

SM 3/14/67

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Academic Board

To: C.D. Nelson,
Head, Bio-Sciences Dept.
R.J. Baker,
Head, English Dept.

From: Registrar

10 April, 1967

At the April meeting of Senate the two University representatives on the Academic Board were requested to provide to Senate a regular written report on the activities of the Academic Board.

It was also decided at the Senate meeting that any major matters which arose in Senate which could be considered to be of interest to the Academic Board would be communicated to the Board following the decision in Senate.

The attached correspondence was part of the Agenda of the Senate meeting and the discussions in Senate revolved around the correspondence and more particularly around the impression given in the letters from Dean Chant that the Academic Board had rather more powers and interest than the reading of the Universities Act would convey.

D.P. Robertson
Secretary of Senate

DPR/md

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Academic Board 33

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



BURNABY 2, BRITISH COLUMBIA
Telephone 291-3211 Area code 604

March 15, 1967

SM 3/14/67

Dr. S. N. F. Chant,
Chairman,
The Academic Board for Higher Education
in British Columbia
3611 West 16th Avenue,
Vancouver. S. B. C.

Dear *S. N. F. Chant:*

Thank you very much for your letter of March 3, and let me assure you of my wholehearted desire to assist the Academic Board in any way possible to fulfill not only the statutory but the philosophical responsibilities which rest on the Board members' shoulders.

I would therefore most sincerely appreciate some clarification, and I realize this may best be accomplished at the time of your next meeting on our campus, if you would wish to place such an item on your agenda and invite me to sit with you while you discuss it. My problem is this - the terms academic developments and significant changes represent within the university community a continuous spectrum of events. Towards one end of the spectrum one would list minor though significant advances in the development of new teaching aids, or teaching equipment, with the establishment of new faculties or professional schools near the other end of the spectrum. There is no question in my mind but that thoughts regarding the latter should be discussed at great length in the Academic Board before the matter goes to the Senate of the university concerned. I can with somewhat less certainty assume that the Academic Board is not concerned with the development of teaching techniques.

Certain key faculty appointments carry with them the obligation, assumed or stated on behalf of the University, to support the research interests of the individual. This can, not infrequently, grow through a series of appointments into a significant change or a significant academic development. Is the Board therefore interested in faculty appointments?

SM 3 14/67 Academic Board

Conceptually I know exactly what you want, but to change this to a matter of routine practice and also to ensure some uniform level of communication to the Board from the three provincial universities will require, I suggest, the Board to be a little more precise than you have been in your letter.

In the meantime, let me briefly report that our budget for 1967-68 contains the development of no new departments, nor sub-departments or faculties.

It does provide for a minimum, and in some places sub-minimum, expansion of our teaching staff to cope with the anticipated 5,000 to 5,500 undergraduate and graduate student enrollment in September, 1967.

I believe that during this period we will finally be able to implement our undergraduate academic program in the area of physical development. This has been a commitment we have had since the University was first planned, but we have been unimpressed with the general quality of physical education programs in Canada and were unwilling to launch a program of our own along similar lines. We believe that we have now determined a viable approach to this important area of scholarship and it will involve interdepartmental, in fact interfaculty, co-operation to a great extent, and as you will have seen in our recent Senate minutes, the kinesiology program has been approved and a management committee established under the chairmanship of the Dean of Science.

Graduate work at the Master's level will commence in our Department of Philosophy, and other graduate programs will expand in response to the faculty capability to supervise the programs and the need for teaching assistants, which in turn provides the opportunity to give the graduate student the financial assistance most of them need. With minor exceptions, the size of the graduate program in the Department is therefore determined at the upper limit by the need for teaching assistants, but if good graduate students are not forthcoming in those numbers we augment the teaching assistant staff with the so-called dentists' wives.

I am happy to be able to advise the Board that our Department of Mathematics is building resolutely on both the applied and pure side and has a firm resolve to keep these two vital parts of mathematics in balance.

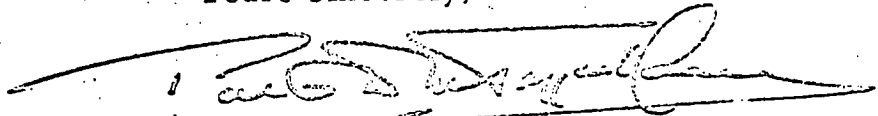
SM 3/4/67 Academic Board

We hope to add one faculty member to our Department of Athletics and Recreation, with an area of specialization in track and field. We have not developed this area as yet and it is important pedagogically in our Professional Development Program for teachers and in our in-house Physical Development Program.

With regard to your suggested method of the Board communicating with the Senate of each University, I would suggest that the Board's communication would be improved if your Executive Secretary could prepare and send to each of the universities a regular report on the Board's activities. This would ensure that we each started with the same information and the role then of our university representatives would be to explain or expand on the formal report from the Board.

If I was assured of receipt of a report from your Executive Secretary, I would be delighted to place a regular item on our Senate Agenda for the receipt of such reports and discussion on them, led by our representatives on the Academic Board.

Yours sincerely,



P.D. McRaggart-Cowan
President.

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Academic Board

THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA

PHONE 228-0012
OR 224-0215

SM 8/4/67

3611 WEST 16TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER 8, B. C.

March 3, 1967

Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan, President,
Simon Fraser University,
Burnaby 2, B.C.

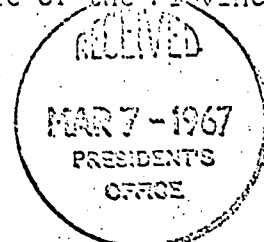
Dear President McTaggart-Cowan,

As you are aware, Section 81 of the Universities Act empowers the Academic Board "to advise the appropriate authorities on orderly development of Universities established under the Universities Act and of colleges established under the Public Schools Act by keeping in review the academic standards of each; and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to report on any matters respecting academic standards and development in higher education as may be from time to time required by the Minister of Education".

In order to fulfil these statutory responsibilities it is necessary that the Board keep itself informed regarding all significant academic developments that the universities have under consideration. At present the Board receives copies of the minutes of Senate meetings. However, by the time new proposals are placed before the Senates they are usually in the form of definite recommendations that have been fully considered from an intramural standpoint by the departments and faculties concerned, or by committees appointed for the purpose. If the Senate votes its approval the proposals are put into effect and the time has passed when the Academic Board's advice would be helpful. In order to offer timely advice the Board needs to be informed of new proposals before they are submitted for approval so that any inter-related studies may be carried out while the matter is still under consideration.

When reporting to the appropriate authorities regarding academic standards and developments the Board adheres to its advisory role without assuming executive responsibility for any action to be taken. The Board has no intention of encroaching upon the autonomy of the universities. It is the policy of the Board to encourage initiative on the part of each university to make its distinctive contribution to higher education. While acknowledging that the immediate concern of each university is the care of its own operations and development, the Board has a wider responsibility for advising on matters affecting the standards of higher education generally, and on the development of suitable programs in higher education throughout the Province at large. Operating within these larger terms of reference, it is the Board's practice to encourage and support all developments in higher education that it considers will serve the best interests of the people of the Province.

Continued



SM 3/4/67

Academic Board

Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan, President,
Simon Fraser University

Page 2

In accordance with the terms of the Universities Act, the Senate of each university appoints two members to the Academic Board. These members regularly raise matters pertaining to academic standards and developments for discussion by the Board. However, the Board considers that it can meet its statutory responsibilities in a more adequate manner if some more formal procedures are adopted. Therefore, the Board requests the President of each University to inform the Board of any proposed academic developments or significant changes in educational policy and practice while such are in the early stages of consideration.

In addition, it is suggested that the agenda of Senate provide regularly for reports on the Board's activities by the University's representatives. Such reports would inform the members of the Senate regarding developments that are taking place in higher education throughout the Province and provide them with opportunities to comment upon the Board's activities.

The Academic Board will greatly appreciate your co-operation in assisting it to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,



Chairman

SNFC:wf