

# NEWS

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

## Tuition increase inevitable for 1992-93

by James Rowan

Tuition at UNB will increase next year, but not as drastically as some had feared.

Dr. Robin Armstrong, President of UNB, has said that while tuition increases every year in his experience, the average hike is roughly equal to \$100 dollars.

The current freeze in government funding of the universities has led some to believe that tuitions would increase dramatically for the next academic year.

In a letter to the Premier, the four presidents of the New Brunswick universities stated that should the costs of replacing the income lost due to the funding freeze be passed on directly to students, the average increase in tuition would be \$400.

"There is no way UNB is going to try to make up that difference by a simple increase in student fees" says Armstrong.

When asked about the possibility of reduced services due to the budgetary constraints, Armstrong said that the same method of determining funding would be used as always: a prioritized list would be created by the various budget committees and funding would be given to each item on the list in descending order until the money ran out.

Individual faculties will be asked to find the least painful areas for budget cuts. Areas mentioned for possible cutbacks include contract teaching positions, vacancies created by faculty members leaving, and libraries and equipment.

In the joint letter to the Premier, the presidents warn of

"serious consequences for both the province's universities and their students".

The presidents warn that the desired accessibility of universities is becoming increasingly hard to provide, a concern echoed by the Canadian Federation of Students - New Brunswick and by the UNB Student Union's VP-External, Tammy Yates.

In a press release responding to the announcement of the freeze in funding, CFS-NB warns that "More parents in this province are not going to be able to send their kids to school", and that the McKenna government is playing Santa Claus before the election and acting like Scrooge afterwards.

Yates is worried that higher education is becoming extremely elitist, and that despite the government's claims to universality in access to education, they are not doing enough to guarantee it. Yates questions McKenna's resolve in his promise that education would be a huge priority.

Noting that the cuts to post-secondary education were equal to those in elementary education, which has a much larger budget to begin with, she questions the government's current educational emphasis, especially in their emphasis on training as opposed to education.

Also contributing to the current financial problems facing the education sector is the current unemployment problem. With student loans scarce and the student loan rebate program terminated, it is even more important than ever that students find summer jobs in the face of ever increasing tuitions.

Nevertheless, the provincial

government has not increased the amount of money given to student employment programs.

This will likely lead to another year of New Brunswick having the second highest student unemployment rate in the nation at 16.7%, says Yates.

On a related note, the future of the on-campus Canada Employment Centre, slated to close without university funding, is not optimistic considering the current state of funding to the universities.

Despite the Minister for Advanced Education and Training's being unable to meet with them for nearly a month, the UNB SU plans to present to him a letter which they intend to have signed by the student body.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, responsible for the distribution of government funds to universities in New Brunswick, PEI and Nova Scotia, had recommended an increase in

funding of 4%.

Armstrong notes that the government's record of providing funding equal to the commission's recommendations is quite good, and is hopeful that this year's freeze is an isolated incident, a temporary "blip".

Should it not be simply a blip, everyone seems agreed that the consequences could be quite severe for the accessibility and quality of education in this province.



Kelly Lamrock (standing), CFS National chairperson, defends CFS' budgetary discrepancies to councillors at Wednesday's Student Union meeting. The Council decided to hold a referendum to measure support for CFS among UNB students. Shown with Lamrock are Tammy Yates UNBSU Vice-President of External Affairs, James Van Raalte, UNBSU Vice-President of Finance and Administration, and Greg Lutes UNBSU President.

David Smith photo

## 50th Anniversary Scholarship awarded

Press release

Graduates of the Class of 1941 at the University of New Brunswick have chosen to celebrate their 50th anniversary this year by establishing a scholarship for students following in their footsteps.

The class of 1941 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Rebecca Watson of Fredericton, decided at its 40th reunion in 1981 to establish the award. After a decade of fund raising, the Class of 1941 Scholarship was officially announced this year and presented for the first time to Mark Kilfoil of Bath N.B.

A graduate of Carleton North Senior High, Mr. Kilfoil entered U.N.B. Fredericton in September to study computer science. First in his graduating class, he was

also active in athletics and literary pursuits. He is the son of Anna Marie Kilfoil of Bath.

The Class of 1941 Scholarship is valued at \$4,100 per year for four years. For 1991-92 Mr. Kilfoil also holds an NBTel Centennial Scholarship and a Sir George Foster Scholarship.

"We are very pleased to be able to celebrate our golden anniversary in this special way," said Dr. Watson. "Mark is an excellent choice to be our first recipient and we wish him every success in his academic career."

Also serving on the scholarship committee are Dr. Watson's classmates Mary Marshall and Marjorie Logue, both of Fredericton. The committee plans to continue working to increase the endowment for the scholarship.

## UNB to hold referendum reaffirming CFS membership

by Mimi Cormier

Students at UNB will be voting on whether or not the university should remain a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

At Wednesday's Student Union meeting, Council passed a motion on holding a referendum to reaffirm UNB's position in CFS. The referendum could be held during the next academic year.

The proposal to hold the referendum came after concerns were raised about CFS' 1990-91 budget. At the national CFS meeting in November, discrepancies were found between the budget presented by CFS' national treasurer and a report made by an auditing company.

Kelly Lamrock, the national chairperson for CFS, and Mark Lockwood, the representative for the NB branch of CFS, both spoke to council on Wednesday and

advised against withdrawing from CFS.

Derek Carlisle, the CFS fieldworker for NB and PEI, says that "the organization doesn't want to lose any members, especially in Atlantic Canada". Carlisle acknowledges there are "a lot of concerns with the budget," but adds that the "budget will be discussed" at the next national meeting of CFS, to be held at the end of this month.

Lamrock insisted at Wednesday's Council meeting that concerns about CFS finances are unnecessary. Lamrock stated that CFS is "turning a surplus", and "in the long term we're in excellent financial health." Lamrock also addressed the issue of "accountability" and said "there's never been a problem with that, the members have known right from day one at that meeting what was going on".

UNB's Student Union is

"The organization doesn't want to lose any members especially in Atlantic Canada."

- Carlisle

already withholding payment of the university's fees to CFS. Tammy Yates, VP External for UNB, says that the university is "delaying payment until it's straightened out and organized", although she says the Council has been receiving "pressure" from the CFS national office to pay the fees.

Yates still feels that membership in CFS is "useful and beneficial". Yates says, "I don't think we should be voting on withdrawing membership". Yates voted against holding a referendum at Wednesday's Council meeting and explains that it would be "irresponsible to have a referendum" when many students are not aware of what CFS is about.