

Robertson quits, calls administration deceitful

by glen furlong
brunswickian staff

Acting SRC president Alastair Robertson handed in his resignation at the SRC meeting Sunday night, and became the third man in five months to quit the presidential position.

He was vice-president and took over then Geoff Green quit as president after a two-week term of office last November.

The vice-presidency will be

filled in a by-election March 5. "It is impossible to negotiate with the administration at this university," said Robertson in his resignation statement.

"They seem to be men of no good faith and don't act in good faith. The men in the administration suffer from political short-sightedness and have acted in bad faith in the cases of Strax, the students in Liberation 130, and Oliver and Murphy.

"It has driven me to the edge of a nervous breakdown

and my health is suffering quite seriously. There is no sense in talking with men who act in complicity and deceit, and have lack of concern for social justice. I wish to have no association with people like this," he said.

"I am also convinced the SRC is not a workable organization. I don't think any union of this type can function. We need a voluntary student union for real representation. We cannot continue like this.

"I am disturbed over the CAUT censure and the lack of student interest in it.

"I apologize to all members of the SRC who have borne the problems which have arisen with me."

Michael Start, a presidential hopeful in Wednesday's elections, said to Robertson, "I'm very sorry to hear this, but when you ran for vice-president last fall you undertook these responsibilities. You had many good ideas and you are needed to carry them out. Most statements in your resignation are negative."

Robertson said he didn't intend to become completely inactive.

"I will work outside council and I intend to work for the set up of a voluntary student union. Right now I see the future as being very negative with the SRC; the problems concerning I.D. cards and

security police were not solved and were dealt with evasion and downright deceit. I am not prepared to revise my conclusion to resign."

The resignation which was "regretfully accepted" by council becomes effective Sunday at 6 p.m. Robertson later moved his resignation up to Tuesday, Feb. 18 at midnight.

Debbie Lyons was appointed returning officer for the March 5 by-election. Robertson was to have held the position until October.

Miss Lyons was also appointed deputy returning officer for the upcoming Wednesday elections after returning officer Grant Godfrey resigned from council.

SRC comptroller Terry Payan was appointed acting president until the new council takes over. Payan is the only surviving member of last fall's executive.

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Frank DeWolfe (right) and another demonstrator lean out the window of Liberation 130 after it was occupied by 10-15 people Monday night.
brunswickian photo by dave macneil

Police presence on campus again ends Liberation 130 occupation

by dave etheridge
brunswickian staff

For a short time Monday night Liberation 130 was occupied again. The protestors, CSDS members and other concerned students, some of whom took part in the activities last fall, were in the room to demonstrate support for CAUT. The Board of Governors and CAUT representatives met Thursday to discuss the proposed censure of UNB. The demonstrators were endeavouring to put pressure on the administration to give in to CAUT demands.

CAUT wants the reinstatement of suspended Professor Norman Strax, all Strax's legal fees to be paid by the university, and an impartial arbitration board set up to investigate the Strax case.

Entry into 130, now Professor Ronald Lees' office, was gained by breaking the door lock, then the room was quickly barricaded. Professor Lees' books, papers, and files were passed to him through the

window. Excepting the lock, there was no damage done in the room.

A half hour passed before word of the occupation spread through the campus, then small groups of students stood around outside the window. At one point, a girl attempted to get into the room via a rope ladder from the window. Her attempt was foiled by a group of students who physically attacked her. She hit one student, breaking his glasses. Several other students started shouting. A nearby security police officer did nothing to stop the fracas.

Shortly before midnight, some twenty-four Fredericton policemen, armed with axes and saws gave the demonstrators an ultimatum: leave within fifteen minutes or face charges. The group held a brief conference and at the end of their allotted time the demonstrators vacated the room.

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A petition of 991 names was presented to the SRC at its Sunday night meeting protesting a motion passed by the SRC two weeks ago.

The motion protested was one approving, in principle, financial assistance for John Oliver and Tom Murphy in their legal battle against contempt of court charges resulting from an article written by Murphy in the Dec. 3 Brunswickian.

The SRC constitution provides that if a motion passed by the SRC is protested in petition form with 20 percent of the student body signing, the motion must be dropped or it must go to the students in a referendum.

VALIDITY CHALLENGED

The petition was submitted in several forms and it became clear that the validity of some forms would be challenged. Council agreed to open the floor so that everyone at the meeting could participate in the discussion on form validity.

The petition generated the best discussion at a council meeting this year as students delved into the pros and cons of legal aid, a campus referendum on the issue and council precedents of financial aid.

Council invalidated several forms during the discussion and left the petitioners 50 names short of the 20%. One sheet was invalidated because it misquoted the motion and others because they misrepresented it.

The petitioners will present a correct petition, with sufficient names, to council Sunday night, said Jim Long, one petition organizer.

Bob Doherty, one of the petitioners, argued that the same idea was presented on every sheet despite wording.

Former SRC president Geoff Green said that in a

number of instances the intent of the petition wasn't explained when one of the petitioners visited Neville House.

"The only person who didn't listen to the explanation was Green," someone said.

"He said it was just childishness."

"I said they were all a bunch of assholes," Green replied.

RESPONSIBLE MORALLY

Dave Hamilton then questioned council's representivity. He said council was responsible to the students, supposedly, and asked what was happening at the meeting if council refused to rescind the motion after so many students had signed the petition.

Chairman Lawson Hunter turned over the chair to acting president Alistair Robertson and spoke against the petition.

"Apparently not all the people know the full facts of the situation," he said.

"The legal expenses of Oliver and Murphy should be classified as Brunswickian expenses and the SRC must assume financial responsibility for the Brunswickian. If I were Oliver, I'd plunk the bill down to the SRC and say, 'It's not my bill.' The people who signed the petition show irresponsibility in regard to people like Oliver and Murphy who do voluntary work.

"The SRC assumes financial responsibility for the winter carnival and people get more value out of the Brunswickian than the carnival.

"The petition was circulated among forestry, engineering and nursing faculties and the 991 names they got is more than 20 percent there. But the SRC has the guise of representivity coming from all factions.

"Council should look at its responsibility to the Brunswickian. Mr. Oliver and Mr. Murphy were given these

jobs, and if the SRC doesn't assume financial responsibility, I suggest they should all resign."

Tempers flared briefly as he finished. Long immediately corrected Hunter and said, "The names are from all faculties, including law. There was one vote from the law faculty."

RESPONSIBLE LEGALLY

Tom Murphy then spoke on his own behalf.

"I'm sorry these people who worked on the petition have put all this effort into a negative thing. The SRC should not accept the petition unless they table it for a week and give it some amount of thought and analysis.

"I can legally sue and will sue for the entire legal fees if the petition is accepted. I don't want to sue, and I'm willing to negotiate a reasonable sum with the administrative board. I'm willing to pay a large part of my fees, but I've found that I have a very good case and I will sue if I have to."

The AB agreed Tuesday night to pay half of Murphy's fees up to \$3,000.

A motion was then made by John Davies to rescind the protested motion but it was defeated.

Then speaking on the possibility of a referendum Brunswickian news editor Dave Jonah said, "It would become a personality clash and people would vent their anger against things that happened in the fall. John Oliver was editor, appointed by you (council), and he appointed Murphy.

Murphy agreed that a referendum would be a hate campaign.

"I don't want any part in it. Also, you have no right to pass judgement when the court hasn't said I was wrong yet," he said.

"If it's money you're concerned about, it would be

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