

Donation Update

By Cindy Venema

The \$20 Capital Campaign Donation for a new Student's Union building and for renovations to the Cass building has been a heated topic at UPEI. Approximately 580 students have taken their donations back, and now the Student's Union is looking at ulterior ways of getting the money; one option is making the donation mandatory.

On Sunday night the council met and a motion was brought forward that the question of whether students should pay a

mandatory donation go to referendum next spring.

An alternative idea to the referendum mentioned was that the SU start a solid campaign to educate the students about the capital campaign and the benefits of the donation.

The councillors debated the issue. One argument was that in the past five years there has only been a 10% turn out of voting students, and therefore there is a question of validity with a referendum. This argument was countered with the point that councillors of the Student's Union were elected under the same circumstances and so would that make the SU invalid too?

Another argument against the referendum was that the SU represents students past, present, and future and therefore the Union cannot just look at the present students; rather, they must acknowledge past Capital campaigns that improved the university and look at future students and their needs, such as replacing a quickly declining SU building.

The motion to go to referendum about the \$20 donation was denied.

The SU, however, made a new motion that they would actively begin educating the students about the donation.

This motion was passed.

The SU's first step in the education campaign is going to be a letter to all the students over the holidays. The SU is hoping that Alumni and the Board of Governors will financially assist in this campaign, seeing as how it will be beneficial for all parties involved.

Chris Burns, SU president told council that he is happy that they are taking this approach, "We were going where we wanted, but we missed a step and this fills in the hole".

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