

President's Message

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations I'd like to bid a warm welcome to each of the new members of faculty, and to offer them and our returning col-

leagues best wishes for the 2000-2001 academic year.

A few words about the Federation are probably appropriate at this time. The FNBFA is a provincial federation of all the faculty associations in New Brunswick. Whereas your faculty association safeguards your rights within your University, the FNBFA promotes the interests of the professors and librarians throughout the province. We lobby both the provincial and federal politicians as well as the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and provide a number of services to your local association. Recently, for example, we have obtained the agreement of the provincial government to make changes to pensions legislation which will be favourable to all university faculty, regardless of the type of plan they are in.

You are encouraged particularly to attend our Annual Plenary Session and General Meeting held in May (or, occasionally, in April) each year, where suggestions for changes in priorities may be made.

On the premise that a loss at arbitration of any one of the associations represents a loss for us all, we support your association financially at arbitrations through our Legal Defence fund.

Additionally, we support N.B. students through one (or, under exceptional circumstances, two) annually-awarded 4-year scholarship as well as a medal awarded to a student in each of the province's high schools. The Federation annually recognizes a person deemed to have strongly contributed to the advancement of post-secondary education in New Brunswick by awarding the Prix Nicole Raymond Award.

We also award, through our Status of Women Committee, an

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Notice

Board Meeting

10:30 am November 18, 2000

Main Board Room
Ground Floor
Victoria Health Centre
Brunswick Street,
Fredericton

All FNBFA Board meetings are open to individual faculty members, and an invitation to attend is extended to anyone wishing to do so

YOUR OPINIONS ARE WELCOMED

A special invitation is extended to those members of local associations who are interested in commenting upon university life in general. Readers are invited to send their opinions and/or comments, in writing, to:

FNBFA Bulletin
65 Brunswick, Suite 297,
Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5

The FNBFA is governed by a board of directors, comprising a representative from each of the local associations, that determines its policies and meets at regular (open) board meetings.

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COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

In November of 1999, in response to the Renewal Report, the Executive of FNBFA formed the Communications Committee. The new committee's mandate is to attempt to improve communications with both the public (through the media) and our own members (through the Bulletin, the Web-site and any other means possible). Since its inception in November of 1999, the Communications Committee has been busy attempting to meet its two main objectives.

Public Awareness:

In order to improve the dissemination of FNBFA's ideas, the Communications Committee has arranged meetings with the opinion editors of the major daily newspapers within the province. To date we have met with the opinion editors of the Daily Gleaner and the Moncton Times Transcript. As a result of these meetings we have managed to secure space for articles in both of these dailies. The Daily Gleaner promised to publish at least three of our articles (two have already been published: the first was reproduced in the last Bulletin, the second is reprinted in this edition.) We have also been promised at least one article in the Moncton Times Transcript. Both papers have also assured us of further goodwill in the future. The committee is planning to meet with the opinion editor of the Telegraph Journal in the early fall.

Besides attempting to develop stronger liaisons with the daily newspapers, the Communications Committee has also tried to strengthen ties with local radio and TV. In this regard, we have sent letters to 77 individual local radio and TV stations to let them know (or, in some cases, remind them) that FNBFA is available to comment on topics which are germane to our organization.

Lastly, the committee is working on ways to ensure that FNBFA's articles are printed in the local papers. At the last board meeting it was decided to enlist the help of local associations in this matter. It was then determined that the prospective article would be sent first to the local association (rather than to the editor of the local paper) and that the local association (which may have a better relationship with its own local paper) would attempt to secure its

publication.

Internal Communications:

In addition to its pro-active public-awareness campaign, the Communications Committee has also been grappling with the problem of how to improve internal communications. To this end, the committee has been actively seeking to improve the Bulletin and intends to make it a more regular feature. In the past, the Bulletin has been used to inform members of what the association had done for them over the previous few months. This function will continue, but the committee hopes also to introduce new articles to inform members of other matters which may be of future interest. We have already added, (on the advice of the Renewal Committee), a section which highlights the contributions and achievements of professors and librarians recommended by their local associations. It is hoped that all associations will submit articles describing people within their organization deemed worthy of special notice.

The Communications Committee has also been given the responsibility of garnering information to be used on FNBFA's website. For those of you who have yet to visit the website, I strongly urge you to do so - the address is

<http://www.fnbfa.nb.ca>

The site is full of information pertinent to the various local associations and also has connections to other informative websites. Please feel free to use the information on the website. Don't forget it is your website! I especially recommend perusing the briefs that the Federation has given over the last few years. They are very informative!

In closing, I should like to say that the Communications Committee is working on a number of new initiatives concerning both public and member awareness, some of which are currently under review by the Board. I look forward to detailing these in a future edition of the Bulletin.

Ian Fraser,
Chair.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

annual monetary prize to each of a 1st/2nd year student and a 3rd/4th year student for the best essay in women's studies.

This newsletter, The Bulletin, communicates with the membership at large. You are also invited

to visit our Web site currently located at

<http://www.fnbfa.nb.ca>

The FNBFA is a member of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and ad-

heres to its principles. It is my earnest hope that our new members will take an interest in the affairs of the Federation and will support our efforts to enhance the working conditions of New Brunswick faculty and librarians.

Jack Vanderlinde,
President, FNBFA

Association Executives

Association des bibliothécaires, professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton

Greg Allain, Président (Sociologie)
Johann Vallerand, Secrétaire (Administration)
Hélène Oigny, Trésorière (Comptabilité)
Paul Collette, Président, Comité des griefs (Administration)

Association des bibliothécaires professeures, et professeurs du centre universitaire St. Louis-Maillet, Edmundston

Yves Martin, Président (Biologie)
Janine Gallant, Secrétaire (Français)
Nancy Gélinas, Trésorière (Sciences Forestières)
Luc Vigneault, Vice-Président (Philosophie)
André Leclerc, Délégué-syndical (Economie)
France Marquis, Conseillère (Sciences Infirmières)
Denis Millas, Conseiller (Sociologie)
Roger Roy, Conseiller (Sciences Forestières)
Daniel Bélanger, Président-sortant (Biologie)

Faculty Association of St. Thomas University

Colm Kelly, President (Sociology)
Gayle McDonald, Past-President (Sociology)
Kim Fenwick, Secretary (psychology)
Chris MacCormick, Treasurer (Criminology)

Association des professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Moncton à Shippagan

Lionel Dionne, Président (Gestion)
Christiane St-Pierre, Secrétaire (Français)
Benoit Ferron, Trésorier (Psychologie)
André Gibbs, Président, Comité des griefs (Sciences sociales)
Fernande Paulin, Conseillère (Techniques de bureau)

Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers

Melanie Wiber, President (Anthropology)
Esam Hussein, Vice-President (Mechanical Engineering)
Pam Robinson, Secretary (Nursing)
Jack Vanderlinde, Treasurer (Physics)
Rick McGaw, Chair, Grievance Officer (Economics)

Mount Allison Faculty Association

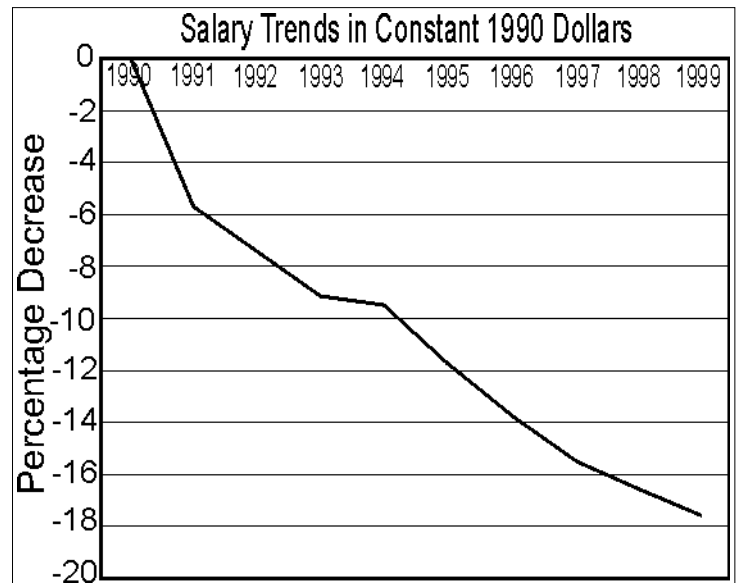
Bob Rosebrugh, President (Math/Comp. Sci.)
Rob Ireland, Vice-President (Biology)
Robert Lapp, Secretary/Membership (English)
Ivan Cohen, Treasurer (Classics)
Terry Craig, Grievance Officer (English)
Erin Steufer, Collective Bargaining Officer (Sociology)
Berkeley Fleming, Past-President (Sociology)

FACULTY "DONATIONS" GO WITHOUT NOTICE

I am indebted to my friend and colleague, Dr. David Balzarini (Physics, UBC) for his article "The Largest Donations Go Without Notice", which was originally prepared by him in 1991 for publication in the CAUT Bulletin. It has been revised and updated to reflect the current situation in New Brunswick. (The comparable situation in Canada as a whole, coincidentally, is exactly the same.)

Frequently, we hear announcements of donations to our universities. Our universities solicit and praise those responsible for the donations. In fact, universities often give honorary degrees to some of the individuals who give money for buildings or various projects.

Careful examination reveals, however, that the faculty members themselves have "donated" large sums without receiving any recognition at all. How has this happened? Quite simply, because academic salaries in general have not kept pace with inflation. In fact, they have decreased in real terms over the last decade, as can be seen from the following chart. The chart shows the percentage amount by which average (mean) median academic salaries in New Brunswick are below 1990 levels when inflation is taken into account.



If we are to calculate the total loss sustained by New Brunswick faculty members since 1990, we find that an individual at the average median salary has "donated" more than \$64,000.00 - i.e. almost a whole year's salary - in inflation-adjusted dollars since 1990. All without even the slightest bit of notice!

Desmond Morley
Executive Director

Status of Women Prize 2000

At its August meeting the Board of Directors approved the two Status of Women prizes awarded each year to undergraduate students studying on New Brunswick campuses. This year's winners are Jane Howard of St. Thomas University and Maggie Atkinson-Lamb of Mount Allison University.

Jane Howard's essay, titled "Oral History", features interviews with three generations of female members of her own family woven into the context of the historical and sociological conditions prevailing in the family, in education and in the labour market during this century. Her essay illustrates the gradual breakdown of social and ideological barriers

that limited women's lives in the past and some of the difficult choices women face in the present.

Maggie Atkinson-Lamb's essay "Rediscovering Richier" provides a positive, feminist interpretation of the work of French post-war sculptor Germaine Richier. A number of art critics, particularly male art critics, had seen death and destruction, even a streak of masochism, in the corrosive texture of Richier's sculptures. Feminists, on the other hand, have challenged the conventional interpretations and found in Richier's sculptures the expression of living form, metamorphosis, gestation, growth and change. Maggie Atkinson-Lamb

takes this perspective one step further, proposing that Richier's sculptures portray powerful, hybrid goddesses who convey the idea of rejuvenation and renewal. She bases her interpretation on Richier's diaries and writings in which Richier expresses a keen interest in mythology, folktales and nature, particularly in the insect world.

The student essay prize will be held again during the coming academic year.

Guidelines for the contest are available at the FNBFA office and on the web page

<http://www.fnbfa.nb.ca>

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION STILL BEST CHOICE

By Jack Vanderlinde for the Daily Gleaner

A professor at a local university last week received a disturbing telephone call from one of his students. The student had successfully completed her first year of undergraduate studies last Spring, but was distressed because her father had advised her against resuming her university studies next September. He had encouraged her, instead, to enroll in a Community College programme to “learn some marketable skills” rather than “wind up flipping hamburgers”.

Unfortunately, this well-intended advice obviously had been based on the mistaken – but alarmingly prevalent – belief that university graduates experience difficulty in finding well-paid full-time jobs relating to their particular interests.

A recent study has shown, for example, that even when jobs were at their most scarce during the early 1990's, the majority of university graduates who at first had only been successful in finding jobs in the service sector went on to find jobs in their own fields of study, or in related fields, within two years; and that virtually all of them had found relevant work within five years. In view of the abysmally poor state of the employment market at the beginning of the last decade, this is very revealing.

Successive New Brunswick

governments of different political stripes have, year after year, invested - ostensibly - as much as they could afford in this province's university system. No doubt this benevolence is due to a political environment where the integrity of the health care system and “jobs, jobs, jobs” head every provincial government's agenda. They recognize that university graduation almost invariably leads to well-paid full-time employment and is vital to the future of the Province.

Recently published Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) data confirm the employability of University graduates. Although, according to HRDC, in 1998 there were nearly 3,000 more university graduates in New Brunswick than there were in 1997, it appears that an even greater number found jobs as the unemployment rate for this group fell slightly (to 5.1% from 5.2% in the previous year). Last year their job-finding experience in this province was even more encouraging. In 1999 there were almost 5,000 more people with a university degree than there were in 1998, but the unemployment rate for university graduates again fell – from 5.1% to 4.4% – with everyone who was looking for a full-time job having found one. As well, 700 fewer university graduates held part-time jobs than in the previous year. In comparison, the 1999 unemployment rate for

Community College graduates was 8.2%; that of High School graduates was 10.5%.

The universities are not in competition with the Community Colleges. Each has a different role. Frequently, in fact, university graduates go on to pursue Community College studies, and vice-versa. The Community Colleges, generally speaking, strive to give their students the job-skills which are currently in demand, changing from time to time with the vagaries of the economy. The universities, on the other hand – again, generally speaking – attempt at the undergraduate level to place as much emphasis on the development of individual adaptability and analytical thinking as they do on proficiency in a particular discipline.

During the current economic boom there are, overall, more full-time jobs available than at any time during the last decade. However, in times of an economic downturn, the historical statistics demonstrate that university graduates have been the least affected.

Not everyone is cut out to attend university but, in view of the employment statistics, every young person who has the necessary aptitude and motivation should do so. Those that do need not doubt that a University degree will equip them for meaningful, well-paid employment.

BLAIS SAYS "THANKS"



In photograph: 1996 Semeluk Scholarship recipient Normand Blais, who successfully completed his undergraduate studies in Education at l'Université de Moncton (Moncton Campus) earlier this year.

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by Normand to the Federation shortly after he had graduated. [Translated from the original French by Desmond Morley - Ed.]

"... I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to thank you for the enormous confidence you have placed in me during the last four years, and for the support which you have given to me during this short trip along the long road of life... I wish to thank you for all you have done, and for all the doors you have opened for me.

Sincerely,
Normand Blais"

We wish Normand well in all his future endeavours. We are confident that he will be successful, and we are pleased that we have been able to assist him in completing his undergraduate studies.

Executive Members 2000 - 2001

President

Jack Vanderlinde
(506) 453-4723

Vice-president

Claude Dionne
(506)858-4602

Secretary-treasurer

Daniel Bélanger
(506) 737-5151

Past President

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(506) 452-0634

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Legal Defence Fund

Jon Thompson(UNB)

Prix Nicole Raymond Award

(Vacant)

Public Relations

Ian Fraser

Scholarship Awards Committee

Daniel Bélanger(CUSLM)

Federation Office

65 Brunswick, suite 297

Fredericton, N.B.

E3B 1G5

Tel : (506) 458-8977

Fax: (506) 458-5620

Email: fnbfa@nbnet.nb.ca

Executive Director

Desmond A. Morley

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Patricia Lewington

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