

Lack of direction from council may cost CIMN funding

BY KAREN RAWLINES & TODDMACLEAN

According to council at its April 5 meeting, the budget committee dealing with CIMN's funding proposal had a lack of "direction," therefore "did not even discuss" the station's budget.

Two years ago, the student union passed a motion to cut funding from the campus radio station as it was preparing to make the switch to FM. This motion was to be approximately one year in duration, and the state of the station's budget was to be reviewed every year thereafter. The review would possibly allow the reinstatement of the station's funding. No such review has taken place.

The budget committee reviewed proposals before submitting the 1998-99 budget to council. UPEI Student Union general manager Heather Love said that the reinstatement of CIMN funds was not up to the budget committee.

"It was an issue for council to review," Love said. "There was confusion [surrounding the review of CIMN's proposal] on behalf of many reasons."

CIMN station manager Chris Glencross said that they had applied for approximately \$12,000 dollars. The station had been working on a shoe-string budget for the last two years, with money only going to equipment. The management team of the station has operated on a volunteer status.

Despite feeling that they deserved what funding they asked for, Glencross admitted that they weren't expecting to get all that was requested.

This year has been as critical as others for equipment purchases, as much of the station was "so dilapidated it wasn't operable," Glencross said. "Right now we've been spending money on replacing broken equipment."

The bulk of the proposal they put forward would be put toward purchasing new equipment, which is crucial to the running of the station. CIMN has a goal of going FM by the time the new student union building has opened its doors. Glencross feels that by buying some of the equipment necessary for going FM as time goes along rather than spending a lot all at once is realistic.

Jamy-Ellen Proud, Vice President Internal, was dismayed that CIMN's proposal was not discussed, and felt that the committee was "irresponsible not to take it [the proposal] to council."

"No one knew it [CIMN's proposal] wasn't given proper consideration until Friday," Proud added. "We couldn't have asked to give them direction if we didn't know they needed direction."

UPEI Student Union president Janice Broderick refused comment on the issue.

The budget was eventually tabled at the meeting due to a motion put forward by Proud. The 1998-99 budget will now be the responsibility of next year's council, the members of which were sworn in at the meeting.

Although it was not the worst outcome possible, many closely affiliated with CIMN still feel that an injustice was done when the proposal was

not even given consideration.

Pauline Tran, vice president internal-elect, felt that Proud was just in saying the budget committee acted irresponsibly.

"I'm very, very disappointed," Tran said. "It was the first proposal not taken to the budget committee."

She adds that the importance of CIMN as an information medium and a suborganization is undeniable.

"Apathy at UPEI is unbelievable," Tran said. "We need as many sources [of information] as possible." Tran illustrated her point by mentioning the fact that only approximately eleven percent of the campus exercised their right to vote at this election.

Colin Roop, CIMN volunteer and Board of Directors member, does not feel that anything has been resolved with the tabling of the motion, and commented that miscommunication was a clear problem in the progression of the situation.

"There was no attempt at all to have him [the station manager] contacted," Roop said.

Although Roop was disappointed with this meeting, he was not surprised with the outcome.

"The key is for people to drop their personal biases; this requires a lot of effort on both parties," he said. "I have strong doubts that that will happen though. I've been through three councils now and this hasn't happened."

Still, Glencross is thankful for the solid base of approximately 30 volunteers that

have helped make the difference this year, and feels that the fact that more are volunteering every week is positive to CIMN's growth. Next year's staff of CIMN intend to be on the council's backs.

"We're lucky that next year's [station] executive knows it's coming," he said, in reference to the budget. "They

know they'll have to deal with this."

Preparation appears to be something that the station is relying on to get them past these obstacles.

"The only reason we're still alive today is pure stubbornness," Glencross said. "The volunteers want it."

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