

Research facing funding cutbacks

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB could lose as much as \$250,000 in research funding in the first year alone as a result of recently announced federal government budget cuts, according to Frank Wilson, VP Research and International Co-operation.

The National Science and Engineering Research Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council will see the grants to universities across Canada cut by 14 per cent over the next three years.

UNB currently receives \$4 million in total funding from both agencies. "We expect the impact to be about a five per cent cut in funding by April 1996," said Wilson.

"The impact will be the largest in engineering, science and computer science because that is the area where most of our research funding currently is," Wilson said.

"NSERC plans to curtail certain pro-

grams including the international exchange in science," Wilson continued.

"There will also be research equipment grant cuts," he said.

Coupled with cuts from NSERC UNB will be losing several of its well funded researchers because of early retirements, according to Wilson.

"While we intend to hire some excellent young professors and researchers, it will take them a while to get the number and amount of grants of their predecessors," said Wilson.

I expect it will be a while before we reach the level of NSERC funding at UNB that we had last year."

As a result Wilson said it is more imperative than ever to develop a co-operative approach with the private sector.

UNB receives a total of \$18 million a year in research funding, \$14 million of which comes from sources other than NSERC and SSHRC.

As for cuts to SSHRC, the impact on UNB will be felt in a different way, according to Wilson.

"While we receive less in grants under SSHRC than NSERC at UNB, the cuts to SSHRC funding are harder to replace with private sector money," he said.

The cuts will have an effect on graduate student employment particularly in engineering, science and computer science," Wilson said.

Tim Buskard, President of UNB's Graduate Students Association, agrees with Wilson.

But he adds that Graduate Student enrolment at UNB might drop in the near future and many may just attend part-time.

"The average age of Graduate students is 31 and most usually have family and other financial commitments," Buskard said, referring to the fact that part-time jobs or teaching assistantships are vital.

"It's also difficult to do research part-time since many funding agencies require results within a certain time frame," said Buskard.

"But the funding has to be there for graduate students to attend full-time,"

he continued.

Buskard also fears that new requests for funding will be denied by NSERC and SSHRC because of the cutbacks.

"Obviously commitments that stretch over three years will receive priority over new requests as everyone chases scarce dollar," he said.

In addition, Buskard feels many graduate students who would normally consider attending UNB might choose to go elsewhere.

"The richer universities would be able to provide graduate students with a better offer," said Buskard.

He also hopes the university doesn't resort to greater increases in tuition fees to make up for the shortfall in research funding.

Buskard says graduate students paid four percent more on average for tuition while undergraduate fees were frozen in 1995-96. UNB has the second largest graduate school in the Maritimes. Current enrolment stands at 803 full-time students and 557 part-time.

UNB pays tribute to distinguished graduate

From the moment the locomotive driven by his father dropped him at the railroad crossing on University Avenue in 1930, D.C. Campbell was a leading light at the University of New Brunswick. An outstanding scholar, student leader, athlete, valedictorian, and class president, "Chet" Campbell was the sort of individual who brought pride and honour to his *alma mater*.

He graduated in 1934 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and, after spending ten years as a practising engineer and marrying his university sweetheart, Helen Neill Campbell (BA '34), he settled in Fredericton.

Thankfully, among the many community organizations to which he devoted his talents was UNB. An active member of the Associated Alumni, Dr. Campbell became the group's president in 1958. As life president of the Class of 1934, he organized numerous reunions for his classmates, the most recent of which—the sixtieth—took place at his home in June 1994.

Dr. Campbell's long involvement with the UNB Board of Governors began with a four-year term as alumni representative and a subsequent appointment by the New Brunswick Government that

continued unbroken for four terms from 1965 to 1989. Her served for two years as vice-chairman of the board and for three as its chair, from 1984 to 1987. In 1990, he was appointed a *governor emeritus*.

In 1982 he received a Doctor of Science degree, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his dedication not only to UNB but also to the community generally.

In 1989, Dr. Campbell set up the Helen Neill Campbell Athletics Enrichment Fund, honouring his wife's athletic prowess (she was a star player on the UNB women's basketball team) and providing annual grants to varsity

sports teams for merit awards, extra tournament play, and player recruitment.

In tribute to D.C. Campbell, student, alumnus and governor, the flags at the University fly at half-mast to mark the passing of one who made UNB an even better place than he found it.

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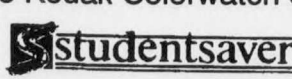
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This issue is dedicated to chickens, and to all the forgiving profs out there. You know who you are.

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