

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.79-104

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees

Subject: Distinguished Visitor, Convocation
Address, Honorary Degrees

Date: September 27, 1979

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees has given consideration to the practice in recent years of having one of the honorary degree recipients identified as the distinguished visitor, who is required among other things to deliver a convocation address.

With the continued growth in the number of graduands and an increasing demand for guest seating it is necessary to have the convocation ceremony in two parts to meet realistically these increased numbers. For 1979 there was a morning ceremony involving installation of the Chancellor and of the President, and an afternoon ceremony involving the Distinguished Visitor and a convocation address.

The Committee does not believe that there should be attempt to have two distinguished visitors, nor does it consider it appropriate to ask one individual to deliver two addresses - whether the same or different. Further there is some difficulty in separating out one person being granted an honorary degree to be more distinguished than the others, and throughout the year there are other persons visiting who are very distinguished visitors.

The Committee also notes that our sister universities no longer utilize a convocation address but concentrate basically on the students graduating and honorary degree recipients.

Under current policy at S.F.U. the distinguished visitor may be either a British Columbian or from any part of the world. In addition other honorary degrees may be awarded to British Columbians only, normally zero to four in number (for a maximum of five persons). The Committee considers it very desirable to continue to recognize both British Columbians and other persons but with restrictions on numbers.

The Committee therefore recommends as follows:

MOTION -

- (1) That the present practice of having one person identified to be Distinguished Visitor, to receive an honorary degree, to deliver a convocation address, be discontinued
- (2) That Senate continue to award honorary degrees to selected British Columbians and others

- (3) That the number of honorary degrees normally awarded annually at the convocation ceremonies be from zero to six, with not more than two to be awarded to persons who are not British Columbians.

For information -

- (1) If this motion is approved members of the university community will be asked to submit nominations for honorary degree recipients for 1979/80 immediately to the Secretary of Senate, with intent to bring recommendations from the Committee to Senate at the November meeting. Nominations will be due not later than October 12th.
- (2) The intent is to hold the Convocation ceremonies on Campus in 1980.
- (3) The Committee has approved date of Saturday, June 7, 1980.

HME/ph