

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

University of Canada

Paper S-97

MEMORANDUM

SM 5/2/68

Secretary of Senate

From John Matthews

Dean of Faculty of Arts

Subject

Date January 25, 1968

In accordance with the decision of Senate at its meeting of January 8 and in accordance with Section 63 (b) of the Universities Act the following resolutions of the Faculty of Arts are submitted for the approval of Senate.

1. That the Dean of the Arts Faculty be elected by Faculty for a limited term, the method of election to be decided by Faculty.
2. That the Dean be elected directly by the members.
3. That any member of faculty be eligible for the office of the Dean.
4. That the term of office be two years and that a retiring Dean has the right to seek re-election.

In accordance with Section 46(d) of the Universities Act the above resolutions of Faculty, including the previous resolution passed upon at the last meeting of Senate, will be submitted, subject to the approval of Senate, as recommendations to the Board of Governors.

At a meeting of the Arts Faculty on January 25, 1968, a motion regarding the position of Associate Dean was tabled.

John Matthews

JM:els

cc. Chairman of Senate

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

SM 5/2/68

5-97
Univ. Ctry.

To: All Members of the Faculty of Arts

From: John Matthews, Dean

Faculty of Arts

Subject: Office of the Dean

Date: January 30, 1968

OPINION POLL--OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Preamble

The following Faculty resolutions have been submitted to Senate for approval. These will be on the agenda for the Senate meeting of February 5, 1968.

1. That the Dean of the Arts Faculty be elected by Faculty for a limited term, the method of election to be decided by Faculty.
2. That the Dean be elected directly by the members.
3. That any member of Faculty be eligible for the office of the Dean.
4. That the term of office be two years and that a retiring Dean has the right to seek re-election.

At the special meeting of Faculty called for 12:30 on January 25, twenty-seven members being present, certain questions and reservations were raised concerning the above resolutions. It was agreed that in order to aid Senate's deliberations on the Faculty's resolutions, and to anticipate comments that will be certain to arise there, a full canvass of Faculty should be undertaken.

You are therefore invited to complete the attached questionnaire, some explanation of which follows directly below.

This is not a referendum. It is an expression of opinion only.

Completed forms should be returned in the envelope provided to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, AQ 5052, if possible not later than 12 noon on Monday, February 5.

Some Comments on the Questions

1. Questions 1a, 1b, 1c; on qualifications of the Dean. Several ambiguities were seen to exist in the idea of the Dean being a "member of" Faculty. Do these resolutions mean any member of Faculty, any tenured member, or any member of Faculty of some particular rank?

The reasoning behind the Faculty resolution (No.3 above) was that a bar by rank would be invidious, and was unnecessary since it was extremely unlikely a junior member would be elected unless indeed he or she were an exceptional person.

Opinion is fairly widespread that the Dean must be a person of secure position within the Faculty in order to exercise effective power on its behalf. This is so since, while his prime duty is service to the Faculty, at times the various roles of his office may conflict. For example he should

have, if possible, the confidence of the President as well as of the Faculty. He must give leadership to the Faculty and at the same time comply with its wishes. He must, with the other Deans, keep in mind principles of general university growth, yet be able to secure resources judged necessary by Arts departments. He must, in short, be able to balance many interests and represent them with distinction.

These matters raise questions of the security of the Dean's position (as reflected in tenure), his academic prestige (as reflected in rank) and his acceptability to the persons and groups with which he must work most intimately.

2. Questions 2a, 2b; on origin of candidates. Whereas it is understood that the Dean will be a member of Faculty, do these resolutions mean that Faculty may not reach outside itself and the University to select a Dean?

It has been observed that candidates for the Deanship are rare enough at present, and may become vanishingly scarce. It may prove both necessary and desirable to find the Dean outside our own ranks. But if so, the selection process becomes again a question.

3. Question 3; on term of office. The resolution states clearly that a two-year term, with re-election possible, shall be the Dean's term of office.

This matter is important because it could relate to the Dean's effectiveness. A longer term of office could add both to his expertise vis a vis his dealings with other Faculties and the administration and to the continuity of Faculty administration. The Duff-Berdahl report recommends a five-year term.

Contrary opinion is that while a faculty member would find a two-year term acceptable, it might be difficult to find someone willing to forego his scholarly pursuits for longer than that. And, in any case, re-election is possible.

4. A proposal relevant to these matters (presently tabled before Faculty), concerns the election by Faculty of a council of four to consult with and advise the Dean. It is possible that the idea of such a council might enable members of Faculty more easily to define their opinions on certain of the more difficult choices involved in the structure of the Deanship itself.

SM 5/2/68

Chris (Cory)

FACULTY OF ARTS QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE DEANSHIP

[To be completed and returned in the enclosed envelope to the Office of the Dean
by 12 noon Monday, February 5, 1968, if possible]

Check [✓] in square opposite your choice.

1. a. Should the Dean have tenure? yes ☐ no ☐

b. Should nomination be open for: any member of Faculty ☐
Assistant Professor and above ☐
Associate Professor and above ☐
Full Professor only ☐

c. Before appointment, and provisions of the Universities Act notwithstanding, do you think that a candidate for the Deanship ought be formally accepted by one or more of the following:

Faculty members collectively ☐

Heads of Arts Departments collectively ☐

The President ☐

Other parties (specify) _____

2. a. Should Faculty be able to reach outside its own ranks for a Dean?

yes ☐ no ☐

b. If yes, what method of selection do you prefer?

Committee elected by Faculty ☐

Selection by Arts Heads ☐

Selection by President ☐

A committee representative of the above three ☐

Other (please specify) _____

3. Should the Dean's term of service be: one year ☐

two years ☐

three years ☐

four years ☐

five years ☐

unspecified term ☐

4. Do you approve the idea of a four-member advisory council to the Dean elected by Faculty?

yes ☐ no ☐