about what the changes could mean to students, particularly the part of the legislation that affects the importation of used books.

"The end result is that students are going to pay more money because there will not be the option of used books," said Tooth. "If the used books are in Canada, that is fine, but if the used text books are in the U.S.A., the bookstore would not be able to bring them in and sell them at a price less than you would have to pay for the brand new title."

"That certainly could cost students a pile of cash," said Tooth.

He also questioned whether publishers who have lobbied for the protection offered by the amendment know how much or how little volume they lose to American distributors. "My major concern has been and will continue to be our problem of actually getting these foreign books here when we need them."

The amendment to the Copyright Act was put forward by the Department of Canadian Heritage, and is intended to protect Canadian culture. It was presented to Parliament in June of last year, it aims "to bolster Canadian identity and to encourage job creation."

In a speech from Hon. Lucienne Robillard, then Minister of Canadian

Heritage, the government proposed putting an end to the practise of parallel importation."

"Canadian publishers and book distributors spend a great deal of money and energy negotiating with copyright holders and original publishers for the right to sell their books in Canada. Some institutional buyers circumvent the exclusive Canadian distributors by ordering directly from foreign suppliers. It is called parallel importation," said Robillard.

However, the part of the amendment affecting the importation of used books was introduced later, and representatives of the Canadian Booksellers Association

are protesting. They assert that this is not a cultural issue but a trade issue, one that will bring Canadian publishers \$545,000 in profit at the expense of students.

McConnell said that for his part, he has been trying to raise awareness to the downside of the proposed legislation and has written to Andy Scott, MP for York-Sunbury, asserting that the government has been too heavily influenced by publishers and needs to take the concerns of booksellers and their customers into consideration as well.

University libraries in Canada for example already have agreements with Can Copy (The Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency) which collects royalties from licensed photocopyers including provincial school systems and universities and distributes them to writers who belong to the collective.

According to Tooth, the bottom line for university libraries is that Can Copy fees will likely be reduced if two exemptions are left in Bill C-32.

One exemption would allow library users to make single copies for the purpose of academic research without having to pay a royalty fee. A second exemption would apply to inter-library loans, which increasingly take the form of photocopies of the requested text.

"Let's say the exemptions pass, what will happen is that there will be a re-negotiation of the licenses with Can Copy," Tooth said. "It could be that a smaller amount of money will be paid to the creative community as a result of

exceptions that have been agreed to."

"But that all remains to be seen," said Tooth, referring to the uncertainty now surrounding the legislation and the intense lobbying to get the government to finally come down on the side of libraries or the creative community.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) is calling the possible removal of exemptions in Bill C-32 for both education institutions and libraries "counter productive and absurd."

"The exceptions that presently exist regarding the use of copyright material for educational purposes are an absolute necessity," said Matthew Hough, National Director of CASA, speaking to the Brunswickan from his Ottawa office.

"The use of educational material in the classroom and the exchange of information between libraries is an integral part of learning," he said.

"I urge Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage to consider carefully the impact that any changes to current practices, including Bill C-32, will have on our educational system," Hough concluded.

SU Health Plan reviewed

AARON MAC EACHERN THE BRUNSWICKAN

Vice-President (Student Services) Trish Davidson is expected to present a report soon on the UNB Student Union Health Plan to the SU Council. As it stands, Davidson is unclear whether a change in the Health Plan fee, which currently stands at \$95, will be necessary for next year.

"Student claims are up somewhat this year, and this doesn't leave us much room to decrease the fee," commented Davidson. Students who are hoping for a decrease in the Health Plan fee, ought to look elsewhere.

Davidson also pointed out that the manner in which administrative costs associated with the Health Plan are calculated has been changed back to what it was in 1995-96. According to Davidson, former VP of Finance Duncan Fulton had recommended that all the Health Plan Administration Fee be transferred to the UNB Student Union as general revenue. Costs associated with the Health Plan would then be expensed from the SU budget.

The result of this policy was the Union collecting \$11,500 in fees, yet according to the SU audit of the 1995-96 fiscal year, the Union incurred only \$3,056 in expenses related to the administration of the Health Plan during that year. The result was an excess of revenues of \$8,500. This was predicted by then VP Fulton in the April 23, 1996 issue of *The Brunswickan*, where he indicated that this money could then be used for other purposes.

"This past July, \$11,000 was transferred from the Health Plan to the

Salaries line item for permanent SU staff, which represented their assistance and administration of the plan," explained Davidson.

According to Davidson, Fulton's recommendation was not implemented. One possible reason for this mix-up may have been a lack of communication during the transition of SU executives last Spring.

Since UNB students also have the opportunity to opt-out of the plan, the numbers who do can potentially affect the level of the premium. "Fifty-eight percent of students stayed on the plan this past year," said Davidson. "The amount of students on the plan increased. But at the same time students seem to be claiming a little more."

The final decision on fees for the 1997-98 year will be decided in a meeting between Davidson and the Health Plan's insurance brokers, Morneau & Associates, in the coming weeks. Davidson will also be releasing a detailed report on the finances of the Health Plan for the past year. She will be making recommendations to SU Council and the UNB Administration.

Owing to the complexities of the Health Plan, Davidson expressed her worries for the future of the Health Plan. "I'm actually a bit worried about it to be honest," she said. "The general administrator [Barb Kirk] is still out on long-term disability and [indications are that she] will not be back right away next year."

"It does take some help when you first start," she conceded. "If I didn't have the general administrator's help when I first started, I would have been lost."