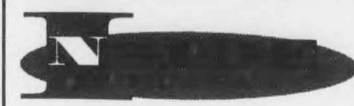


NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon



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As exam time winds down, here's a few valuable tips to keep in mind over the summer months:

1. Don't delay your first day of work - you'll need a whole extra week of it to pay the tuition increase.

2. You might want to pass one of the many \$10.00/hour jobs in preference to the plentiful \$15.00 ones.

The Brunswickan, and Sharkey want to wish all students a great summer. See you next year!

Tuition jumps 8.8% to \$2,840

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

UNB students will face an 8.8% rise in undergraduate tuition, 4.3% in residence fees, 9% in graduate student fees, and 15% more in international student fees.

UNB Student Union President Kelly Lamrock rejected the University's budget as "one of the least imaginative in the country."

"They simply passed the cuts [from the province] onto students," he contends. "If you do the math - an increase of \$230 per student, with 10,000 full-time equivalents, that's \$2.3 million - UNB got two million less from the government."

"I find it interesting that [Advanced Education Minister] Roly McIntyre stood up in the Legislature last week and said 'In the past we put out clear expectations and tuition caps, but we don't believe universities will simply pass the cuts onto students, so we won't this year.'"

"Wake up, Roly," Lamrock advised. "Look what just happened."

"I hope he stands up and announces, on the floor of the Legislature, that he realizes that the hands-off policy doesn't serve the people of New Brunswick."

UNB Vice-President (Finance and Administration) James O'Sullivan, acknowledged that the increase "is higher than it has been at UNB." He points out, however, that it was increased only 5.7% last year, and there was no increase in 1994.

"By Canadian standards, in this region, outside New Brunswick and across the country, fee increases at UNB have been less than the average for a number of years," he contended.

"It's a limited defense," Lamrock countered. "Sure, tuition in Ontario went up 20%, but Ontario universities got an infinitely larger cut [than UNB]."

O'Sullivan argued that UNB is faced with the difficulty of "strick[ing] a balance between what students are able to pay and prepared to pay, what our competitors are charging and the need to balance the budget."

The 8.8% increase the Finance



The Old Arts Building, seat of power. Photo: Warren Watson

committee settled on, was "an appropriate number, all things considered."

Lamrock, is quick to point out that he doesn't dispute the increase in Residence fees.

"They presented a balanced budget [for the residence system]," he said. "I'm convinced that the capital expenditures are necessary to ensure quality of life."

"It's in keeping with the rest of the country. I'm satisfied that what's happening in residences is probably necessary to maintain a decent standard of living."

On the rest of the budget, Lamrock argues there hasn't been a commitment to reduce expenses.

"There hasn't been a commitment, I don't think, to look at the alternatives suggested by the Student Union. There hasn't been any serious look at reducing administrator's expense accounts. Even if they match it dollar for dollar - for every dollar tuition goes up we'll reduce our expenditures that at least would have been an attempt at a partnership."

O'Sullivan admits that there were no "wholesale cuts in spending this time." Among the cuts that were made, was computing services. "We are making a significant reduction in budget for CSD. We hope we can cope with this."

Among the first victim of the cuts was the MUSIC system which allowed students free access to academic

information and the internet. Students will now have to subscribe to an internet services provider in order to access their marks off-campus. UNB runs such a service out of CSD, at a nominal cost of \$5.00 per month.

though I'm sure they're well-meaning, they don't have to live with the consequences of what happens there."

"We have Board structures that are not accountable, that don't involve the people who are there day-by-day," Lamrock contends. "Typically what happens is that people just rubber stamp what the Administration says."

"If the Administration isn't held accountable," he argues, "then decisions are made that don't benefit anything but the administrators."

"If people are going to make informed choices, that means more scrutiny."

"When I look at the amount being charged to students, and then I see the budget numbers of some of the areas I don't think are related not to the quality of education but to the quality of administration. I don't think we're scrutinizing our priorities enough, and I don't think anyone is making us



**"It's one of the least imaginative budgets in the country... They simply passed the cuts onto the students."
- Kelly Lamrock, President, UNBSU**

"[In departmental budgets] there's some pluses and some minuses. There's a whole range of changes that we've made."

"It's hard to generalize, we probably will have a few [layoffs] in a few places," he admitted.

"There is a little more money into graduate teaching assistantships, a little money into multi-media - we're shifting dollars around."

"We are trying to expand the acquisitions budget in the library," he pointed out. "But we're cutting staff to help do that."

"One of the big areas we have to increase is heating and electricity. When you look at the total non-salary budgets, up a little bit, but that's mainly the utilities."

The early-retirement incentive program has benefited the University. Fifty-five faculty accepted the package.

"There's a significant drop [in the personnel budget]," O'Sullivan said. "If you have a senior person leave, said paid \$80,000 and you replace them with a person who's very good but younger and less experienced and you do it for \$45,000, you may have one person, but you're spending less money."

There will be, according to O'Sullivan, an increase in the number of faculty at UNB. Fifteen more faculty will be teaching at UNB. Most of the new faculty will be for the Nursing program in Moncton and Bathurst.

Quite aside from any of the numbers in the budget, Lamrock finds the budget process objectionable.

"It comes down to structure," he said. "For 80% of people in the room, even

scrutinize our priorities."

Despite students being on the Board, there is not a lot of opportunity for input. "When you plan a meeting in the middle of exams, and give people forty-eight hours [to review a 200-page budget], it shows a certain lack of respect for the Board."

"A student on the Budget committee is a long overdue step," Lamrock argued. "To that end, there's a motion coming up at the meeting of the Board in May."

"We still haven't done impact studies on how these type of increases affect students."

On differential fees, O'Sullivan points to the government. "They are actually telling us to increase our fees for foreign students," he said.

"A lot of institutions in this region, in Nova Scotia particularly, have increased fees for external students," he points out.

"One of the reasons [for the increase] is that we believe that we're competitive," he said. "If you're outside Canada, looking around the world at where to go, assuming we've got what you want, fees for foreign students in New Brunswick, and at UNB are not high by world-wide or Canadian comparison."

"That's always an easy one for the University," Lamrock countered. "It's a politically easy thing to do."

O'Sullivan pointed out that the fee increase is also to increase recruiting efforts.

"You have to spend money to get the message out to foreign students," he said. "It's not intended to drive people away. It's intended to help finance the cost of making our story more widely known."