

A special meeting of the Senate of the University of British Columbia was held on Wednesday, January 30, 1963, at 8:00 p.m., in the Board and Senate Room, Administration Building, for a discussion of the report by President J. B. Macdonald "Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future".

Present: President J.B. Macdonald (in the Chair), Chancellor Phyllis G. Ross, Mrs. H.F. Angus, Mr. W.M. Armstrong, Dr. J.C. Berry, Rev. J. Blewett, Mrs. T.R. Boggs, Mr. F.L. Burnham, Mr. K.P. Caple, Dean S.N.F. Chant, Mr. M. Collins, Dr. I. McT. Cowan, Dean G.F. Curtis, Mr. A.P. Dawe, Dean B.A. Eagles, Dr. G.R. Elliott, Dean W.H. Gage, Rev. E. Garvey, Dr. W.C. Gibson, Mr. C.C. Gourlay, Mr. G.C. Hacker, Dr. W.H. Hickman, Mr. W. Ireland, Dr. R.D. James, Dr. F.H. Johnson, Dr. J.E.A. Kania, Mr. J.S. Keate, Mr. F.M. Knapp, Mr. L.J. Ladner, Dean S.W. Leung, Mr. S.L. Lipson, Dean H. McCrae, Dean J.F. McCreary, Dr. J.R. McIntosh, Dr. M.M. MacIntyre, Dr. A.D. McKenzie, Dr. H. McLennan, Dean A.W. Matthews, Mr. F.A. Morrison, Dean D.M. Myers, Mr. N.T. Nemetz, Mr. E.P. Nicol, Mr. H.N. Parrott, Dean G.N. Perry, Dr. A.J. Renney, Dr. W. Robbins, Dean N.V. Scarfe, Dr. R.F. Sharp, Dean F.H. Soward, Rev. W.S. Taylor, Mr. E.C.E. Todd, The Honourable Mr. Justice D.R. Verchere, Dr. G.M. Volkoff, Dr. R.W. Wellwood, Dean T.G. Wright, Dr. J.K. Friesen and Mr. J.F. McLean.

Messages of regret for their inability to be present were received from Mr. C.A. Emery, Dr. J.L. Keays,

Wednesday, January 30, 1963

Mr. R. Loffmark, Dean E.D. MacPhee, Mr. D.F. Miller,
Mr. J.V. Rogers, Mr. A.A. Webster and Dr. S.H. Zbarsky.

Distribution of the Report

At the meeting of Senate on December 12, 1962, the President had stated that, following approval by the Board of Governors for the release of his report on Higher Education in British Columbia, he proposed to send copies to members of Senate and of Victoria College Council on a confidential basis a few days in advance of meetings of those bodies to discuss the report. The Board of Governors had decided that the report should be released to all special groups and the public at the same time, and the date finally selected for this purpose was January 28th.

Public Reaction

The President stated that public reaction to the report had been extraordinarily favourable.

He pointed out that the projected costs for 1970 should be considered in relation to the projected population of British Columbia at that time (2,250,000), and the increase in the gross provincial product.

Okanagan College

The President referred to the recommendation in his report that one of the first regional colleges established should be in the Okanagan Valley. While he had suggested a location near the city of Kelowna, he emphasized

that the college was designed to serve the entire Valley, and should be thought of, and referred to, as Okanagan College rather than Kelowna. Newspapers, radio and television stations in the Okanagan Valley had accepted this name, and the President asked members of Senate to follow suit in referring to the proposed college.

Victoria College

The President had recommended in his report that Victoria College should have the privilege of becoming an independent degree-granting college. He considered the title of "college" appropriate to an institution offering an undergraduate programme in liberal arts, sciences, and teacher training. The term "university" on the North American continent implied a group of schools, including professional fields as well as a graduate programme. However, he believed that Victoria College should be given the privilege of changing its title to University if it so wished.

The President had been invited to meet with the Minister of Education early in February to assist him in respect to legislation concerning independent status for Victoria College. Dean Curtis was reviewing the University Act in regard to its modification to a general act applying to all universities and four-year colleges in British Columbia.

Acceptance of the Report

The Board of Governors, at a special meeting on January 18th, had accepted the report as the policy of the Board of Governors of this University. The Committee of Academic Deans had also reviewed and endorsed the report. The Premier had stated publicly that he was in favour of the report, and had indicated that his Government was prepared to provide the provincial share of the costs involved in its implementation.

Basis of Cost Sharing for
Higher Education

In reply to a question on his recommendations as to division of costs for higher education, the President stated his belief that in the case of regional (two-year) colleges, the region should pay one-third and the provincial government two-thirds of capital costs; the students in their fees should pay one-quarter of the operating costs, the local government one-quarter, the provincial and federal governments the other half. The school district in which the college was located might be expected to pay a higher mill rate in local taxes than the adjoining districts served by the same college. He commended the proposal of the Revelstoke School Board that the people of Revelstoke should provide residences for their students in association with the regional college closest to them.

Mr. Hacker expressed the fear that the areas with regional colleges would feel that they were being asked to assume a double tax burden not borne by areas with four-year colleges. These areas with regional colleges might at the same time have lower revenue from industry.

The President replied that a study in the United States indicated that in the majority of cases, local governments participated in the costs of institutions established there, and felt pride in their "ownership" of the institution. He had asked School Boards and Municipal Councils in British Columbia whether their communities would be willing to share in costs, and all but one had felt this would be acceptable.

Mr. Ireland pointed out that part of the cost to the individual community for a regional college would have been borne in the past for Senior Matriculation, and part represented the cost of additional offerings in the college which the School Board might have had to assume in any case. Another factor reducing the apparent additional local tax was the economic benefit to the community as a result of the college.

Dr. Sharp complimented the President on an excellent report, and expressed his appreciation that it included reference to institutions of post-secondary education, and provision for adult education, other than academic training at a university. He commended also the emphasis on excellence as a goal, and the recommendation

for the establishment of both four-year and two-year colleges in the Province.

In respect to costs of higher education, Dr. Sharp commented that the Vancouver School Board operated a Vocational Institute and an Art School, and had this year initiated an adult education programme in King Edward School. Despite financial assistance from the Provincial Government, the share borne by the taxpayers of Vancouver was very high.

Although the report envisaged the rapid development of King Edward School to a two-year college, it made no provision for capital expenditure. Dr. Sharp stated that a large building programme would be necessary to provide space and facilities for an additional year. He felt part of the cost of this should be borne by the provincial government, as it would be for a regional college serving more than one community. The President indicated that this was his intention in the proposed cost-sharing formula.

Staff

Dr. James inquired where adequately trained staff would be obtained for the regional colleges in the next few years. The President felt this was the most crucial problem, and the justification for regarding the situation with respect to higher education as an emergency. He thought this should be treated as a national problem.

Okanagan College

In referring to Mr. Hacker's remarks on double taxation, Mr. Dawe stated that Kelowna would welcome local

responsibility for the Okanagan College since it would have more sense of ownership than if funds were provided entirely from government sources. A small increase in mill rate for taxation, particularly if it were shared by all Okanagan communities, would be compensated by the advantage of a regional college. Financial problems of regional colleges in the State of Washington did not apply in British Columbia, where both provincial and federal grants were available.

Mr. Dawe felt that Municipal Councils should be represented on the governing boards of regional colleges, at least to the same extent as the School Boards, since the Councils assumed much greater responsibility for fund raising.

Mrs. Angus, while supporting the proposal that Municipal Councils be represented on college boards, stated that not all School Boards could be charged with lack of concern for fund raising and economic expenditure.

Mr. Dawe suggested that staff appointed to two-year colleges might be looked upon as the future Heads of Departments in four-year colleges, but was warned by Dean Soward that experience at the University of British Columbia had indicated that the problems of university administration might well be beyond the grasp, or out of the range of interest, of even highly-qualified and competent staff members of a two-year institution.

Admission Requirements

Mr. Parrott inquired whether any thought had been given to admission requirements appropriate to two-year and four-year colleges and universities on the one hand, and technical, vocational, or mixed technical-academic institutions on the other. Dean Chant stated that probably admission requirements to a junior college would resemble those for a university; those for a technical or vocational institute would be lower. However, many details would have to be worked out by the local institutions in conjunction with the Academic Board.

Dean Scarfe added that the Department of Education was currently reviewing the senior secondary school programme. He understood the Department favoured a Grade X examination to maintain a level of achievement, whether the programme were technical, industrial, commercial or academic; and a Grade XII examination, also in the various fields. The President noted that provision should be made for able students who had completed a vocational programme to qualify for university entrance, if they so wished, without undue loss of time.

Mr. Burnham emphasized the necessity for relative uniformity in admission requirements to similar programmes in the regional colleges. With this, the President coupled the importance of leaving institutions free to establish higher admission standards if they were in a position to do so.

Dean Myers pointed out that a footnote in the report was applicable to this question: "Transfer should be possible between institutions but it should be based not on identity of courses but on performance of students."

In answer to a query from Mrs. Angus, the President said he felt that some students might wish to obtain their degrees from the larger institutions rather than their local colleges, but this would diminish as the new institutions established their individual reputation.

With reference to projected enrolments, the President believed it might be necessary for the University of British Columbia to encourage students to enrol in the regional colleges as these were established, by limiting its undergraduate enrolment. A recommendation in this respect might be submitted to Senate at a regular meeting.

Graduate School

Commenting on the percentage of graduate students at the University of British Columbia in comparison with other large Canadian universities, Dean Soward pointed out that, if comparisons could be made on a uniform basis, British Columbia would make a better showing than it appeared to in the report. Further, the University of British Columbia was relatively strong in percentage of graduate students completing their Ph.D. degree.

The Province of Ontario was in the process of developing a programme of scholarship assistance for its students remaining in the province for graduate work.

Senate Endorsation of the
Report

Dean Scarfe)
Mr. Collins)

That Senate go on record as
acclaiming and endorsing the
report by President Macdonald
on "Higher Education in British
Columbia and a Plan for the
Future".

Carried.

In seconding the motion, Mr. Collins reminded Senate that in 1959, the Board of Management of the Alumni Association had requested the establishment of a Royal Commission on Higher Education to prepare a report such as this. This request had been repeated annually. He expressed the gratification of the Alumni Association that the new President of the University had undertaken the task.

The President expressed his appreciation for the vote of confidence, and his great appreciation to the individuals who worked with him in the studies and the compilation of the report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.


Secretary.


Chairman.