

It's time for an increase in student representation

In a time when students are being labeled as passive and disinterested in affairs other than those that affect them personally, it's pleasant to see students at one campus are willing to take a stand.

As those of you who read the front page of this issue know, students at Mount Allison University in Sackville boycotted classes and picketed the administration building in support of a professor who was refused tenure.

We do not necessarily believe that boycotts and picketing are the best methods to use when a rift forms between the administration and the students. However, it appears the students tried other methods and found them unsatisfactory. At least they had the courage of their convictions, and were not afraid to take a stand in an issue they felt was important.

The most sad part of the story is the fact demonstrations and letter campaigns had to take place to make the administration aware of the students' feelings.

Apparently the university's tenure committee refused Dr. Carey Grobe tenure without releasing the reasons for doing so. It is possible the committee had valid reasons for not releasing the information. However, if students were sitting on the committee that made the decision it is unlikely the need would have arisen for demonstrations and other extreme measures.

Student parity on committees formed by the governing body of universities has been a touchy issue on many campuses, and is likely to remain so. One of the problems faced is that students are often not requesting more representation on these bodies

and the administration is usually quite content to retain the status quo.

Let's face it - we're not going to get more representation on bodies like this university's board of governors until we ask for it.

Students also have to prove they really want more representation, and will not abuse their positions, if additional representation is to be granted.

However, students at this university often couldn't care less about what goes on in meetings of both the board of governors and the senate. Senate meetings have been open to the public for quite some time, and recently the board of governors opened their doors to the public also. But do students attend? Other than the student representatives on those bodies,

we're reasonably sure not more than a handful of students have attended any of the meetings.

We're certain the administration would take this fact into account before considering giving students more representation on those bodies. If we aren't interested enough to attend now, what good would more representation do us?

We think the best method of averting disruptive incidents like the one at Mount Allison is to achieve more student representation on both the senate and board of governors. Students must convince the administration that they can work co-operatively to improve the operation of the university.

Many students are astounded when they learn demonstrations

once took place at this university, and it's no wonder. The atmosphere here certainly has changed since the days of Norman Strax and Liberation 130 when students were ready to demonstrate at the drop of a hat. At present, it would take something more to the order of a ten megaton bomb to shake UNB students out of their complacency.

We're not advocating picketing the Old Arts Building, but wouldn't it be nice if UNB students approached the administration through the proper channels and made it known that we would appreciate more representation, and are mature enough to use increased representation wisely?



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