

Dr. James Downey

Presidential nominee responds to questions from students

Through the offices of SRC president Thorbourne, The Brunswickan and CHSR were invited to attend the one-hour session with Dr. James Downey, UNB presidential nominee, and the SRC. Less than one-half of the SRC attended the meeting, including the non-elected functionaries, the assistant comptroller and one of the SRC chairmen.

Thorbourne indicated at the start of the meeting that questions of the SRC "had priority" but if they ran out of questions then the press could ask anyway. The SRC asked a number of questions about how Dr. Downey felt about drinking in residences, what should be the drinking age etc. Downey said he felt 18 was a good age to be allowed to drink. On the question of drinking in residences, Downey indicated that fairly strong controls had to exist because of the need to protect the wishes of "those who don't drink and/or who don't want to drink when the event is on."

One SRC counsellor asked Downey for his position on market differentials, that is, higher starting salaries for professors in certain fields. Downey explained that although philosophically he was against them, he recognized that the university was not an island unto itself and market forces had to be taken into account. Downey indicated that market differentials should not be permanently established, but should be subject to intense review as market conditions change.

Board of Governors rep Steve Berube asked Downey if he thought students should have a voice in matters of appointment, tenure and promotions (AT&P). Downey said it was necessary to separate the type of student input into direct (students sitting on AT & P committees) and indirect (Course evaluation). He discussed the various problems of course evaluations but said if they are observed over a number of years they provide meaningful information. Downey noted that AT & P has traditionally been a peer review process. At Carleton University in Ottawa, where Downey is vice-president (academic) he said there was direct student representation on all but the tenure aspects of AT & P, and there was a course evaluation program run by the university and one by the student union. He said he felt comfortable with students having a voice in AT & P and noted that "the assessment of the students was most often the same as that of the faculty." Downey said the university was a place of research and teaching but some good researchers were poor



JUDY KAVANACH Photos



teachers and it was in the interest of the university to let them research as much as possible.

Downey said the administration of the university and the SRC should not be "in competition" in the sponsoring of events such as films and speakers, but should work together. He said he intended to continue teaching if he was elected president because it was a good way of assessing what the students were thinking. He also expressed the idea that he should not just deal with the "legitimate representatives of the students—the SRC," but with other groups as well.

Downey was asked about his experience with collective bargaining and "first contracts" (which UNB is currently negotiating). He said he had been on sabbatical at the time of the first contract and had been on the ed in salary negotiations relative to the first contract and had been on the team which negotiated the second contract. He said the latter had been negotiated in six weeks, a relatively short time. Downey said he felt one of his jobs should he come to UNB, would be to "help adjust the university to the new reality of faculty unionization."

Downey was asked what type of relationship he thought the president should maintain with the provincial government. He said he thought it was important to maintain a high level of interaction with the government, not just with the Department of Education, "not for what we might gain," he said, but to make them aware of what the university can do.

Reaction to Dr. Downey from various sectors on campus seems to be good. Downey asked the

UNB faculty union to organize a 'bearpit' session even though the search committee had removed this from their procedure. The union declined the offer on the basis that they did not want to interfere with the search procedure.

Downey did meet with the Science Council at their request, again despite the lack of this in

the search committee's procedure. No other faculty council requested such a meeting.

Dr. Downey borrowed a line from Ronald McDonald and said that "We (the university) do it all for you (the students)." In a more serious vein he noted that a university was "not just a teaching institution but perhaps foremost, a research institution."

Senate elections invalid

By ROBERT MACMILLAN
Staff Writer

At Monday's SRC meeting Chris Earl, vice-president, announced that the Feb. 20 Senate elections would be declared invalid, the reason being that graduating students were told that they were not allowed to vote. In fact graduate, not graduating, students were not allowed to vote.

The elections will be held on Wednesday, March 26. Nominations will be closed, and only those previously nominated will be allowed to run again. Students do not have to worry about a loss of representation on the Senate as the outgoing members will be permitted to stay until this situation has been resolved.

Council will take advantage of the make-up election to permit two education reps and one law rep to be elected at the same time. Nominations will be open only for these seats.

The cost of the election will be approximately \$550. Earl has declared himself ineligible to act as the chief returning officer and Ken Cuthbertson has been appointed as the new CRO. He will announce his assistants in the near future.



DWAYNE MCLAUGHLIN Photo

Leadership conference held. See story page 4.