

Thursday, November 27th, 1952 1900.

A special meeting of the Senate of The University of British Columbia was held on Thursday, November 27th, 1952, at 8:00 p.m., in the Board and Senate Room, to meet with (1) representatives of the students, (2) the staff in Physical Education, and (3) the Men's Athletic Committee, on the question of University policy in respect to athletics, and more particularly the resolutions adopted by Senate at the meeting on May 13th, 1952.

Present: President N. A. M. MacKenzie (in the Chair), Dr. John Allardyce, Dr. G. S. Allen, Dean H. F. Angus, Dean Lowell Besley, Dr. V. C. Brink, Mr. F. J. Burd, Dean S. N. F. Chant, Mr. K. P. Caple, The Hon. Mr. Justice J. V. Clyne, Mr. H. O. English, Miss Mary Fallis, Dr. W. A. Ferguson, Dr. R. E. Foerster, Dr. S. M. Friedman, Dean W. H. Gage, Dr. W. C. Gibson, Dr. A. E. Grauer, Dr. R. D. James, Mr. G. D. Kennedy, Dr. R. B. Kerr, Mr. F. M. Knapp, Dr. M. M. MacIntyre, Dean H. J. MacLeod, Dean M. Dorothy Mawdsley, Mr. Finlay A. Morrison, Mr. J. Fred Muir, Mr. W. O. Richmond, Dr. T. M. C. Taylor, Dr. W. S. Taylor, Dr. G. M. Volkoff, Dr. H. V. Warren, and Dean M. M. Weaver.

Messages of regret for their inability to be present were received from Chancellor Sherwood Lett, Dean Blythe Eagles, Dr. Roy Daniells, Dr. W. H. Hickman, Miss Marjorie Agnew, Mrs. F. MacKenzie Ross, Dr. C. H. Wright, Dr. W. N. Sage and Mr. J. M. Buchanan.

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The following representatives of various

interested groups were present:

Students' Council: Mr. Raghbir Basi, Miss Jane Banfield, Mr. Gerry Duclos, Miss Jean Hood, Mr. Geoff Pringle, Miss Ann Willis, Mr. Bill St. John, Mr. Frank Carroll, Miss Peggy Andreen, Mr. Gerry Maine.

Staff, School of Physical Education: Mr. R. F. Osborne, Miss Marian Henderson, Mr. H. Douglas Whittle, Miss Marjorie Leeming, Mr. Jack Pomfret, Mr. A. B. Laithwaite, Mrs. May Brown, Mr. Hjalmar Andersen, Mr. R. Penn, Mrs. R. O'Brien, Mr. Richard Mitchell, Mr. Barry Lowes.

Men's Athletics Committee (not included above): Professor W. G. Heslop, Mr. Grant Donegani, Mr. Peter Lusztig.

Dr. MacKenzie called the meeting to order and by way of review read the report of the Senate Committee on policy with respect to competitive and inter-collegiate athletics, as approved by Senate on May 13th, 1952. Further in this connection, the President referred to two letters which were submitted to the October 22nd, 1952, meeting of Senate, and recorded in the minutes of that meeting, one, from the Chairman of the Men's Athletic Committee, submitting two resolutions which were passed by a meeting of that Committee on October 15th, 1952; the second from the Secretary of the Alma Mater Society, under date of October 16th, submitting two similar resolutions which were passed at a special meeting of the Students' Council held on October 16th, 1952.

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Dr. MacKenzie drew attention to the fact that Senate is the body responsible for the academic work of the University and the general supervision of student life and activities, and assured those present that any decisions reached, or actions taken by the Senate, were reached or taken with the best interests of the students in mind. He went on to state that if there were good reasons why the resolutions passed by Senate with regard to athletics should be amended or abolished, he was sure that Senate would be glad to hear about them and to discuss them with the representatives present at the meeting.

Mr. Basi, President of the Students' Council, spoke on behalf of that body, and read the following motion which was passed by the Council on November 24th, 1952:

"That Students' Council feels that any Freshman ruling is undesirable because it interferes with the growth of individual responsibility, and because it hurts many students who can carry on extra-curricular activities and also keep up their scholastic standing.  
THEREFORE we respectfully request the Senate to rescind the freshman ruling for athletics; and as a step toward the solution of the problem to reconsider raising University entrance requirements and standards."

He explained that this resolution was prompted by two objections to the ruling of Senate: first, an objection to a special ruling for athletics, not applicable to other extra-curricular activities; and second, an objection in principle to interference in "self-education," i.e., the student's responsibility for his own decisions.

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In this latter connection, Mr. Basi read the following resolution, which was passed by the Alma Mater Society at a general meeting held at noon, on Thursday, November 27th, 1952, as follows,

"Whereas the Senate has set standards of age and education for admittance to the University, and

"Whereas students meeting this standard are sufficiently mature to decide for themselves how much time to devote to studies and to extra-curricular activities, and

"Whereas, in a democratic society it is of the greatest necessity that the University develop individual responsibility, and

"Whereas the prime responsibility should be to provide the best in educational facilities and to maintain the highest possible educational standards rather than to concern itself with how any particular minority group of students are succeeding in their studies,

"Therefore, we, the students of the University of British Columbia in general meeting assembled, respectfully request the Senate to promote, as far as possible, student responsibility for their actions; to instill in students a desire for education by means other than legislation; and specifically to withdraw the regulation respecting eligibility of freshmen to play in intercollegiate athletics."

Mr. Duclos pointed out that the student body had not been forewarned of the action of Senate on May 13th.

Mr. Main expressed the opinion that if any type of eligibility rules were to be enforced they should come from the students themselves, and read the following resolution which was approved at a special meeting of the Men's Athletic Committee, held on November 26th, 1952:

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"Whereas the Men's Athletic Committee in principle feels that the Senate Freshman ruling is undesirable, and whereas the problem's origin is chiefly one sport, American Football, in which there is the fear of commercialism, be it resolved that the Men's Athletic Committee respectfully request the Senate to rescind the freshman ruling in athletics and further, that if there is a need of control of Freshman participation in any particular sport that recommendations for the necessary rulings come from the Men's Athletic Committee to the Students' Council to be enforced by that body in co-operation with the administration."

Miss Hood presented the following resolution which was passed by the Women's Athletic Directorate at its meeting on November 20th:

"Because it is the feeling of the Women's Athletic Directorate that the freshman ruling is adverse to the best interest of the Women's Athletic Directorate we request the Senate to rescind its motion."

Mr. St. John mentioned the vote of the Alma Mater Society on November 27th, 1952, defeating a resolution asking for approval in principle of athletic scholarships.

Mr. Heslop reiterated the statement made by Mr. Main, that Senate had not pointed out to the student body that they were failing to meet their responsibilities.

In reply, Dr. MacKenzie stated that he did not think there was any feeling on the part of Senate that the students had been remiss in meeting their obligations in connection with athletics or in respect of the academic standing of some of the students, particularly those in the first years. He went on to say that the reasons for the actions taken by Senate grew out of conditions in other parts of the continent which Senate was anxious should not

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be duplicated here, and also out of a study of the practices in other institutions in reference to eligibility. The freshman ruling was adopted because it seemed wise and in the best interests of the students themselves.

Mr. Osborne spoke on behalf of the staff of the School of Physical Education, and supported the resolution passed by the Men's Athletic Committee. He went on to state that it was the opinion of the staff, though not the unanimous opinion, that the freshman ruling should be endorsed, but that the application of this ruling should be deferred until such time as it is possible to improve the programme in physical education along various lines. He suggested, further, that if the freshman ruling is put into effect, it would be wise for Senate also to rule that students who wish to play for teams other than university teams, should apply for special consideration, either through the Students' Council, the School of Physical Education, or some other body approved by Senate. This would protect the student athletic interests and to some extent the coaches of the teams.

In reply to a question, Mr. Osborne reported on the hours devoted to various sports and to compulsory physical education, and also gave reasons why American football, up to the present, has had to depend largely upon freshmen players.

Mr. Basi pointed out, with reference to American

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football, that at the noon meeting of the Alma Mater Society, it had been suggested that The University of British Columbia should withdraw from the Evergreen Conference and form a Western Canadian Conference.

Dr. Gibson reported that the Alumni Association had appointed a Committee on Athletics, and Dr. MacKenzie asked that the report of that Committee be submitted to Senate in due course.

In reply to a question, Mr. Duclos, Treasurer of the Alma Mater Society, gave a summary financial statement of expenditures for the current year for each of the sports sponsored by the Alma Mater Society.

Mr. Basi expressed the appreciation of the student representatives for the opportunity to discuss this whole question with the members of Senate and Dr. MacKenzie again assured the students that Senate's concern was the best interests of the student body and the reputation and standing of the institution itself. The President also thanked all those present on behalf of the various groups for their courtesy in coming before Senate to present their points of view.

The various delegations then withdrew and Senate reconvened.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Warren

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emphasized again the inadequacy of facilities for the development of a full freshman programme.

Dean Besley raised the question, whether or not athletics are entirely a student responsibility, since the University furnishes the staff and facilities. He also stated that generally a student's development has three aspects, scholastic, physical and social.

It was agreed to postpone further discussion to the next regular meeting of Senate, when this item would be placed early in the agenda.

The meeting then adjourned.

*Charles B Wood*

Secretary.

*Norman McKenzie*

Chairman.