

Comptroller speaks out on SRC budget

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was submitted by the SRC comptroller. While the Brunswickan does not agree with Mr. Cronshaw's findings, we feel it is only fair to leave it up to students to decide which figures are accurate. Please consider the graphs at the end of the page for clarification.

By SCOTT CRONSHAW

The question has arisen within the past few weeks as to where your student fees are going. Believe me, it's no secret. Read on, and let me explain the how's and why's of the 78/79 Proposed Budget for the UNB Student Union. I'm certain that the situation will become much clearer upon completion of this article. Accompanying this is a figurative analysis of the budget.

One major source of revenue is, of course, the collection of student fees to the tune of \$45.00 per student. One third of that fee is automatically claimed by the University for the reduction of a debt owed by us for the mortgage

of the Student Union Building. Other sources of revenue include our surplus balance of \$13,387.00 remaining from last year's budget as well as Orientation, Winter Carnival, Campus Travel, and interest received from investments.

From the funds available for use by the SRC and the clubs and organizations sponsored by the SRC, each separate budget proposal of each faction of the Student Union is taken into consideration by the Administrative Board. Upon recommendations by the AB to the SRC, clubs and organizations are allocated funds deemed to be equitable and sufficient to meet the operational needs of that particular body.

Whatever surplus funds that had not been allocated this year went into an investment fund for Capital Investment. Such a sum of money (5 percent) is designed to meet the future capital expenditures or to allow the Union a measure of

flexibility should a new project arise (such as CHSR).

Through the preliminary budgeting process, the SRC has approved for this academic year approximately 49 percent of the funds available to the clubs and organizations. This accounts for 32.46 percent share of the Student Union monies. The SRC Operating Budget, in comparison, claims about 44 percent of the available funds or 29.18 percent of the Student Union monies.

What the SRC Operating Budget consists of are such essentials as full-time salaries, elections, audit, telephone, legal fees, insurance, I.D. cards and honoraria, as well as office supplies and postage. For the SRC to operate efficiently and

competently, these costs are imperative. The remainder of the budget consists of accounts which, although seemingly excessive and/or unnecessary, are truly important to the smooth operation and integrity of the Student Union. These accounts include Activity Awards and the Michael Cochrane Award presented to students who have contributed much of their student life to the University. The Comptroller's Fund, for example is used generally to meet emergency needs for students in case of fire, etc. The Contingency Fund allows organizations to borrow money from the Union for pubs or film deposits, as well as providing additional funds to clubs and organizations should they seek it.

Service accounts like SRC Entertainment provides pubs, and the Student Directory is a useful service function.

I feel that the Student Union is an efficient, useful service and that the students are indeed

receiving their money's worth. All should be reminded that student

fees have not increased for at least five years and that they are

paying one of the lowest student fees, for a major university, in

Canada. I hope that this has been a help in explaining the

distribution of fees within the system. If it hasn't, I don't know what will.

differential fees- confusion

Last week The Brunswickan reported that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission had recommended that universities in New Brunswick instigate differential fees beginning the academic year 1979/80. According to Vice President Jim O'Sullivan there has been some confusion as to what this would actually entail.

He stated that only those students entering a new program for the first time will be affected. Therefore any students who are currently completing a program at this university will not be affected. O'Sullivan said there has also been some question as to who exactly will be affected. He said that any student with a foreign visa will be affected and this does include American students. If students are graduating this year and intend to enter another

program next year, then they will also be affected by the potential differential fees.

O'Sullivan said that the University has not yet made any decision as to whether the University of New Brunswick will instigate these fees. According to Dr. Anderson last week the matter is being considered and is tentatively scheduled for discussion and recommendation at the March 30th meeting of the Board of Governors. Differential fees are currently being charged in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario and entail any foreign students attending a university in one of these three provinces being required to pay more fees than a Canadian or landed immigrant. In Alberta students pay up to over 80 percent of the usual tuition fees and can pay up to \$1,500 in Ontario.



Fee increase not necessary to move CHSR

The hiring of a full time administrator three years ago is largely responsible for the significant percentage increase in the Student Representative Council operating budget. According to SRC president Dave Bartlett, in an interview last Wednesday Bartlett said that previous to this a financial administrator had been retained on a part time basis.

Bartlett did not feel that the administrator has been used properly by past executives and said he intended to insure that "more use was made of him". Bartlett said he did not intend to either write a report outlining the duties of the administrator or make recommendations which would be recorded in the SRC records to that effect, but he would use the administrator more.

Another area which Bartlett discussed concerned SRC lawyer Peter Forbes. A lawyer is retained by the SRC each year and is available to give legal advice to the SRC, clubs, and organizations and any student within the union. Students can phone Mr. Forbes if they would like some legal advice on a specific subject. Bartlett said the lawyer was used extensively by the executive and he feels the \$2,200 retainer fee is well worth it.

Inflation, phone increases, ser-

vice to students and increased secretarial salaries are other reasons Bartlett gave the percentage for increase. He pointed out that budgetary increases are not that considerable although the percentage increase does look larger.

Bartlett said that he does not understand why people have the impression that the SRC executive is against CHSR going off campus and said he and the other member of the executive have repeatedly said they are in favour of the move. He also said his statement in last weeks Council meeting that "students have no right to dictate financial policy" was done in the "heat of the moment" and he now retracted it.

Bartlett said part of the mixup may have been due to the fact that last week the SRC was unsure as to when exactly the station was ready to make the move and were surprised at the presentation Monday night. He did not feel the presentation was warranted in that the FM committee report (of which the reports spokesman was a member) was scheduled for this coming Monday.

Bartlett said he does not believe a fee increase is necessary to make the move and that "belt tightening" from the SRC itself means the greater part of the cost can be borne by their budget. He

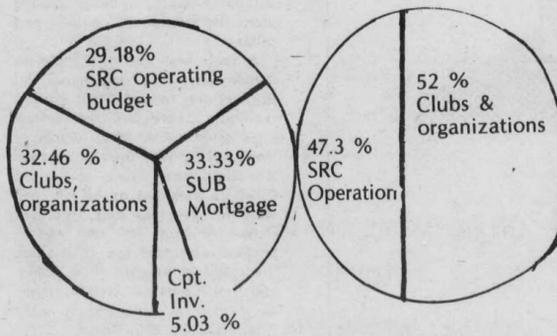
was also positive that part of the budget allocated to clubs and organizations would be left untouched although he foresaw a student union fee increase with in three years if the move is completed.

CHSR off campus?

Student Representative Council members will be voting Monday night whether the question of Colelge Hill Student Radio going off campus will go to referendum. Last Wednesday the SRC executive drew up a potential referendum question which costs whether students are in favour of CHSR going off-campus and that the monies to make the move would be taken "substantially" from the SRC operating budget. SRC president Dave Bartlett said that the council intends to investigate outside sources for money also.

According to Mr. Bartlett this motion will be introduced in lieu of a motion recorded last week which stated Are you in favour of CHSR going off campus? and made no stipulations. Bartlett held however, that a presentation

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EDITOR'S NOTE: the above comparison takes the SUB mortgage fee into account. A more realistic graph using the above figures would take into consideration only the money available to the SRC, that is \$30. per student.

Student Fees 5,381 at \$45.00 per	\$242,145.00
Less: SUB Mortgage 5,381 at \$15.00 per	80,715.00
Net Student Fees 5,381 at \$30.00 per	161,430.00
Plus: Other sources of revenue	21,137.00
Funds available	182,567.00
Less: Capital Investment	13,783.87
Net Funds available	168,783.13
Less: Money allocated to clubs, orgs. 88,883.13	
Money allocated to operating budget	79,900.00
	168,783.13