

UNB and Dalhousie link together

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The Office of the Dean of Students and the Department of Extension and Summer Session are compiling an **Inventory of Tutors** for the 1994-95 academic year. Graduate and senior undergraduate students who enjoy teaching others are invited to apply to be included in the **Inventory**.

Application Forms are available at:

Help Centre, SUB;
Office of the Dean of Students
(Room 8, Alumni Building);
and the Department of Extension
& Summer Session

Application deadline:
September 30, 1994

For information contact:
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Ass't. Dean of Students
453-4898
or
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Adult Learner Services
453-4852

Two Maritime universities have joined resources to improve service to students on their campuses.

Dalhousie University and the University of New Brunswick are collaborating on a student information project that will enable faculty and staff to do their jobs better, which in turn will enable them to serve students better.

"We are developing a records system that will handle information from the time a student first inquires about the university through to becoming an alumnus," says Deanne Dennison, registrar on UNB's Fredericton campus. "The quicker we can turn information around, the quicker we can serve students. Registrars' offices will be winners along with faculty, other staff, and students."

In Halifax, Dal registrar Gudrun Curri also expresses excitement at the prospects. "With the new system, faculties and academic departments will have better access to data entry and information," she says. "They will be able to generate their own reports and access data. As for the students, they will be able to view their own transcripts, do class and address changes, and even request transcripts." It will also provide easy integration with other administrative systems, such as financial and personnel, and allow for a single identification system for students, faculty, and staff—as opposed to many separate ones.

The project originated at Dalhousie. Darrell McKnight, UNB's manager of information services, saw a presentation on the system and talked with Dal's director of Administrative Computing Services, Ken Maharaj, about cooperating on it. Both universities appreciated the benefits of doing the project jointly. "The sharing of resources translates into reduced expenditures for each institution, a shortened development period, using the newest technology at each place, and having two sets of experts on the project," Mr. Maharaj explains. "The end product will be a student information system that meets the needs of not only Dalhousie and UNB but also other universities." The expertise for the new system will be developed in the Maritimes. Its computing functions will move from a mainframe, terminal-based system to a microcomputer environment where people can examine or manipulate data in their own offices. "This new computing environment can be easily modified and enhanced and will allow for easy exchange of information not only within each university but also with other institutions," Mr. McKnight says.

Aptly titled TheSIS—which stands for the student information system—it involves a lot of investigation and original work, but the team members in the two cities

aren't expecting degrees from their universities at completion in spring 1996. In Fredericton, an assistant registrar, database administrator and programmer analyst are dedicated to TheSIS. Halifax members include an associate registrar, a manager of systems development and a manager of data administration. They are collaborating via Internet, fax, phone, videoconferencing, as well as on-site visits.

UNB's pilot focuses on enrolment management functions, such as student retention and general inquiries into the student information database. "The main benefit at UNB will be to provide a general online query facility that will replace the thousands of printed reports currently done," says Mr. McKnight. Dal's pilot, already well underway, focuses on admissions, administration and other aspects complementary to UNB's efforts.

"There are some differences in the administrative responsibilities in our respective offices, but we don't expect them to pose problems," says Mr. McKnight. For example, all aspects of financial aid are part of the responsibilities of the Registrar's Office at Dal, but they aren't at UNB. Similarly classroom allocation at UNB is a charge of the Registrar's Office—but not at Dal.

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