

Board of Governors lacks a sound business policy

Well, the Board of Governors have really pulled a fast one this time. All this talk about UNB being short \$3 million dollars next year has apparently just been a ruse to try and get more money from the government. Since it seems to have failed, the Board has gone back to spending what money it has in the most foolish way possible.

As is noted in our front page story they have decided that our new President needs a new \$92,000 house, as well as a new car.

That is a lot of money that could certainly be put to much better use. We already have a President's house on campus, worth \$28,200, but it apparently isn't good enough.

Not only has the Board completely disregarded the financial situation here, but our own three student governors have completely disregarded the priorities of the students. Every one of them voted for this motion. Mike Richard voted for it. Craig Wilson (UNBSJ) voted for it. Ken De Freitas not only voted for it but he actually seconded the motion. Now, how's that for representing the students?

We fail to see how De Freitas and Richard, both of whom said in their election platforms they would seek methods to reduce UNB's deficit, could vote the way they did. In light of their recent actions, these promises seem frivolous.

The Mayor of Saint John seems to have been the only one opposed to it. He felt that such a move would not be justified in light of the present financial situation here. Perhaps we should have him represent us, rather than the three students that we now have.

There is absolutely no reason why we need such an expensive house for any member of the Administration. And he certainly doesn't need a new car - gratis!

When we elected these three students to the Board we did so under the impression that they would look out for the needs of the students. There is absolutely no way that they can justify their actions. And, if this is an indication of the way they will be handling themselves at future meetings of the Board, perhaps

we should have them resign. Then we could elect some who will do the job right.

The entire blame for this economic blunder does not lie with the student Governors, however. There are, after all, many other members on the Board.

With budgets being pared all around the campus, with fewer people attending university and getting less and less out of it, one would expect them to show

some meagre degree of intelligence.

We're all here to learn. Or so they tell us. And it surely wouldn't hurt President Anderson to learn how to "rough it" in a far less expensive residence.

Gentlemen of the Board: Come down out of ivory towers and get to the business of running a university. Last week you displayed the business acumen of two year olds. Smarten up.

Education should make us think

What should universities do about decreasing enrollment?

One solution that no one likes to talk about is to lower the academic standards.

Faculty could set easy courses in order to draw more students who are out to get through university as quickly and easily as possible. By giving less reading and assignments, and marking essays and exams easier, the faculty ensure that enrollment stays up and their jobs will stay open until they reach the magic plateau of tenure.

If this happens everyone loses.

An education should teach a student to think and learn; to ask questions; to search for alternatives; to experience and to experiment.

This is not the way the system is geared to educate students today. Memorization and non-participation end up determining your academic achievement.

To lower the standards of education now when there is so much room for improvement in teaching methods and courses is like putting on the brakes when a little bit of acceleration could win you a race.

And yet the rumblings that we hear suggest that something similar may be happening at STU now. Professors must in many cases lower the work-loads in their courses since education is becoming a seller's market and tough courses are notoriously unpopular with students.

If the situation is bad now it could only get worse in the future. It can turn into a vicious circle, with academic standards spiralling downwards and dragging the students with it.

This tendency is here at UNB as well, although it is better hidden by our size.

We aren't saying that courses should be made harder per se or

that bird" courses should be abolished. What we are saying is that universities should be taking steps in a positive direction to improve the quality of education.

UNB should put more emphasis on hiring teachers that can communicate with students rather than those with impressive academic qualifications. Try to develop Canadians with the academic skills that will qualify them for jobs that now go to Americans.

Use superior teaching and interesting, relevant courses to attract students to classes, not easier work loads.

Council to improve?

This past Monday saw our new SRC take office. Of course with the seating of the new members came the 'retirement' of many of the old ones. During the past year that they have been in office they have tried to represent us as best they could. Some of these old council members have given up much of their time over the past months and quite often it was worth the effort.

Now that the new council is in office let us hope that they will continue along the same path, while at the same time attempting to improve on the way things are now. If all of the new members are as enthusiastic as some of the old ones were, then we should be in for some good student government.

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