

Fee rise threatens in national, regional groups

By DERWIN GOWAN

Managing Editor

University of New Brunswick students could be faced with a 10 fold increase in membership fees for the National Union of Students and the Atlantic Federation of Students if they decided to remain members of both organizations.

However, both student union president Jim Smith and comptroller Peter Davidson say the union cannot afford that much money at present.

Last year it cost the student union only \$825 to be members of NUS. Since UNB was a new member, the membership fee was only \$.30 per student, and this was cut to \$.15 since membership never became effective until the middle of the year. This year, the UNB student union has to pay the regular \$1.00 per head.

This much was expected. However, a move by the AFS executive to recommend a 12 fold increase in their revenues was not.

At a meeting held in Halifax on September 25 and 26, the AFS executive voted unanimously to revise its financing methods. The recommendation calls for referenda on AFS campuses to decide whether or not \$1.00 per student should be levied.

In June, at a meeting attended by Smith, the executive decided to double the AFS fee from \$1500 to \$3000. Smith supported this.

However, if delegates at a late October general meeting decide to accept the latest executive resolution, the budget has a potential of rising to about \$20,000. Smith pointed out that UNB could be paying over 25 percent of that. According to him,

most of this money would benefit the smaller campuses.

The existing fee structure levies a flat rate of \$50.00 for an institution with 1,000 students or less, \$75.00 for an institution with between 100 and 3000 students, and \$200 for an institution with over 300 students. Davidson said the UNB Fredericton student union spent about \$250 on the AFS last year.

Therefore, if both fee increases pass, it would cost the UNB student union \$10,800 to belong to both organizations, up from about \$1,075.

Said Davidson, "From all available statistics and information from the administration, student enrolment at UNB has not increased significantly. What this effectively means is that the student union will have the same

amount of revenue this year as last year. In order to facilitate any increased membership fees, some other part of the annual budget shall have to be reduced by the same amount."

At the same time, Davidson rejected any increase in student union dues.

"I wouldn't recommend an increase in student fees at the present time. Students have already been hit by increases in tuition, accommodations, books, entertainment, unemployment, and changes in the loan program," he said.

"Do they want or deserve another increase?" he added.

"What I want to say is that people should be getting their money's worth," Davidson said. "It's up to them to decide if the return is worth the investment."

Davidson added that this applied to all services provided by the student union and not only membership in AFS and NUS.

When asked whether or not the UNB student union should stay in these organizations at the increased rates, he answered, "That's for people to interpret and decide." He was referring to the NUS membership referendum slated for October 20, as well as the proposed referendum on AFS fees.

Smith said he wanted UNB to remain in NUS, as the \$1.00 levy has been expected all along. However, AFS was another matter.

According to him, AFS is still in the process of organizing itself and has not shown that it would produce benefits worth \$1.00 per student. However, he said NUS is

doing a "damned good job" and is worth the increased rates. He said it would be difficult to pay the \$5400 to NUS without cutting back on services on campus, but it would be next to impossible to pay out \$10,800 off the top of the budget every year.

He said he did not attend the latest meeting of the AFS executive, and knew only of the proposed increase to \$3,000.

Smith said he planned to attend the AFS general meeting later this month and will seek direction from the Students' Representative Council as to what stand he should take there.

However, he said personally he believed UNB should drop membership in AFS rather than pay \$1.00 per capita.

Fourteen council posts open for contest

It is known now that there are fourteen positions open for nominations in the upcoming student elections. A quick run down goes something like this: Vice-president internal - full term, Vice-president external - full term, Arts rep - full term, Arts rep - half term, Education rep - full term, Engineering rep - full term,

Vacancies exist in men's house

There are still a number of vacancies at Victoria House off-campus men's residence. Anyone interested may contact Dean Bill Chernoff at the men's residence office or phone 4858 or 4835.

Engineering rep - half term, Forestry - full term, Nursing rep - full term, Business Administration - full term, Computer Science - full term, Graduate Studies - full term, rep-at-large - full term, and rep-at-large - full term.

The nominator and seconder of a candidate must be in the same faculty as the candidate with the exceptions of vice-president internal and external and the reps at large.

Comptroller, Peter Davidson presented his report to council in Monday's SRC meeting. The UNB student directory, which was to be ready by October 15, will probably be available by the third week in October, said Davidson.

Council passed a motion at a meeting in January 1976 which approved a loan of 10,000 for Subterrain. "The loan has not been

taken out yet, due to changes in the schedule but it will be soon", said Davidson.

Points of notice at Council included the fact that the SRC pubs have been very successful. A motion was passed unanimously to extend a sincere "Thank you" to the Orientation committee for a job well done. This year's Orientation came out with a profit, "which shows we can run things right for a change," said Davidson.

Council has a \$6,000 investment at stake in this year's publication of our Yearbook. Once again, if anyone is interested in lending a hand go to room 31 of the SUB.

The National Students Day committee received financial aid of \$110.00 to cover expenses in promoting NSD.

The SRC voted to give their support to National Students Day

on the condition that they be able to look over the completed list of events to be held and to give their final approval.

SRC president Jim Smith and engineering rep Mike Bleakney will be travelling to Ottawa for a National Union of Students convention Oct 1 - 3rd. This semi-annual conference has been designed for the representatives of Canadian post-secondary students to study three of students' common concerns which are now the subject of intense governmental activity: unemployment, general policies on post-secondary education's financing, and student aid.

A loan of \$500.00 for Red n Black was on the agenda, and the motion passed in favor. This loan is to be repaid out of ticket sales before November 15th.

Council has agreed to have two Saint Thomas University SRC members on the committee for co-ordinating NSD activities. Because the two universities are in the same location it was felt we should collaborate on this important day.

If you're interested in playing intramural hockey this winter, check out the problems it's having with the Phys Ed Administration. See sports page.

Coaction between labor, students lacking?

By GERRY LASKEY

Student Union president, Jim Smith, was approached last week to hold a meeting with local labour representatives to talk about student participation in the CLC's Day of Protest.

A meeting was arranged by Jim Aucoin, president of the provincial NDP, and a member of the local Day of Protest co-ordinating committee for last Wednesday night. No student representatives showed up at the meeting.

Smith said that he was at a Senate meeting. He was supposed to have invited Miguel Figueroa, Atlantic fieldworker for NUS, to attend but said he forgot. Figueroa expressed regret at not having told about it.

Jim Aucoin also said that Smith was contacted this Wednesday about having a labour representative speak to an SRC meeting. Smith responded that he is taking the idea to the Executive.

When asked earlier on Wednesday if Council will deal with the matter Smith said, "We've had our marches" and "our students aren't into marches." He replied that it seemed to be the consensus of the

Council that there would be no organized student participation.

Aucoin also said that Smith had

Smith pessimistic

Student government president Jim Smith said he is pessimistic about the outcome of a meeting of several student leaders with the New Brunswick minister of youth recreation and culture next week.

A delegation of students from Saint Thomas University, UNB, Mount Allison, the University of Moncton, and colleges in Shippegan and Edmundston will meet with Jean-Pierre Ouellette on October 7 to discuss their grievances with student aid legislation.

Smith said he is not encouraged by the minister's expressed intention of limiting their discussion to the federal-provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act. He said the students would rather cover all topics related to student aid which fall within provincial jurisdiction.

been approached by the NDP to develop some student objectives on student aid, particularly in regards to the loan - bursary ratio.

Smith stated that he was

working on it. He also mentioned that he has a meeting about student aid with provincial Youth Minister Ouellette, planned for October 7th.



The campus bank is trying a new method of crowd control. Most people seemed to be skeptical, but bank officials seem to think the "maze" approach is better than the former free-for-all. Photo by Tom Best