



Attention: UNB Saint John Students' Representative Council 2016-17

RE: Increasing the Orientation Budget Line due to an increase in the Revenue from Orientation Fees

I am writing this proposal to increase the Orientation Budget due to an increase in student enrollment. I would respectfully ask that you consider increasing the Orientation budget by \$3500.

This year, the Orientation Budget was cut by \$5000. This is a huge cut to the Orientation Budget, especially since the number of first year students enrolled has increased significantly since 2015. As a result, orientation has suffered in terms of planning and execution, with fewer funds available for use.

The following is a breakdown of the total percentage spent from student fees on student based activities against our total honorarium costs based on the budgeted figures for the 2016-17 year as presented by the VP Finance:

Clubs and societies budget expense: \$12,000	Percent of budget expense: ~ 4%
Orientation budget expense: \$25,000	Percent of budget expense: ~ 8%
Social budget expense: \$38,000	Percent of budget expense: ~12%
Honorarium budget expense: \$67,842	Percent of budget expense: ~ 22%

As shown above, the organization is spending close to a quarter of its over all budget on honorarium, while other areas impacting student life have been cut from years previous. The percentage spent on the three main areas of student life are almost equal to the amount spent on honorarium.

Further, the orientation revenue is comprised of a first year orientation fee (budgeted \$14,000 this year) and supplemented from general student fees for an additional \$11,000, to give an overall budget this year of \$25,000. This makes the contribution from our general fees (\$140 per student, per year, not including first year orientation fee) less than 4% of the overall budget.

I would ask that we consider whether or not we want to be a council that focuses on our own self interest, or the interest of the whole student body. If the latter, we can't do that effectively by continuing to cut the budget of the activities that matter the most to the students.

To further support this request, I spoke with the registrar's office, and received some updated figures regarding student enrollment and registration for the fall. The most recent numbers I have received from the registrar's office (September 2nd) has stated that 618 new first year students are registered this year. That number reflects students who have signed up for classes in the fall of 2016 (September).

As per the budget for 2016-17, the budgeted amount was based on 350 new students. Given the new figures from the registrar's office, I believe there is an argument to increase the orientation budget as there is more revenue from more students attending UNBSJ this fall. This will ensure that all first year students have an exciting first week on our campus.

While I appreciate that when budgeting, we as an organization take the approach of estimating our revenues on the low side as a safe measure, I am confident in the numbers I have received from the registrar's office. Further, should the number of registered students decrease (whatever the reason may be), it is very unlikely that the overall number of registered students will dip as low as the previous number which were used for budgeting purposes (previously 350 students).

Finally, I would ask all of council to think back to their first year and what their experience was during that week. A week filled with lots of activities, prizes and an overall vibe of fun and excitement sets the tone for a positive year, and encourages students to attend future events. By increasing the budget of orientation, we are ensuring that the students in their first week on campus will have a positive experience that will follow them through the rest of their first year, and hopefully their degree.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Manzer
Vice-President Student Affairs
UNB-SRC