

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

UNB SU budget items highlighted

by Mark Minor

The first reading of the student union budget took place on Wednesday, March 18.

The increase in operating costs reflected inflationary factors as well as an expected rise in enrolment.

Although most items do not raise eyebrows at first glance, there are some that are noteworthy and should be mentioned. Proceeding from page one, the first item which stands out is the \$6,194 increase in Summer Employment Wage Subsidy.

According to V.P. Finance and Administration, James van Raalte (to which all following explanations can be accredited), this increase is due to raising the summer wage for students employed by the SU from \$6.50 to \$7.00 per hour. As well, the SU wants to create a new position: student publications editor.

Next there is a \$4,736 increase in conference expenses. This line item represents the student union's commitment to providing funding for educational activities for delegates from all sponsored clubs and societies. The figure \$14,199 better represents actual expenditure than does the 1991-92 figure.

Another noteworthy item in the budget is the allowance of 3000 for a new fax machine for the SU. A new plain paper, laser printing fax is environmentally friendly (not so with the old roll paper - it's not recyclable) and it will save money and paper in the long run. The new one will require coded access so that club accounts and departments can be charged accordingly. At present, this accounting feature is not available.

The budget also allows for \$17,000 more to be distributed as honoraria. This figure reflects the twenty-five percent increase which was voted in by the council this year. It wasn't budgeted for last year, understandably. As well, some additional deserving groups are to be granted honoraria under the 1992-93 budget. Those include Alcohol Awareness, Grad Class, Orientation, Red 'n' Black and Varsity Mania.

It is notable that no cash has been allocated for the scholarship fund. It appears that the principal amount required to provide the annual scholarship has been reached. The only reasons that money would be budgeted for in this area would be creating a new scholarship or increasing the value of the current

scholarship. These acts would both be subject to council motions.

The next noteworthy item is the \$2000 which was budgeted last year for Post Secondary Conference. One may ask: How come we aren't doing something this year in this important sounding category? It turns out that this amount covered the costs for Marlene O'Neill, Foundation Secretary to attend a conference to learn about the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Under the External Category, there is a \$670 increase. Up until now, the External Department has had most of their expenses allocated to different accounts including "Miscellaneous". Last year, Mark Lockwood created an account but sadly under budgeted. This year, with a \$1,000 budget amount, the S.U. is tending toward better accounting in the area of External Affairs.

Last year, there was no budgeted amount for a speaker series or comedy series. The Lutes Administration feels that a speaker series reflects responsible programming resulting in a valuable service to students and the community. Therefore, next year the speaker series will

be resumed. Never before has the SU successfully presented a comedy series; that is until this year. In recognition of this, it was thought appropriate to include this item for next year.

Another new amount on the budget is the \$2,500 allotted for social issues. On several occasions this 1991-92 academic year, the SU has offered an AIDS Awareness campaign, self defence courses for women and date-rape seminars. These types of activities are well attended and are a valuable student services therefore the SU has deemed it appropriate to set up such an account.

Finally, there are the cultural organizations. For

the most part, the fluctuations are minimal. The cut which stands out is the India Association. If one looks closely, one will find that the newly budgeted amount (\$341) is approximately twenty percent of the old amount (\$1,665). The reason for this is that the SU watchdogs have figured out that nearly eighty percent of the India Association is comprised of graduate students. The SU wonders if the GSA is aware of this fact.

The Student Union invites all those with comments or questions about the new budget to contact their faculty's councilor or Jamie van Raalte.

Arts faculty student planning committee meets

by Aime Phillips

The Arts faculty's student five year planning committee met on Tuesday to discuss organizational strategies and develop focus points.

The committee seats AUS president Steve Seabrook, who cited that the committee is to point out student perspectives on how the university can improve and what is not working in Arts, as opposed to faculties' perspectives.

Seabrook explained this

first meeting was to establish the goals of the student planning committee. Dean Kent is working with the committee in terms of guiding the students towards basic ideas to think about, such as student-teacher ratios, classroom sizes, and the quality of teaching, as well as the committee members concerns.

"Essentially," Seabrook said, "We are giving the students' perspective on where the faculty is going for the next five years."

Campaign begun regarding Student Loan Program

by Karen Burgess

Kelly Lamrock, National President of the Canadian Federation of Students, recently sent a letter congratulating Canadian students on "our latest lobbying victory - the announcement by the federal government of plans to eliminate their regressive 3% tax on Canada Student Loans."

As was reported in the March 13, edition of the Brunswickan, the Federal government has announced changes in its student loan tax eliminating the 3% tax on loans and, unfortunately, the previously established 6 months interest free period granted to students.

Tammy Yates, UNB Student Union Vice President External, has begun a writing campaign to Robert de Cotret,

Member of Parliament. The letter, which is reprinted on page 7, expresses both appreciation for the tax cut and concern over the impact of the elimination of the tax subsidy.

In addition, Yates mentions the problem of student unemployment, which reached a rate of 16.7% over the summer, and encourages de Cotret to answer certain questions, which at this point are unclear.

Yates says that the response to the last letter writing campaign in protest to the government funding freeze to higher education - was government an "overwhelming" success. The campaign, Yates says, is important because it "forces the government to acknowledge their decision's impact on students."

Residence Representative Board

by Karen Burgess

On Tuesday, March 10, the Residence Representative Board elected its 1992-93 elective.

The RRB, which represents the residence community to the University as a whole, will now be chaired by Dan Pellerin, of Neill House, and co-chaired by Brad Rideout of Aitken.

Jennifer Oliver of Lady Dunn is the RRB's new treasurer, and Bruce Bill, of Bridges House, will handle the group's public relations.

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that both the SU and CHSR are striving to achieve a common goal.

He says that "the membership of the station recognizes that there has to be a restructuring.... We need to work on a way to have direct student input into our Board of Directors."

He hopes that dialogue can be initiated between concerned groups so that the situation can be rectified.

Whipple concludes that "the position of the station, of the volunteers at the station, aren't all that far apart from the position that the STU Student Union and Jeff London have. Our only concern is that by putting the funding in the control of the Student Union, you're even further politicizing the process so that students won't have a say."



The new RRB executive includes (front l-r) Dan Pellerin, chair, Jennifer Oliver, treasurer, (back l-r) Bruce Bell, public relations, and Brad Rideout, vice-chair. Dave Smith photo