

Candidates must face the issues

A potentially disastrous situation is developing in the upcoming student government elections.

Many candidates have not addressed themselves to the central issues at hand - student aid, housing and possible tuition increases.

We seriously question the validity of candidates who have not identified their positions on these issues.

Even worse, other candidates are apparently running on no platform other than the spelling of their name. At time of writing the election campaign has shown no sign of serious debate between the candidates, or any attempt to truly inform the students.

The campaigns of most candidates have progressed no farther than plastering walls and bulletin boards with nebulous posters. Many posters mention only the candidate's name, and the position desired. How can we expect students to make a sensible choice, or elect sensible candidates when the most important issues are ignored?

We urge all voters to approach the candidates before casting ballots. We feel there are some serious issues to be discussed before a choice can be made.

Voters must be careful not to be sidetracked by the several secondary issues mentioned by candidates, yet many candidates have addressed only the secondary issues.

How can we expect students to make intelligent choices in this situation?

The students of this university have shown in recent months an admirable interest in student elections. They deserve, at the very least, the opportunity to grade candidates on the central student issues. The opportunity has certainly not been offered by most candidates.

It is time for student government elections to take on the sophistication warranted by the importance of student government. The positions hold a great deal of responsibility and can determine the direction of student affairs on and off campus.

At present the candidates seem to take the election less seriously than the electors.

UNB should form policy

This week we run on page two a story describing the difficulties encountered by University of New Brunswick arts senior Rick Northrup, who attempted to take two theology courses at STU and have these recorded on his transcript.

He did not ask to have these credited to his arts degree because he understood that UNB, because its charter forbids the teaching of religious studies, did not give credit for such courses completed by its students at other universities.

An agreement of affiliation between UNB and STU has made clear, however, that UNB students may take theology courses at STU for credit. The phrase can have no other meaning than that UNB students who take STU theology courses will have these included as credits toward their degree.

Northrup has had to wait for three weeks to determine whether he would be granted his original request, that his credits merely be recorded on his UNB transcript. He says the 1970 agreement shows that UNB students who have been permitted to enrol in STU courses are entitled to have these credited to their degrees and wants the administration to "honor their contract."

The Brunswickan approves of the measures undertaken by UNB to prevent the proselytizing of religion. However, we must point

out that UNB is one of the few universities in Canada which does not have some type of religious studies program or offerings which allow the systematic examination of one of the most important phenomena of human existence, that of religion.

The problems encountered by Northrup also indicate to The Brunswickan that the administration at times fails in its duty to make judgements which accomplish the tasks with which it is assigned. Rather than taking three weeks to answer the inquiries of a student, someone should be able to make the decision intelligently—with a view toward promoting systematic and enlightening academic study—rather than basing a decision on past practices.

This failure to establish a clearly-defined policy toward crediting religious studies also discourages students who wish to expand their intellectual horizons.

The Brunswickan asks that the administration make clear WHO gives approval for UNB students to take theology courses at STU and to indicate whether students who take these courses will have these credited toward their degree. If these will not be credited, we ask, does UNB have any plans to fill the vacuum by offering courses which examine theology in a systematic, enlightening fashion?



THE BRUNSWICKAN

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