

RE

BEGINNING OF UNIVERSITY
WORK IN SEPTEMBER -1915

Informal Meeting of the Senate of the University of
British Columbia, July 3-1915.

The President of the University invited the members of the Senate as at present constituted to lunch at the Vancouver Club on July 3-1915.

There were present the Chancellor, the Honourable the Minister of Education, Mr.E.P.Davis, Dean R.W.Brock, Dr. W.D.Brydone-Jack, Professor McIntosh, Mr. J.S.Gordon, Mr.F.C.Wade, Right Rev. A.U. de Pencier, Dean L.S.Klinck, Mr.W.P.Argue, Dr. J.M.Pearson and Mr. J.W.Creighton.

In view of the necessity of the issuance of an official announcement and provisional calendar concerning the beginning of University work in September, 1915, it seemed desirable that certain important matters be brought to the informal attention of the members of the Senate, amongst which were the following:

1. The incompleteness of the Senate which precluded the possibility of a formal meeting at this time was pointed out. The fact that a number of the University staff had not yet arrived made it impossible to call faculty meetings for the election of the two representatives of each faculty. Furthermore, the Deans of the Colleges of Arts and Forestry had not yet been appointed. In addition, no member had yet been elected by the high school principals and assistants, nor had a member been elected by the Provincial Teachers' Institute. It seemed unwise, in view of the impossibility of laying composite faculty views before the Senate for it to act formally upon certain specified matters which could only be formulated after the faculty had been assembled. For this reason also, the calendar would lack definiteness in certain particulars.

2. A provisional report of progress was made of the work of the joint committee of the Boards of Governors of the University of British Columbia and of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning in relation to

- (a) Provision for continuation of the work of the students of McGill University College in the University of British Columbia.
- (b) Utilization by the University of certain available members of the staff of the Royal Institution.
- (c) The acquirement by the University of equipment and buildings of McGill University College, Vancouver.

It was informally mentioned as possible that the Royal Institution might recommend that the cash value of its buildings and equipment about to be transferred by it to the Board of Governors of the University, be invested by the University so that the interest might be utilized each year as a students' loan fund or for scholarships. No formal action however, has been taken as yet on this proposal which would have the double effect of perpetuating the name and admirable work of the Royal Institution and provide much needed assistance to worthy students.

In discussion, appreciation of the splendid work of the Royal Institution was expressed by the Senators.

3. The material at present proposed for the calendar for 1915-16 was presented by Dean Brock as Chairman of the Committee on Curriculum and Calendar, the other members of the Committee being G.E. Robinson, L.F. Robertson and Douglas McIntosh.

4. The name under which the University should operate in its war time commencement was discussed. In spite of possible danger to standards and ideals involved in the beginning of work on less than the original scale, it was the unanimous opinion that the beginning should be made in the name of the University of British Columbia.

5. The arms designed by the Richmond Herald and suggestions for motto were presented and met with approval.

6. The appointments thus far made to the University staff were reported.

7. Mrs. W. W. deB. Farris, who was unable to be present, asked particularly that the suggestion of the University Womens' Club of Vancouver in regard to the need of formal arrangements for housing out-of-town women students receive consideration even in the earliest days of University work. The members of the Senate in discussion, agreed as to the importance of this timely suggestion.

8. The curriculum of McGill University College and the courses which the University would be in a position to add during the year 1915-16 were discussed as presented by Dean Brock. The following is a list of these additional courses:

Geography, geology, mineralogy, scientific basis of agriculture, chemistry, physics, bacteriology and public health, history, economics, French, German and Latin. It was stated that the University hoped also to be able to add work in English, mathematics, mining and certain phases of applied science in engineering branches.

9. Junior and senior matriculation were discussed and it appeared to be the opinion of the Senators that only senior matriculation should constitute the highest outside school work recognized by the University.

10. Military training. The members of the Senate were unanimous in their belief that compulsory military training should be demanded of all men students who were physically fit.

11. It was pointed out that degrees were granted upon the recommendation of the Senate and since the Senate could not be formally

convened prior to the issuance of the announcement of the University as to the beginning of work, assurances of the members present as to their sympathy with the granting of degrees in the spring of 1915-16 to those who had completed the prescribed work as outlined in the calendar presented, were asked and given.

12. A short report to the Senators present was made of the conference of the Canadian University Presidents, as convened by President Falconer, of Toronto, on June 2-1915. The importance of such conferences in relation to the development of standards, migration of students and other inter-university matters was discussed.

13. A report was made on the present status of the library which now has ^{been} ~~been~~ twenty and thirty thousand volumes. The donations to the University library were announced as follows:

A complete file of the News Advertiser up to 1910, bound in case, from Mr. F. Carter-Cotton, Vancouver.

Complete set of Debates and Parliamentary Papers from H.M. Imperial Government, London.

Reports and Publications of the Canadian Geological Survey from O.E. LeRoy, Ottawa.

Publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Publications of the United States Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

Publications of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology from C. Gordon Hewitt, Ottawa.

The M.S. Notes of Harvey's Lectures from Sir William Osler.

Reprints and Official Publications from R.W. Brock, Vancouver.

Makers of Canada, Cornhill Magazine, Life of Edgerton Ryerson, Life of Sir John A. Macdonald, from Henry Lye, Vancouver.

14. The work of the Agricultural Department as undertaken by Dean Klinck at Point Grey and elsewhere was discussed and the Senators on all sides expressed gratification that work of such signal importance to the Province had been begun. All were desirous of seeing the experimental plots which are under development at Point Grey.

15. Mr. Wade emphasized the necessity of at once taking steps to carefully select lands and secure the necessary Crown grants under the University Land Endowment Act. The question was discussed by the Chancellor who pointed out the work already done in this direction. He and several other Senators agreed that action should be taken at once.

16. Mr. Creighton expressed his strong approval of the principle which had been adopted by the University of doing thoroughly any work which was undertaken. It was most important that the University should adhere to this policy as it would be fatal to spread limited means and effort over a wide range. Even if it meant restricting the University to a few subjects well done, the University would be useful and successful.

17. The Honourable Dr. Young expressed his pleasure at finding that the University was fitting itself in as an integral part of the educational system of the Province, to build upon and complete the training commenced in the public and high schools. Whilst the Government wished to be relieved of the responsibility of looking after the higher education, they wished to see it in close touch and correlated with their public school systems.

The Chancellor spoke in appreciation of the spirit of cooperation shown by the members of the Senate and recalled to the minds of the Senators, the unsettled financial condition of the world at the time the decision of the Board of Governors was made in regard to building and other measures, of which the Senators had just approved.

War was declared on August 4-1914 and the opening of the tenders for the erection of the Science Building was announced for August 10-1914. At the meeting of August 10th no action was taken but at the meeting of August 13-14, it was voted to return the tenders unopened and advertisements for tenders for the concrete work of the Science Building were ordered, which in case the war proved abortive, would prevent needless delay.

The President drew the attention of the Senators to the difficulty at this time of securing the services of department heads when the Empire is at war.

The Bishop of New Westminster moved a vote of thanks to the President which was seconded by Mr. W. P. Argue.

This informal conference afforded evidence of the keenest interest on the part of all the Senators and gave convincing assurance of the heartiest cooperation.