

Tuition increase inevitable at UNB

An increase in tuition is inevitable according to a Tuesday meeting with Premier Richard Hatfield, said SRC president Dave Bartlett. The meeting Tuesday with Premier Hatfield to discuss predicted tuition increases and student aid "was not too successful."

Bartlett said Hatfield was informed by the student president of U de Moncton that many students will not be able to afford a University education next year. He said New Brunswick cannot afford the right to maintain the present level of tuition.

Hatfield said he realized that UNB had the third highest tuition rate in Canada, however, he felt that Higher Education had been getting the highest priority it could at the moment.

Hatfield "hoped" that he could maintain student aid at the same level according to Bartlett who said he had hoped for an increase.

In reference to the recent class boycotts and city marches held by the students at U de Moncton, Hatfield said he does not take public demonstrations seriously and believes them to be "unproductive".

Bartlett said he is against an increase in student tuition: "The students are being hit at all angles; we can no longer receive unemployment; there's a tremendous scarcity of summer jobs - and now they're going to raise our tuition without even increasing student aid."

He said he doesn't know of a definite solution to stop the predicted raise in tuition, but felt the students should be made to perceive these increases as a real problem. "If the students are made aware of the seriousness of the situation, some form of student protest could be useful to create public awareness."

Also in attendance at the meeting, former SRC president Steve Berube said he felt that

although Hatfield listened to their suggestions, "he didn't seem too enthused".

Berube said, however, that the fault does not lie entirely with the government and there are many functions on campus that can be

"streamlined" to cut down on the overall budget.

He said, "the administration is too top heavy with bureaucrats and is receiving more and more each year on their annual budget."

Both Bartlett and Berube agreed that the meeting with Hatfield was definitely not productive and that

the Premier did not indicate any solutions to the problem of increasing tuition.

No plans to combat increases



Photo Tremblay

'A P.R. attempt'

A heated debate occurred at Monday night's Student Representative Council meeting when outgoing president Steve Berube and Comptroller Geoff Worrell suggested the reimbursement to students of \$3.00 of their \$45.00 student union fee. Berube said a \$35,000 surplus is predicted and the union does not need that much money in the bank. The surplus is attributed to cutbacks instituted in the past two years, and excellent financial handling of the monies by comptrollers Brian Pryde (77/78) and Geoff Worrell (78/79).

Several councillors argued against this suggestion on various premises and the executive itself showed a split. Labeled "a P.R. attempt" by incoming rep-at-large Peter Archibald several other members seemed to feel the same. Vice President Internal Blair Moffatt felt the reduction would be inadvisable right now but perhaps the \$3.00 could be refunded next September. Berube pointed out that graduates would not receive their reduction if this

occurred. Another point against this suggestion according to some members, is the CHSR issue, with members pointing out that if CHSR went off campus then fees would have to be raised again. Incoming student union president Dave Bartlett said that should the fees be reduced by \$3.00 then next year "when CHSR" went off campus they would have to be raised an extra \$6.00. Worrell pointed out there that it was not yet fact that CHSR was going off campus and it would be left up to the students in a referendum which is tentatively scheduled for next fall.

Incoming comptroller Scott Cranshaw said he was "disappointed" that he hadn't heard of Berube's and Worrell's suggestion previously and felt it was "tying the hands of the incoming council".

Outgoing rep-at-large Paul Meyer suggested that the fees be reduced \$5.00 instead of three as 3 was a "lame duck" suggestion.

The motion for the reduction in Student Fees was defeated on two separate occasions.

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The government is "well aware" that a predicted tuition increase will stop some students from attending university according to incoming student union president David Bartlett. Bartlett told councillors Monday night that there wasn't much students could do about it, and except for last Tuesday's meeting with Premier Hatfield he didn't have any plans to combat increases.

Bartlett said the government was counting on public opinion to back them up, should a confrontation with students occur and "demonstrations etc" just wouldn't do any good.

Vice President Claire Frapp expressed some concern with the issue at this meeting and a Cutbacks Committee comprised of herself, Martine Bernard, Education Rep and V.P. Internal Blair Moffatt.

The committee intends to study potential university cutbacks and do extensive research into student aid and other areas.

A diversion occurred when two students who had sat in on the meeting gave their comments on predicted increases. Randy Brodeau said that he hoped to see an improvement over the SRC meeting of the past three hours and with predicted increases he for one would not be able to

return to university. Brodeau cited the Universite de Moncton as an example of students working together to fight the issue and asked the SRC what they intended to do. Brodeau expressed his willingness to become involved in "an active cutbacks committee".

Jayne Lahman also expressed her concern and said that she too would be willing to offer any ideas and time for a campaign against increases. She cited the residence increase last summer as an example of bad management and said if students began to organize against this now there might be a chance.

Neither student was asked to sit on the committee.

Berube's final report

The Academic and Campus Planning Report and Co-Educational Residences were two topics the Student Union should "keep after" according to out-going SRC president Steve Berube. In his final report as president Monday night, Berube told councillors that it was imperative a closer liaison between student senators, SRC members and student Board of Governor members be established to ensure that the report does not get passed out as it now stands. "There have to be some major changes" he stated adding that he was sure a great deal more discussion would occur before this came to pass.

With Murray House co-ed this year Berube felt it was imperative that the SRC continue in its efforts to have other residences transformed, "otherwise it will be forgotten as it has been before". Berube said that he has information which leads him to believe that two or three other residences may go co-ed next year.

Berube did not see any real reason why tuition should go up, except to avoid "disaster in government funding". He said that if UNB holds the line, as it has for the past three years, on tuition increases "there will be all hell to pay".

A predictable deficit in the residence system is not reason to raise fees according to Berube who pointed out that the system was designed that way.

Berube's comments on the National Union of Students centered on their "peaks and troughs of activity". "It's hard to ascertain what is going on" he said but feels the organization does have the potential to be productive. He criticized NUS representative Gene Long for the lack of information which was coming to UNB from the

organization despite Berube's assertion he had been "feeding" NUS a great deal of information about student aid and governmental library depository systems.

Berube told councillors that the SRC had to cut expenses as much as possible and suggested the elimination of one set of elections. He felt that a November election date for a new executive and new council would be appropriate, and one vice president with more powers would be advisable. Berube said there has been no word as yet on the Library which is currently protesting a new governmental policy of selective depositing. He also felt the UNB handbook needed a total revision and that the Student Directory should be published in time to be of some use. The Aitken Centre was another topic of concern to Berube who feels the Centre should be opened for free skating whenever it was not being used.

Surplus predicted

A \$35,000 surplus predicted for the Student Union by the end of this year is possible but "unrealistic" according to union financial administrator Ted Hudson. Hudson said that past president Steve Berube based his prediction on cash flow rather than "real money".

Hudson said that while there may be a surplus by the end of the school year the audit year extends to August and during the summer a lot of unpaid bills come into the Union. He said there would probably be a surplus of some size as the Union was currently quite well-off financially, but added it was hard to predict how much.

He said another consideration was that the prediction was based on the premise that the budgets will continue as they now are but that it is really impossible to ascertain until the year is ended.

Hudson said the union runs a surplus almost every year but this is usually offset by the amount of accounts payable. He said the union has been running a surplus for two years therefore this year it should be sizable.

Notice

Dr. Gerry VanKessel of the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration has informed us that UNB students on student authorizations may be nominated to senior positions on the SRC, for which an honorarium is involved. The students are entitled to receive this money without obtaining permission to work from the local Immigration authorities.