

PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF 250 COURSES

by Valerie Mansour

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The elimination of 250 courses is one recommendation in a forty page document on the future of the University of New Brunswick issued by an academic and campus planning committee.

The report says the university is currently offering 262 undergraduate courses with enrolment of less than six. The committee recommends that these courses be consolidated or eliminated unless "it can be clearly shown that they are essential" to the program.

The report which has been in preparation for 1 1/2 years, discusses every aspect of the university with recommendations for changes based on projected future decreases in enrolment.

The committee decided the university should work towards increasing rather than decreasing the student/faculty ratio. "The decrease in numbers of students should mean lower operating costs but there

are opposing factors. Most physical facilities and most services will be maintained, the proportion of students in high cost professional schools will increase, and higher faculty salaries would mean that the unit cost would

the two students on the 18 member committee said the report is not very realistic. "The committee recognized something has to be done because we are facing a decrease in enrolment. But they're asking every department to do more with less money

senate and then to the Board of Governors before being re-written.

Plourde said students will be in a bad position. "Last year the committee sent letters to 24 groups asking for input. The Student Representative Council was the only group that didn't reply."

"Now the administration can tell the students they were given a chance but didn't respond."

Steve Berube, president of this year's council, said members are presently reading the report and will be presenting a position to the committee.

Other recommendations in the report include pressing for funds to carry out the capital construction and renovation projects already recommended through the university's planning office, and investigating the possibility of a fund-raising campaign for the university.

UNB plans to impress upon their government the importance of long-range planning and the re-examination of the budgeting formulae which are inadequate for periods of decreasing enrolment.



undergo substantial increase," according to the report.

Faculty members will be hard hit. The report recommends that the university "encourage" leaves of absence, especially for senior highly paid faculty members, and voluntary early retirement. They want to examine the policy of granting tenure and encourage the in-house mobility of faculty.

Andre Plourde, one of

and less people."

"Students will ultimately pay the price," Plourde said.

The report stressed improving the quality of education while making the necessary cutbacks. It reads, "the committee has recognized the university cannot afford to do all things well, but that what it does do, it must do well."

The document is not binding at present, but on December 8 it will be presented to the university

BUSINESS SOCIETY 'And What Are You Planning For Next Year?'

I think for this week I will switch from the normal procedure of telling the reader all the great things the Business Society has completed, or is getting ready to start, to a topic which should be of interest to all students. It has to do with each and every student enrolled in this institution. The big question: What are you doing here? What are you going to do next year? Is it worth while? For the senior students on campus I suspect they hear the words, "What are you planning for next year?" almost every day. For Business students I feel they have a little better chance on answering that question than students from other faculties because we have been trained in four years in the intricacies of the business world in order that we may in fact enter the business world after graduation. I used the

word 'train' which is not what is taking place in other faculties. Students involved in other fields are getting educated but with the economy the way it is today they have a very difficult task ahead of them in getting a job related to their studies. Does this mean that UPEI has failed them?

On the other hand the Business students may be getting trained and not educated. These words have been uttered many times. The fact is that a high percentage of Business grads. land jobs. Does this mean the Business department has been successful in their job? Business students and business people in general have been accused of being capitalists while we reply that at least we can find work.

Does the fact that we can find work in business

after we graduate mean we are superior to say, a psychology major who goes out West after graduation and works in the oil fields? I dare say not.

I may have strayed a bit from the theme of this article but my point is why didn't the psych. major go out West 4 years ago and is the Business student a University student or just in training school. For first and second year students the problem of what to do next year is not important as of yet but what happens if after 2 years they feel they are in the wrong discipline. Did they waste 2 years of their life? I myself graduated from high school and without hesitation enrolled in UPEI's business program. Four years later, which is this year, can I say I have been educated or trained? If I get a job when I

graduate, does this mean UPEI has done a good job with me? If the philosophy major doesn't get a job did UPEI fail him/her? Third and Fourth year students have to make decisions which are going to play an important role in their life. First and Second year students can push them off for a year or two, then hit the panic button. All students should try and figure out why they are here and make sure it matches your answer to the question, "What are you going to do after graduation?" If your answer is, "I am going to get a job", then why not get the job now and get four years of real life training than four years of book training or theory education.

See you next week.

Brian Gaudet
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