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84% in favour of hiring policy

by Marc R. Mercier

A referendum was held last week respecting the proposal put forth by the law school's Ad Hoc Committee on Gender Related Issues calling for the creating of a new hiring policy aimed at redressing the gender imbalance at the faculty.

Following two weeks of heated and often emotionally charged debate, law students

were given an opportunity last Friday to get their views on the record.

Eighty-four percent of the students who participated in the referendum voted in favour of the faculty implementing some type of hiring policy aimed at addressing the under-representation of female professors on staff. In response to the committee's policy proposal as it stands,

66% of the students came out against it.

On the same day as the referendum faculty council met to consider the proposal. The council decided to eliminate the preamble to the proposal which said, among other things, "that female and feminist perspectives on law and legal education have been seriously under-represented in the development of modern law,

the Canadian political system and the UNB law school teaching faculty."

The council adjourned their meeting before tackling the portion of the proposal dealing with academic hiring regulations. No date has been set for the next council meeting.

The faculty of law has at present two female professors on its staff, one of whom has been on leave for the past three years. One of the fundamental tenets of the proposal calls for the adoption of a hiring goal that women represent 40% of the staffing complement at the faculty.

The proposal has also initiated debate outside the confines of the law school. In a letter sent to Dean Karl Dore, Mary Jane Richards, a 1980 alumnae of the law school, said

she is "greatly chagrined by the aim of the Ad Hoc Committee" and "its proposals to exclude male candidates from future hiring and to pressure older faculty members into retirement."

Ms. Richards, drawing on her personal experiences as a female practitioner in New Brunswick, wrote she witnessed discrimination against women in the late 1970s and early 1980s. "As in any evolving society, people need time to react and change. This has happened and your committee is fifteen years too late," she said.

Anne Crocker, the law school's Librarian and also an adjunct member of the committee, responded to Richards' letter. Crocker was

Continued on Page 7

\$11,000 cut on CHSR budget possible

by Senu Tevi

A proposal to alter the formula used to arrive at the budget of CHSR is to go before the Student Representative Council (SRC) this Thursday.

If the proposal is passed by Council the campus radio station's annual budget will be cut by an estimated \$11,000.

According to Wayne Carson, president of the UNB Student Union and one of the key formulators of the new proposal, this movement towards change has come after a year of unsuccessful attempts to see a media fee and equitable "per capita funding" implemented.

Carson concedes that the move will put pressure on the CHSR Board of Governors to seriously consider their role in acquiring funding from all the constituent groups that benefit from membership at the station.

The new figure is arrived at by dividing the total number of UNB undergraduates with the numbers of St. Thomas University undergraduates and the Graduate Students of UNB. The fraction arrived at is then multiplied by the overall CHSR Budget for the year and the figure arrived at represents UNB's contribution.

According to Carson the new approach has not been prompted by fiscal concerns, but simply by a need to carry

out a principle.

Last year, CHSR's operating budget amounted to approximately \$105,000.00. The student Union's contribution to that figure was \$80,000.00. The combined funding from STU and the GSA was just about \$10,000.00.

Carson intends to use this action to show how disproportionate these figures are. Carson hopes the action will put pressure on STU and the GSA to increase their contribution.

In response to the proposal, Kelly Lamrock, vice president of STU and chairperson of the CHSR Board of Directors has made it clear that STU "accepts no responsibility" for the proposed cut.

According to a statement issued by Lamrock, STU should not be expected to fund the station on a per capita basis as the initial agreement for joint funding between the two student bodies was made prior to CHSR going FM and thus prior to the inflation of its operating costs.

Lamrock argues that the STU was excluded in 1979 from the decision to go FM which was arrived at through a UNB referendum. STU therefore continues to give the amount it used to prior to 1979.

Carson regards the STU argument as a weak one and he says that the referendum issue

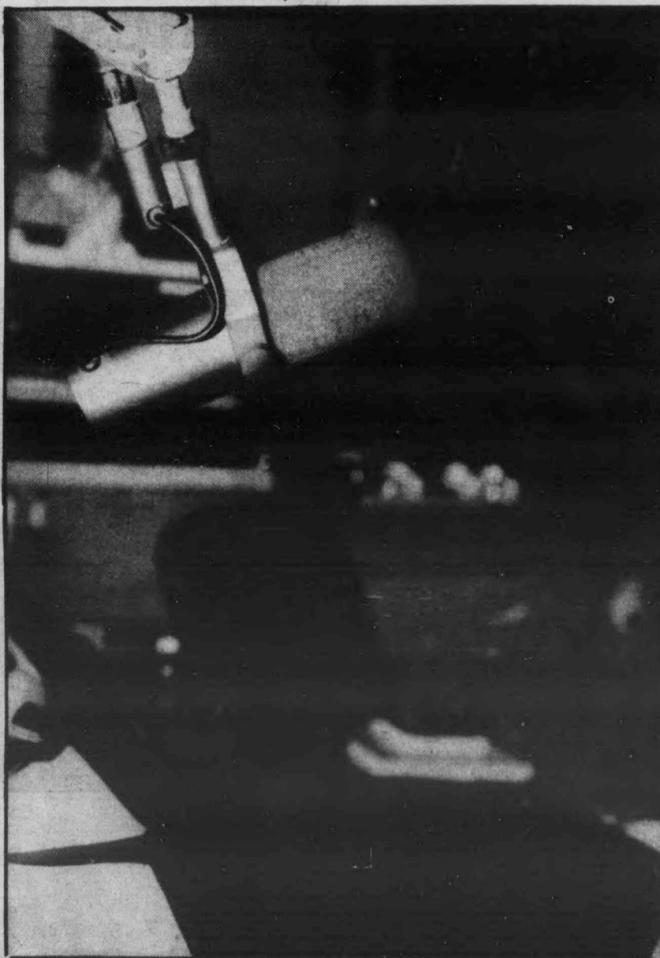
is a scapegoat used by STU to avoid its responsibilities. For him, STU benefits from the new status of CHSR and they should update their position on funding to reflect the current cost.

In the meantime, the CHSR Board of Directors is left with the task of trying to half this proposal. Dialogues has been held with SU councillors to explain why the cut will be detrimental to the station's operations. According to sources at CHSR, this move is perceived as a political "power-game" and the station is caught in the middle.

Carson, on the other hand, thinks that this is an issue that CHSR's Board of Directors must get directly involved in. He thinks that the Board has not carried out all its responsibilities as directors of the station and is convinced that the membership of the Board includes quite a few "deadbeats."

He doesn't see the student Unions move as one that constitutes political meddling in media. For him the Union's "hands-off" policy towards media is still being upheld.

When asked, Carson said he did not rule out the option of asking STU and the GSA to withdraw participation if things do not improve. However, he insists that ideally, STU and the GSA should have as much right to the station as anyone else.



Contents:

Blood 'n Thunder.....p 10	Entertainment.....p 22	Spectrum.....p 12
Classifieds.....p 32	Feature.....p 18	Sports.....p 27
Distractions.....p 13	News.....p 3	Upcomin'.....p 26
Editorial.....p 4	Opinion.....p 5	Viewpoint.....p 9