Policy on course selection by students
Graduate School New Brunswick

It has always been the Graduate School policy that students must have the approval of their advisers for their registrations, even though that is hard to monitor now that technology has replaced people. Nevertheless, students do not have the right to register for whatever they wish and registrations can be changed if caught in a timely way.

If a student should register for a course without such approval, and if the tuition is charged to the adviser's grant, or Department, or University account, the adviser, or Graduate Program has the right to refuse to pay for that course on the grounds that it is not related to the student's curriculum (defined broadly, not simply with regard to the work in that lab). In such cases the course can be canceled or, if not caught soon enough, the billing can be changed to the personal account of the student. Naturally, the student has some recourse to appeal within the program should there be a dispute over this.

It is important that students understand this. I therefore strongly recommend that programs make it clear to all students prior to registration and preregistration periods that they do not have carte blanche to register for courses, that they must have the approval of their advisers and Graduate Program, and that they could be subject to getting a bill for unapproved courses rejected by the advisor, or the Graduate Program.

Harvey Waterman
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
Graduate School, New Brunswick