

SU separates from CASA conference

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

The UNB Student Council voted unanimously at its meeting on December 5 to withdraw support for the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) affiliated National Education Conference being organized in Fredericton. The conference was slated for next month.

Former SU Vice President Pat FitzPatrick is conference organizer, and has also been holding down the position of acting CASA National Director while Alex Usher is on medical leave.

Reached at the CASA National office in Ottawa earlier this week, FitzPatrick admitted to being spread a little too thin.

"A tentative decision to postpone the National Conference until at least

the fall was taken in early December and formally approved by the CASA Board of Directors between December 20 and 24," said FitzPatrick. He explained that the decision was made because the people approached to attend the conference as speakers felt they needed more time.

But several UNB Student Council members paint a different picture.

Acting UNB Student Union VP External, Jeff Clark, who replaced FitzPatrick when he resigned in October, cited a lack of organization and of conference speakers being lined up by early December.

Acting Chair of the Finance Committee, Duncan Fulton, told Council that \$10,000 had been spent on a communications package for the Conference that, among other things, included letter head, envelopes, and logos.

The large price tag prompted a colourful comment from VP Student Services Trish Davidson.

"I understand that the letterhead contains 30% cotton," Davidson told Council. "You could wipe your ass with it," she said, prompting laughter from several councilors.

A communication problem seems to have developed between FitzPatrick at the National CASA office and the UNB Student Union office.

"It's been some time since I've talked to people at the UNB SU," said FitzPatrick, in an interview earlier this week.

If as FitzPatrick says, the conference was tentatively postponed in early December, UNB Student Union President Kelly Lamrock was unaware of it when Council passed a motion to withdraw support on December 5.

Lamrock admitted in an interview earlier this week that he was not made aware of the CASA Board of Directors meeting from December 20 to 24 or the postponement of the conference.

"FitzPatrick has not been returning my phone calls," said Lamrock, adding that he has only talked to FitzPatrick briefly in the past few months.

"Phone calls to FitzPatrick from Jeff Clark, SU VP External, have not been returned either," according to Lamrock.

"I'm not pleased at all that the Conference has been put off," he said. "The Conference has already occupied too much of CASA's time that might have been better spent lobbying.

"FitzPatrick has placed a higher priority on this conference than I have." For his part, FitzPatrick said the re-scheduled conference has incurred a number of financial obligations.

Conference organizers had rented

an office for three months on Queen Street in Fredericton, which officially closed this week.

"The office was rented for \$900 per month," FitzPatrick said. "The total bill will be \$2,700." He believes that telephone bills will amount to \$2,400, and Internet charges will amount to about \$100.

A communications package could cost \$10,000, but FitzPatrick claims the brakes were put on this.

"I estimate that we probably spent \$3,000 to \$4,000 on this item," he said. "Duncan Fulton, who was serving as Communications Director for the Conference was in charge of the arrangement for the \$10,000 communication package."

FitzPatrick says he spent money on a trip to Toronto to try and drum up support on the revenue side from several corporations. The trip included hotel, meals, and car rental.

"A couple of sources of revenue may materialize in the near future," FitzPatrick said. He admitted that he has not seen all the bills for the conference yet, but added that "a good deal of the ground work for the conference has already taken place."

"If the conference takes place in the fall, so much the better," he said. This has yet to be resolved.

"The membership of CASA will have to make that decision in the next few weeks," FitzPatrick concluded.

Student bus fares rise



Everyone's equal with the new fares photo by Mike Dean

by Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

Fredericton Transit has raised their fares, most noticeably for students, who will no longer receive a discount from the regular adult prices.

Single fares have risen from \$0.75 for students to the general fare of \$1.00. 12 and 24 ride cards, which previously cost students 62.5 cents a ride and adults 83 cents a ride, have also had price increases. 10 ride cards are available to all ages for \$8.50 (85 cents a ride), and 20 ride cards are available for \$16.00 (80 cents a ride).

Notice of the increase was posted at

outlets which sold the rider cards in mid-December.

Despite the increase, "[Fredericton Transit] has the lowest rates in Canada, bar none," said Transit Manager Ron Steeves. He added that the new system is a "convenience" and a "time saver," because students were being "hassled" to show their I.D. "We had students and their parents calling asking why they had to stop and get their wallets out. Now they don't have to. Everyone will be treated the same."

Steeves added that the monthly pass is still available only to students for unlimited transit use for \$25, which will save students money after the 31st ride.

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