

Council delays proposal for student-run support group

by Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

Plans for a Student Union Sexual Assault Information Service have been delayed until September 1995.

The program, proposed by nine concerned students and headed by Business student Greg Moore, was designed to provide outreach programs to educate the public on sexual assault issues.

Originally, the organisers had hoped to start as soon as late November, but the first outreach program will not begin until next fall, according to a motion passed by SU Council Wednesday night.

SU, in passing the motion, said that they wanted to "explore the development" of the service and recommended that "research in relevant areas and programme development occur."

Debate over the issue took up two hours of the three-hour council meeting.

Chris Alward, chair of the Student Services Committee which reviewed the proposal, had several reservations about beginning the service sooner than the next academic year.

"It can't be jumped into," said Alward, who felt that more time is needed to evaluate the program.

He emphasized that it is necessary to allow sufficient time for training to take place.

Moore responded by saying that although it is important to be trained, provided that someone is aware of the issues, they do not

have to be fully trained to lead a discussion group.

The issue of legal liability was vigorously debated. Alward did not want the SU to be held liable due to a hasty assessment and felt that the organizational committee and Council had been pressured into making a decision.

"Facilitators guide discussions," said Moore. "The liability is small."

Larry Finkelman, a counsellor with UNB Student Counselling Centre, has reservations with the proposed program, according to Alward.

Finkelman is educated in the issues of sexual assault and has produced his own proposal concerning a peer education program for men, designed to prevent sexual aggression among students.

Alward said that there had been no effort by the student group to establish a relationship with Finkelman even though Finkelman was "an important individual to have on side."

Alward stated that the SUB expansion could be jeopardized if Finkelman were to go to the University administration with his complaint.

"We have to pick our battles," said Alward.

Lara Rooke, VP External Affairs, observed that the Council had "never been too concerned in the past about appeasing the administration."

She worried that the decision on the Information Service would be based on the relationship

between Finkelman and the administration.

Moore expressed his concern that the UNB staff would be required to supervise a student program when SU programs should be autonomous.

When Moore made an inflammatory statement referring to "straight white male bullshit" that was not well received by Council. Councillor Trevor Brown said that considering the statement, he felt that the additional time being taken for consideration of the program would be well spent.

Counsellors felt that a delay of eight months could only provide time for more research and that the interest would still be there next year.

A grant request had been submitted to the SU Council in September after the group conducted research on forming a sexual assault centre.

Organisers wanted the centre to be recognized by the SU in order to gain credibility and to open doors for funding. The motion did not confirm whether or not the SU would give its name to the service when it does begin.

Office space for the service was discussed and an amendment was made to the motion to allow for free room rental, although exactly what space could be made available was not decided.

Office space allotment is a contentious issue with the SU because of a severe space shortage in the SUB.

Production of 1994-95 yearbook underway

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Production of the 1994-95 UNB yearbook is in full swing, thanks to the organizational efforts of the Graduation Class Executive and recent grants from the UNB Student Council.

"The Grad Class Executive decided to take on the task of producing a yearbook this year after none appeared last year," said Erica Gomez, Secretary-Treasurer of the Grad Class and new Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook.

"The whole idea originated this summer after many grads approached us asking that the yearbook be revived," said Gomez.

Since then Gomez has been organizing a staff and seeking the necessary funding to get the project off the ground.

"We have a staff of about ten editors steadily organizing various sections of the book," she said.

"We have four colour deadlines by the end of November, two of which have already been met," stated Gomez. "A 36 page deadline involving residences must be met by early December," she continued. "The sports and clubs, societies section will follow."

"We also intend to print at least a two page section highlighting the major news events on campus dur-

ing the year," Gomez emphasized.

A final deadline of March 6 has been set for receipt of all grad photos.

Shortly after this, the book will be sent to the printers. Josten's Limited of Winnipeg has recently been awarded the \$25,000 printing contract.

"One thousand books will be ordered in time for May graduation," said Gomez.

Yearbooks will be free to all graduates.

Funding for the yearbook comes from a \$20,000 grant from the UNB Student Union Trust Fund and a further \$4,000 grant from SU general operating funds. The yearbook staff will be expected to raise \$2,000 in advertising revenue.

Yearbook staff will receive \$4,000 in honoraria from the Student Union.

"Just how this will be divided among our staff volunteers still has not been decided," said Gomez.

The yearbook staff have recently set up shop in Room 30, bottom floor of the office wing in the Student Union Building. The staff will be sharing the office with Student Union Publications.

"Anyone with contributions, comments or suggestions is certainly invited to drop by the yearbook office or to leave messages in the Grad Class Office, SUB Room 117," Gomez concluded.



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