

Steeves says council is among the best in Canada

Fud has only words of praise for UNB's Student Representative Council's entire working system. Fud Steeves, who officially leaves the office of Comptroller of the SRC Monday night, said he thinks our Council is among "the best comparatively in Canada." This, he said, "is not a blind statement." His judgement, he explained, comes from personal experience and a chance to compare ourselves with other universities.

Steeves made the comparison while discussing what he feels he has accomplished in position over the past year.

"The job of comptroller is not one for a reformer," he said. "My main job was to keep up the status quo, to keep things running smoothly around here. When running for the position you can't say you intend to try to keep things the same; you won't get elected, but that's mainly what the job entails."

"But there are a few things I feel I've done like getting the Yearbook back on its feet with the highest sales in years, setting up Tempo with CBZ which is great for publicity, setting up a division with regards to entertainment (Pat Flanagan, assistant comptroller, was in charge of soliciting entertainment for UNB), reviewed activity awards... we have one of the healthiest surpluses, even if some of it is a carry over. We got UNB a new ring design, the most revenue from the campus media not to mention an investment portfolio which puts our idle money to work."

Steeves added it is a good system but takes a lot of work to keep going.

"I made a few minor revisions here and there but basically it's the same. You know we've never had a debt in at least five years," he said.

Steeves also mentioned he had some recommendations for the new Comptroller. He suggested the Comptroller and Assistant Comptroller be elected separately, one in the fall and one in the spring instead of losing the entire financial executive at once. He said he would like to see a new direction for the drama club, perhaps presenting some comedies at noon in the ballroom instead of spending all their time in "heavy theatre".

Limits should be set on budgets of certain clubs on campus. "Give them a definite amount and let them set their own priorities," he said.

Honoraria should go back to what it used to be, not a payment one automatically received for the job but for outstanding services rendered.

"I'd also like to see a Conference Officer set up to check on how people are chosen to attend conferences and what kind of feedback we can get," he added.

A general recommendation he suggested for the new comptroller was "day to day, deal out more authority, not to spread himself too thin".

Asked if he thinks he has accomplished everything he has set out to do, he replied, "I really do. But I don't want people to say 'he was a great comptroller, but that he was a good guy to deal with; he really tried.' Because I did try, very hard."

He added he had a lot of "really good people to work with" like Pat Flanagan and the senior staff of the major organizations.

Steeves also feels the SRC has built up a respectable reputation within the community. "With regard to building a corporate image, we stand as not small time charlie business. We are no longer classed as little students doing a little job."

He considers the most difficult part of the job mixing academics with the job itself. Steeves also

dislikes "shooting down requests for funds and finds it very hard to distinguish between what he would like to do with an issue and what policy says he should do."

How has he benefited from the experience? His reaction was one of hesitation.

"In many ways, I think. It mainly taught me responsibility," he answered. "But responsibility can be bad sometimes, especially when people depend on you and you begin to work very hard; academics are difficult to fit in and you are the only one you can depend on there. After all, as comptroller I help maintain an office staff and have the final say on \$150,000. If anyone tried to come in and reform the position it would take so much time they would have to be on permanent staff."

Increasing honoraria is an important issue Steeves is sure the next comptroller will have to contend with, as well as convincing people the present SRC set up is a good one, already working well.

Steeves also worries about communicating with the students on campus and getting people interested. He added the new man will have to learn to budget his time, establishing his priorities. Steeves also warned him about "writer's cramp from signing my name so much!"

He feels the average student does not understand the amount of work the job entails.

"There are a lot of hassles and headaches but it's great. No one can really understand the job or 20 students would be running at once."

How do we combat this student apathy? Steeves doesn't believe there is such a thing.

"Apathy is really a myth. It's just getting student opinion. I know people on this campus have opinions but the problem is soliciting them. We've got to get

new ways besides questionnaires and surveys, and I don't think closed circuit TV is the answer either."

Steeves said the toughest part of the whole thing is going to be the transition, from people depending on you, and doing a lot of work, to being not-so-involved again.

"I'm really going to miss it. But it will be a good feeling to come back in 10 years and say, I really did something up there."



SRC Comptroller Fud Steeves, in discussing his year as financial executive, has nothing but praise for the Council's working system. Attending his final meeting this Monday night, Steeves will be replaced by Chris Gilliss.

Neale ends second term as SRC president

Roy Neale's name has floated around a lot on this campus. After all, he is the only SRC President to serve two consecutive terms in office.

But he will officially step down Monday night, leaving behind him a list of accomplishments... as he says, "I have accomplished every single thing I said I would in campaign promises of years gone by."

With two terms as head of the SRC under his belt, Neale has seen a great many changes at UNB.

many he remembers "off the top of his head" such as setting up a travel office, "the most complete in Canada", originating the Pubs Officer and the Campus Co-ordinator as well as Fall Festival. Other issues he has dealt with are the parking policy, the new multi-purpose arena, new SUB road, better medical services and establishing Canada Manpower on campus and Counselling Services improvements. The Dean of Students was a new position founded during his terms besides the accommodations office splitting off, "so now it is a full time job for some people."

He prophesized the new President will have to "try to survive" firstly. He also feels he will have to "reconcile to the fact that there are three levels of government on this campus which are probably incompatible with each other."

"Someone is going to have to do something. He will also have to deal with student loans as far as the new federal plans go and continue on in some sort of effort for more university housing. I feel I've accomplished enough in my term and it's time to give someone else a chance, but their job won't be any easier as you can see," he said.

Finding time to do the job properly was one of the most prominent difficulties Neale faced. "It is so hard to find time to go to the things I should go and also to always be aware of what's going on. Not only is it a never ending job, it's so time consuming."

He said he feels he has benefited greatly from the experience. "I've gotten to know a lot of people, and how the university works which damn few people do know," he

With regard to Council itself, Neale complained, "it is so disappointing so few people run for the thing. At times members don't do as much as they should but rack it up against the rest of Canada, it's as good as anywhere and better than most."

Neale and comptroller Fud Steeves both felt this also applied to many SRC funded organizations at UNB such as The Brunswickan and CHSR.

With so many good organizations to work with for students, Neale said he feels fighting student apathy begins right with the SRC itself. "In many cases the councillors themselves, individually, should get out and do something. They often spend too much time telling the executive what they should and shouldn't be doing. Instead of dressing down people, they should be trying to get something going themselves. It all starts with them to a great extent," he explained.

Generally he feels the SRC has had the most successful year they have ever had in terms of getting things done, getting programs off the ground and working. "I don't think we'll see another one like this one for a long time," he said.

Neale considers the experience gained to be "invaluable" personally, and as a business learning situation. But he also mentioned the job would have been even more difficult if it hadn't been for the co-operation of the administration -- President Anderson, Vice President Macaulay, Registrar Blue and especially Dean of Students Frank Wilson.

"We really appreciated the help we got from the administration and we hope the new executive will

work with them as efficiently. I'm sure we have left everything in good hands," he added.

Asked how he felt about the controversy concerning a student not being able to run for more than two consecutive terms in the same executive position, Neale said he thought the idea was "crap".

Two council members earlier brought a similar motion before the SRC which would limit the number of terms, when Neale announced his intention to run for a third time. However, the matter appeared to dropped when Neale decided to pull his name from the race, even though if the motion had won, it would not have affected this election.

Neale said he thinks it should be up to students to decide they want a particular person for more than two terms. Anyone should have the right to run any number of times. He does not think someone would become stale in the job, and the experience gained would only help. In short, it should be the students' choice.

As for recommendations for the new President, Neale said he would give those at the last Council meeting for the old executive, Monday night.

He said he feels he has done his part and hopes the students on campus get more involved instead of being so idle. He added that even getting aware of what's happening at UNB would help and getting up and voicing an opinion would be even better.

"I'm satisfied with the job I've done. I've enjoyed the work and the people. I only hope the next President finds the position as rewarding as I have," he concluded.



Monday night, Roy Neale, will step down as SRC President, the only one to serve two consecutive terms. Peter Galoska was elected Neale's successor, Wednesday, February 14.