NEWS

DEADLINE - Wednesdays, 12 pm

Students Haunted By Ghost Courses

BY LYNNE WANYEKI

Are undergraduate students at UNB getting their money's worth from the university? Do the complaints concerning the number of electives available to the student population have any real basis in fact? The reality is that almost 20% of the courses listed in the 1989/90 calendar are not being offered in this academic year. The question is whether or not the notice at the beginning of the calendar justifies the fact that almost one-fifth of what is advertised is not actually available. The notice reads as follows: "The Senates and Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick reserve the right to make changes in the regulations, programs, and courses described in this calendar without prior notice."

The problem is obviously most evident in the Arts faculty, which offers the widest choice in course selection. The Dean of Arts felt that the concerns over the courses were not genuine, as he sees the programs of study as being singular and separate from the courses the programs offer. His rationale was that the calendar lists all the course authorized by the university senate, and that as this authorization can take one to two years to be cleared and placed in the calendar, even if a particular course is not going to be offered in a given year, it is kept in the calendar to avoid having to re-apply for clearance. However, he agreed that if a significant number of courses in a particular program was not being taught, and that if it was clear that the Administration was not going to come through with the funding for them to continue, then the calendar should not advertise what will not be available.

A case in point: the Political Science department claims the problem is plainly and simply a lack of professors. Their International Relations program, which ideally would exist as a separate department altogether, does not have the professors to teach over half of the electives listed for the program. There are at present only seven professors in the whole department, one of whom is on sabbatical. The department head has applied time and time again for tenure for two vital specialists (for IR and US studies respectively). He has been turned down by the Administration and has not been given any reasons or justification whatsoever from the Administration. Apparently, the department used to have ten or eleven professors who simply have not been replaced upon retirement. He stated quite bluntly: "How can a program be offered with any integrity when we simply do not have the staff qualified to do the job . . . The students have the right to the best possible education, and at the moment, quite frankly, I feel they are not getting it. I don't believe we're offering the students what they OUGHT to expect." Forty-eight percent of Political Science courses listed in the calendar are not being taught this academic year.

The Vice President Academic, who we would normally speak to about issues such as this, was away at a conference when we tried to contact him, but the Registrar was obliging enough to attempt to explain the position of the Administration. Apparently, although undergraduate students at UNB pay some of the highest tuition fees in Canada, only a very small percentage of the university's overall funding comes from these tuition fees. The rest of the budget used to pay those professors who have tenureship comes indirectly from federal funds, through provincial grants to the university. The amount of money coming into universities across Canada is gradually being cut back, therefore a "delicate balancing act to meet the requirements of every faculty is called into play." Presumably, this is the situation facing all the departments suffering from a lack of professors.

The way in which funds are allocated is as follows. Each department lists what positions need to be filled and submits this list to the Faculty Dean at a meeting. The meeting decides which positions are most critical and submits this new compilation to the University Senate. The Senate brings together in some sort of order the lists from all the different faculties, and in order of precedence goes down the final list, allocating funds to bring in new professors for tenureship to a certain cut-off point. What is their criteria for deciding the order of precedence? Is the cut-off point simply as far as funds allow? Does this method of distribution of funds accurately represent the needs and desires of the student population? This procedure is extremely frustrating to department heads. "It's like banging my head against a brick wall," one stated, " and the net result is that some undergraduates will inevitably lose out."

Various other factors further complicate the situation, such as: the length of time between the printing of the calendar and the actual beginning of the academic year; the number of students wanting to enter into a particular program; the number of professor vacancies for required courses; and the fact that some programs offer their courses in alternate years, on a rotation system of sorts. The Registrar's feeling was that required courses take precedence of electives, and that there was no clean-cut solution to the problem.

Thus various professors and department heads pointed their fingers at the Administration as not providing adequate funding. International Relations program, which ideally would exist as a separate department altogether, does not have the professors to teach over half of the electives listed for the program. There are The Administration in turn claims the lack of funds to be the fault of the Provincial Government. Where does the responsibility lie? Are all undergraduate students getting their money's worth?

COURSE	TOTAL LISTED IN CALENDAR	NUMBER NOT OFFERED 89/90	APPROX. % NOT OFFERED
GER	25	10	40
ENGL	60	25	41
POLS	60	29	48
HIST	125	64	51
CLAS	53	22	52
COML	7	5	71
ME	49	10	20
BIOL	88	19	21
CHE	49	14	28

The six courses with the highest percentage of courses not offered this acedmic year were all in the Arts faculty, but the table includes some courses from the Engineering and Science faculties to show that the situation is common throughout the university.

For courses such as COML, it is obvious that the number of courses that will be taught for a given year depends on the enrollement of students in that particular program, and there were some courses that had actually offered everything that was listed in the calendar.

But is it so easy to explain away the others?

STUDENT'S COMPLAINTS

BAR SERVICES AND STUDENT UNION RESPOND TO STUDENT'S COMPLAINTS

TWYLA RAE ANDERSEN

According to a Student Union committee report "groups and organizations on campus are complaining about taking losses, which they believe stem from Bar Services rules and regulations." In that same report it is stated the main goal of the committee is to propose changes to Bar Services policies in order to make Bar Services more attractive to students, and more profitable for the university.

In a previous article on this subject it was mentioned in error that the committee consisted of S.R.C. representatives and Bar Services personnel. The Committee in fact consisted of Kim Doyle, V.P. of Finance, 3 S.R.C., councillors, and 2 students.

The main concern of students was the losses incurred by small organizations and residences as a result of the present method of management fee calculation. In July a full report was drawn up by the committee in which were listed the other complaints with Bar Services and the recommended solutions made by the committee.

The proposals which are under consideration are as follows:

1) the extension of the closing time of events on campus to 2:00AM to keep up with the competition of local night clubs.

2) a charge in the one drink restriction law which causes long line ups loss of money.

3) a new method of calculating management fee for the sake of smaller organizations and residences.

According to Kim Doyle, the University has agreed that all of the proposals are beneficial to the students, however it is simply a matter of time before they come into effect. For example, the closing time proposal has been granted, however it is being held by security difficulties. At the present time, the management fee calculations of other to make the management cost more favorable for smaller groups and residence here at UNB.