



# the BRUNSWICKAN

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## No per course fee this Fall

# Flat tuition fee to stay

GORDON LOANE  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB's Vice-President Academic Louis Visentin confirms that New Brunswick's largest university will not be adopting a per course tuition fee system by September 1997.

"Let me be quite blunt and direct—we are not going to the per course tuition fee system this year," said Visentin, in an interview with *The Brunswickan* this week.

The decision not to proceed, for the time being, comes two and a half months after the President's Task Force on Future Tuition and Other Student Fee Policies released a report that, if implemented, could have raised tuition fees in some faculties by up to \$1,000 next September.

The prospect of such a huge jump in tuition fees sparked a noisy student demonstration outside a university Board of Governors meeting in early February.

Both before and after the demonstration students, student leaders and groups like the Engineering Undergraduate Society, the UNB Student Union and the Graduate Students' Association voiced opposition to the Task Force Report.

It now appears that students were not alone.

Professors and the Deans of various faculties are also opposed to a per course tuition fee policy, a fact

confirmed this week by the Vice-President Academic.

"Some Deans are philosophically opposed to tuition rates that they see would discourage students from entering university," said Visentin.

Other Deans see their faculties as having students who would be particularly hard hit by tuition fee increases, a fact Visentin did not deny.

"This is the university at its best where you get honest and frank disagreements over key policies," Visentin said, in reference to comments from Deans and professors in the last number of weeks.

As a result of the decision not to implement a per course tuition fee system in September, UNB students can expect to continue to pay a flat tuition fee no matter what faculty they are registered in come September, Visentin confirms.

UNB students currently pay \$2,840 a year in tuition which is expected to go up again in September although Visentin won't say how much at this point in time.

The university's Board of Governors meets April 17, at which time a decision is expected on tuition fee levels for 1997-98.

Whether UNB intends to adopt a per course tuition fee system by the Fall of 1998, or indeed, ever is still up in the air and Visentin is clearly non-committal at this stage.

He points out that the Task Force

is still gathering feedback on its original discussion paper.

A final report is expected some time over the summer months.

Once the final recommendations are in hand then Visentin intends to conduct a university wide review of the credit hour system. "Credit hours for a course are all over the map," Visentin said this week.

"There is a distribution around three and six credit hours for a course but we have a credit hour system that can not be called rational by most criteria," he said.

Some student leaders have long held the view that a review of the credit hour system is long overdue. Many faculty members agree.

The Forestry Representative on the UNB Student Council, Blair Saulnier, earlier this term called for a review of the credit hour system, in an interview with *The Brunswickan*.

Among other options that may be looked at in a review of credit hours is reducing the total required to earn certain degrees.

"In the old days, a course was given a number and it included a lab in the lecture," Visentin said.

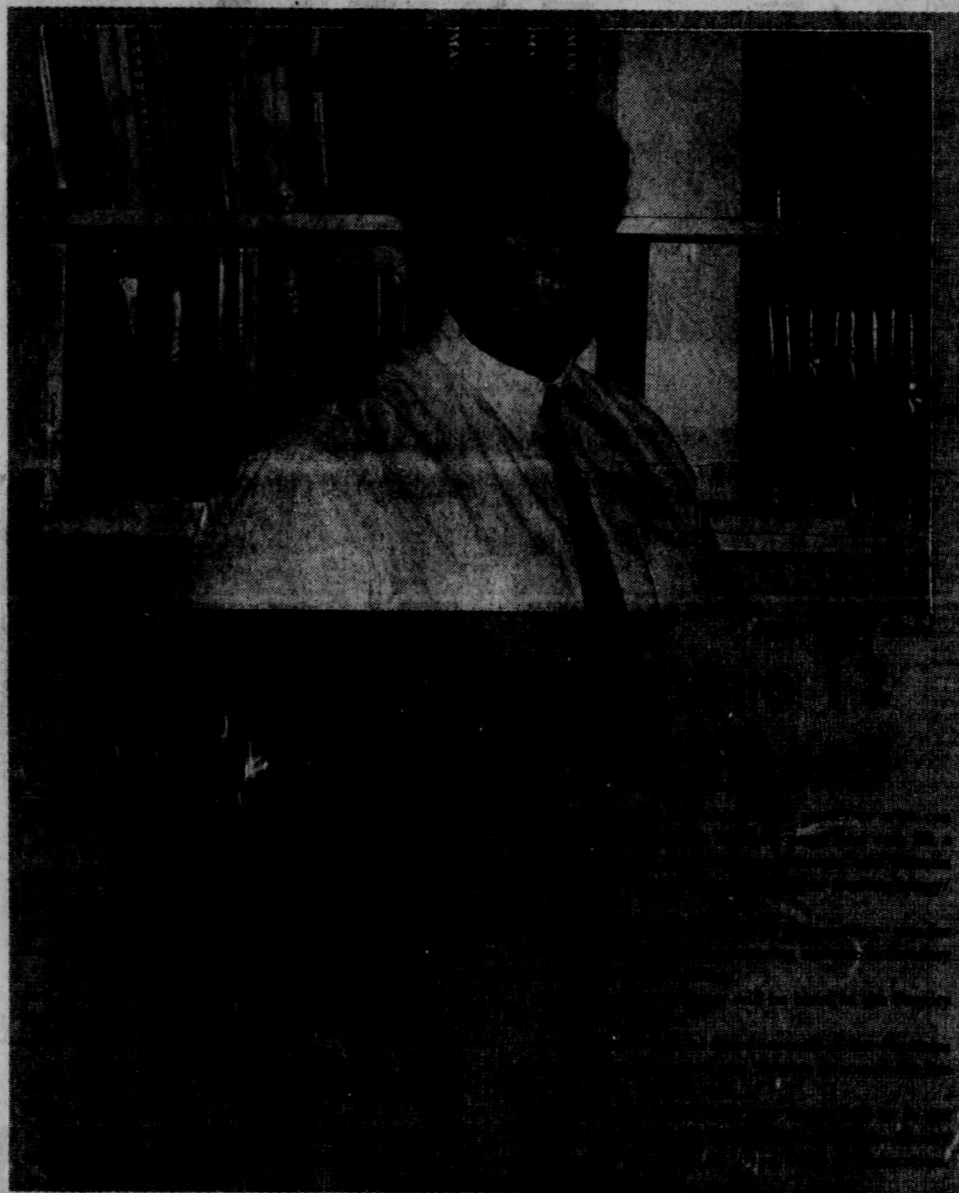
"Then we went the other way and separated the lab from the lecture because of timing and scheduling problems."

"So an analysis is definitely an option to be considered," Visentin concluded.



UNB's Top Athletes for 1997: Ken Carroll, Michelle MacWhirter, Chantal Martin, Iain Tennent, Tina Cormier  
MARIA PAISLEY PHOTO

## Athletics Awards Banquet See Sports, Page 9



Mr. Cotton Head returns  
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## UNB to review Political Science

GORDON LOANE  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Dean of Law Anne LaForest has been named to chair a three person external review team which is examining all aspects of the operation of UNB's Political Science Department this week.

Joining Dean LaForest is Dr. Jane Jensen of the Political Science Department at the Université de Montréal and Dr. Peter Aucoin of the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The review team has been seeking input from Political Science undergraduate and graduate students, professors both past and present and various administrators as it goes about examining a number of difficulties in the Department of late and recommending a path for the future.

UNB's Vice-President Academic Louis Visentin does not deny that an ideological split has developed among the five full-time faculty members in Political Science.

The split resulted in a situation last year in which professors in the Department could not agree on a short list of potential candidates to fill a full-time vacancy.

The position remains as yet unfilled.

Professor Gary Allen has tendered his resignation as Chair of the Department but was asked to stay on until the external review team completes its work, according to Visentin.

The Vice-President Academic also confirms that several other social

scientists in other departments in the Faculty of Arts have become involved in the Political Science Department to help sort out the difficulties.

Visentin has asked the external review team to prepare a list of short and long term recommendations for the Department.

He also wants to get a clear idea of what the history of the Department is, how it has changed, what the hiring difficulty has been about and suggestions on some directions for the future.

"I would like to know and so would Dean of Arts Peter Kent, what particular direction political science departments are going nationally and internationally, where the department might fit and how it should build," he said.

Visentin also hopes the external review team can come up with some recommendations on two other important issues for the Department.

One concerns equity issues. There is a need to improve the gender balance in the all-male Political Science Department, according to Visentin.

"But equity includes not only gender but the hiring of visible minorities, the physically challenged and native Canadians as well," he said.

"There is also a need to examine curriculum issues in the Department and determine a future direction."

It should be noted that the Political Science Department has recently lost two full-time professors due to

retirement.

But Visentin has agreed again this year to the hiring of a full-time tenure track professor, despite difficulties in selecting a suitable list of candidates last year.

"Part of the reason they are getting an appointment this year is because there is extra demand for Political Science courses and faculty members have done some things to try to ameliorate the difficulties in the department," he said.

"I think I owe it to the students to send a signal that Political Science is not dying, that it is an important area of the university."

Whether the Department is strengthened by more full-time appointments in the immediate future will be a decision made by academics in the Faculty of Arts as a part of the staffing exercise, Visentin emphasized.

But part of the reality for the Political Science Department, as well as other departments, is the fact that part-time stipends may still be needed in the immediate future.

"It is not by design that we want to keep course offerings delivered by sessionals."

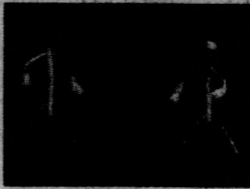
Visentin does point out that thirty-three professors in the Faculty of Arts have opted for early retirement in recent years and not all can be replaced immediately.

He also points to the university's fiscal reality noting that provincial operating grants have been cut two per cent each year of late.



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Friday: April 11

# Last Class BASH



Where Friday Afternoons  
are always drafty

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per pitcher  
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