

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 346

MEMORANDUM

To.....	DR. K. T. STRAND	From.....	H. M. EVANS
	PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF SENATE		REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY OF SENATE
Subject.....	ELECTION OF STUDENT SENATORS	Date.....	MARCH 2, 1970

If the request related to the forthcoming elections for student Senators, submitted by Mr. Norman Wickstrom, President of the Student Society, for each student candidate to enclose a synopsis not to exceed 250 words on the candidate's views is to be brought before Senate, the following Motion would appear to be appropriate:

"That in the election of student representatives to Senate that each candidate be permitted to include along with or in lieu of a curriculum vita a statement not to exceed 250 words on the candidate's views on academic and related matters rightfully falling under the jurisdiction of Senate as laid down by the Universities Act (1963)."

Note: Legal opinion has been sought on this matter, and according to this opinion Senate has authority to approve such a motion under Section 27 of the Universities Act (1963).



SIMON FRASER STUDENT SOCIETY

simon fraser university / burnaby 2, b.c. / telephone 291-3181

NW:kp

March 20, 1970
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. K. Strand
President
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby 2, B.C.

Dear Dr. Strand:

Re: Student Senator Elections

On the rules for election of students to Senate contained with the nomination forms is a clause which forbids 'campaign promises.' This rule presents some difficulty to both candidates seeking office and to their electorate. A student senator is elected from a constituency of approximately 7000 people, of which some 2/3000 are off campus.

In the past it has been traditional for candidates for student senator to submit their respective points of view to the Peak and have it published therein. This has the effect of communicating these points of view to the students on campus; however, it does little for those eligible to vote off campus.

When the Student Society conducts elections for Student Council, it is traditional to place upon the voting table a candidate's synopsis of 250 words. This allows the voter, who does not know the candidate or has not heard the election speeches, to know what a given candidate stands for and what he wishes to accomplish.

cont/d.....

It has been our experience that this is perhaps the most valuable piece of information that goes out during election, certainly the most well read.

Under the electoral procedures of Senate, a candidate is permitted to submit a curriculum vitae which includes such things as degrees attained, universities attended, publications, offices held, profession, and things which generally do not apply to students, particularly undergraduate students. You can well imagine how blank the sheet of an undergraduate candidate would necessarily appear.

It is my feeling that this structure does not help the undergraduate student as opposed to the graduate student, in that the graduate student very often has at least one degree and perhaps a number of publications. In terms of the voter, the curriculum vitae tells absolutely nothing about what a given candidate should do once he is elected and what his point of view is on academic matters. Consequently, it does not give a true indication of how the voter would be represented if he were voting for a given candidate.

I have already discussed this subject with Dr. Kelsey and Mr. Evans. The opinion I received from Mr. Evans following a legal enquiry, was that Senate had the power to make a decision on this matter, but that the Electoral Officer did not. I would request that Senate allow the procedure of the Student Society to be followed in electing student senators, i.e. candidates for student senator be permitted to submit a synopsis of not more than 250 words, to be included in the ballot envelope, along with, or in lieu of, the curriculum vitae.

I would point out that if one uses the Federal or Provincial ^{method} of conducting elections, it is not the practise to have 'campaign material' within a certain distance of the polling station. On a mail ballot, however, when an elector chooses his representative he may do so on any surrounding he chooses.

I very definitely feel that it is in the interests of fair play to allow all candidates to submit a policy statement in the ballot envelope.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norm Wickstrom".

Norm. Wickstrom

President - Student Society

copy/ Dr. I. Kelsey
Secretarial Services

Mr. H.E. Evans
Registrar