

College Hill Student Radio FM fact or fiction?

Controversy raged in last Monday's Student Representative Council meeting when a spokesman for College Hill Student Radio asked Council to introduce a motion that would put the question of whether CHSR would go to FM stereo to referendum. The request stipulated that the move would be substantially funded from the SRC operating budget and would not affect the budgets of the clubs or organizations and in addition there would be no student union fee increase.

SRC president Dave Bartlett stated at the meeting that the club and students had no right to

"dictate" financial policy to the union as that was the job of the comptroller. He later retracted this statement and said that it was said in the "heat of the moment". Several observers seemed upset at the statement but the length of the speakers list and the practice of allowing councillors to speak before observers did not allow enough time for opinions to be expressed.

CHSR station director Doug Varty had explained the need for CHSR to go off campus. He pointed out that currently the station serviced only approximately 1200 UNB students and should they go FM the entire

student body could be served. Varty said that the move to put CHSR off campus began in the early 70's but at the time the cost of putting up a high powered FM transmitter of \$100,000 prohibited the move. One and a half years ago the CRTC approved a new transmission system which will cost only \$27,000. Varty felt the move was now feasible and left the floor to former chief engineer Jim Nason. Nason presented a projected budget for the station which stated that \$27,000 was needed to make the initial move and that an operating budget of \$30,000 was also needed. He said that based on a study of the

current and past SRC operating budgets, the SRC could afford to award the money to the station out of their own budget.

Councillors asked several pertinent questions of the CHSR spokesperson including questions as to alternate sources of funding for the station. Currently St. Thomas SRC pays approximately \$1,400. and one observer wondered if their Student Union could be approached for more. Nason said that this was unlikely. Currently CHSR is funded by the St. Thomas contribution, approximately \$5,000.00 in advertising, with the bulk coming from the UNB SRC.



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Doug Varty CHSR Station Manager making presentation to SRC members this past Monday night. See story above.

Photo by Shaver