

A special meeting of the Senate of The University of British Columbia was held on Wednesday, September 4, 1968 at 8.00 p.m. in the Board and Senate Room, Administration Building.

Present: Dr. F. Kenneth Hare, (Chairman), Dean W. M. Armstrong, Mr. S. Black, Dr. M. Bloom, Mr. R. M. Bibbs, Mr. F. K. Bowers, Mr. D. M. Brousson, Mr. W. T. Brown, Mr. F. J. Cairnie, Mr. C. M. Campbell Jr., Dr. J. D. Chapman, Dr. R. M. Clark, Dr. D. H. Copp, Dean G. F. Curtis, Dr. S. M. Friedman, Dean W. H. Gage, Dean J. A. F. Gardner, Dr. W. C. Gibson, The Hon. Howard C. Green, Mr. J. Guthrie, Dr. N. A. Hall, Mr. W. L. Holland, Mr. J. S. Keate, Dr. D. T. Kenny, Rev. E. C. Lebel, Dean S. Wah Leung, Mr. K. M. Lysyk, Dean Helen McCrae, Dean J. F. McCreary, Dr. J. R. McIntosh, Mr. I. S. McNairn, Mr. D. F. Manders, Mr. John R. Meredith, Mr. D. F. Miller, Dr. F. A. Morrison, Mr. D. Munton, Dr. J. M. Norris, Dr. H. P. Oberlander, Dean V. J. Okulitch, Dr. G. J. Parfitt, Dr. A. J. Renney, Dean B. E. Riedel, Mr. J. V. Rogers, Dr. A. D. Scott, Dr. R. F. Sharp, Dean M. Shaw, Dr. C. E. Smith, Dr. J. H. G. Smith, Dr. M. W. Steinberg, Dr. R. W. Stewart, Mr. B. Stuart-Stubbs, Dr. G. H. N. Towers, Mr. M. Waldman, Mrs. B. E. Wales, Dr. Wm. A. Webber, Dr. J. H. Young, Dr. S. H. Zbarsky.

Observers: Mr. J. Banham, Mr. A. Myers, Mr. G. R. Selman, Mr. J. F. Stott.

Messages of regret for their inability to attend were received from Chancellor J. M. Buchanan, Dean I. McTaggart-Cowan, Mr. D. A. Freeman, Dr. C. A. McDowell, Mr. D. R. Williams.

The Chairman called the meeting to order, explaining that the business of the meeting was discussion of the A.M.S. Council Brief (submitted in June, 1968) and related matters. He informed Senate of the developments and changes in the situation since the presentation of the Brief.

He stressed that the problem of university government and administration had become a world-wide issue which called into question

the entire structure of the western university. He felt that it was more difficult to decide what action should be taken when your own university was caught up in a world-wide issue rather than in a purely local one.

The Chairman reported that whilst he had taken no concrete action until he had sought the advice of Senate, he had listened to the views of various members of faculty, both individually and in groups.

Faculty members ranged in opinion from those who felt that the University should immediately put itself in the posture that the student brief suggested, and do so enthusiastically, realizing that a new era was dawning, to those who stated flatly that they would resign if we were to accede to any suggestions in the brief or any other brief of this nature.

He felt that there were certain things in academic life that we should not prejudice. The basic concepts of the liberal western university, based on academic freedom, freedom of enquiry, conscience, and the personal integrity of the scholar, were sound and should be maintained at all costs.

The Chairman reported that he had also taken much advice from students and felt that the spectrum there was also very wide. On the Alma Mater Society Council itself there had been a very wide range of opinion and differences about the soundness and justification behind some of the demands made in the document. He stated that among the students on this campus there were those who agreed with the radical position and, at the same time, there were students in some of the

professional faculties who felt that the demands were nonsense and that they were interfering with the progress of their education. However, he felt that most of the politically active students lay somewhere in the range of the moderate activists who felt that the University could stand a great deal of reform and he felt that the document should be taken very seriously.

He reported that he had had several discussions with the President of the Alma Mater Society who had now recognized that most of the issues raised in the brief were a great deal more complicated than it suggested. The President of the Student Council had now circulated a memorandum to the Presidents of Undergraduate Societies indicating that these complexities were realized, and advocating study at faculty levels.

The Chairman pointed out that he had taken the position that he would deal only with the Council of the A.M.S. and not with anyone who was trying to weaken its autonomy, and urged Senate to take the same view. He then outlined three topics on which he sought Senate's advice:

1. He suggested that Senate should, in some form, meet the Student Council and discuss these proposals across the table, constructively and on the assumption that they are directed towards the bettering of the University. He considered this a matter of urgency. He suggested a rather different mechanism for certain critical issues on which there was little time available.

2. The Chairman felt that the question of the revision of the Universities Act (Page 6, Item 6 of the Alma Mater Society Council Brief) called both for very discreet and more urgent treatment. There was a Committee in Victoria under Mr. Neil Perry discussing relations between the three provincial universities and with the provincial government. However, he felt that the Perry Committee would be pleased to have our comments. He considered that we should provide some opinions for them not later than November, but that these should not only represent the views of Senate but also those of the Board of Governors. In order to cover both categories he suggested the establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee to prepare a brief that might be submitted to the Perry Committee on the questions of university government. However, he did not feel that we should make a public declaration to the effect that we wanted the Act changed at this time.

The Chairman referred to the Commission to conduct a study of the relations between universities and governments in Canada set up as joint project of the A.U.C.C., Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Union of Students, and the Union Générale des Etudiants du Québec.

He hoped that the Presidential Advisory Committee could prepare a report to this Commission which would be consistent with the submission to the Perry Committee.

3. The present committee to recommend a candidate for the Deanship of Arts was made up of members elected by the Faculty of Arts and members appointed by the former Acting President, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Steinberg. Its composition had been challenged by the Alma Mater Society Council. The students had requested immediate admission to this committee (Page 6, Item 7 of the Alma Mater Society brief).

The Chairman reported that he had taken no action for the time being as he had felt that the method by which such an appointment might be made was governed by conventions arrived at by an understanding between the President, the governing body and the Senate. He further reported that subsequent to the delivery of the brief, the Alma Mater Society and the Arts Undergraduate Society had amplified this request and now asked that the Committee be discharged and a new one formed made up of equal numbers of members of the Faculty of Arts and of members elected by the Arts Undergraduate Society.

The three problems were then opened to discussion.

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large

Dr. Clark said he would like to make two motions in connection with this and to give some comments as to what lay behind this in so doing:

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large (Continued)

Dr. Clark)
Mr. Waldman)

That the Senate request the President to appoint seven members of Senate to a Joint Conference with seven of the Alma Mater Society representatives on the subjects raised in the Student Council's Brief, and,

that the Senate ask the Joint Conference to present an initial report to Senate before the end of December.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Clark for comments that he made and also called Senate's attention to the report of the Advisory Committee on the brief to the President. He explained that this Committee had been appointed by himself but that he had taken the advice of the Senate's ad hoc Nominating Committee in making up its membership. He explained that the Committee had appointed Dean Gage as its Chairman and then asked Dean Gage to speak.

Dean Gage explained that this report was more the work of a sub-committee than the whole committee and, even then, he doubted that it would receive the unanimous approval of all the members of the sub-committee. It was merely intended to indicate the point of view that many had taken and the attitude towards the brief. It also indicated some of the arguments for and against to help the President in considering the problem. The report indicated that there should be more liaison between students and faculty, but did not go into details.

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large (Continued)

The Committee considered examinations not to be unanimously popular but felt that there was a need for them to give some means of assessment. It was hoped that students would continue to actively participate in areas such as housing, library, etc. In the area of faculty appointments it was felt that consultation was more suitable than participation. The question of confidentiality was also mentioned in the Report.

Exception was taken to the reference to confidentiality and it was suggested that students were as aware as Senators of the need for silence on certain matters. It was further suggested that Senate needed to take a positive point of view and invest supreme confidence in the students.

The motion was opposed on the basis that all members of Senate might like to have the opportunity to discuss the brief with the Alma Mater Society Council. It was also considered unlikely that the students would agree to a discussion with only seven members of a body as large as Senate.

After further discussion, Dr. Young moved an amendment to Dr. Clark's motion - the motion to then read as follows:

Dr. Young)	<i>That Senate appoint an ad hoc Committee to consult with the Alma Mater Society Council and others and bring forward recommendations to Senate on the range of matters dis- cussed in the Alma Mater Society Council Brief, leaving open the date of when the recommendations would be brought forward.</i>
Dr. Norris)	

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large (Continued)

Dr. Young felt that the brief should be discussed as a single matter and that it would be undesirable to separate the discussion of the appropriate constitution of a Committee to select a Dean of Arts, or any other Dean, from the rest of the brief. He felt this was a part of the campaigning of students to participate in faculty and staff appointments. However, he suggested that at an early meeting of Senate some recommendations might be brought forward and these could be spaced out throughout the winter, in preference to a joint-conference working over many months before a report could be brought forward.

Concern was expressed at the amendment which did not allow full participation of all members of Senate and all members of the Alma Mater Society Council. It was then suggested that either motion was premature and that in the first instance consultation should take place between the two bodies to decide the best method of handling the brief.

After a brief discussion, at the request of the Chair it was unanimously agreed to suspend the motion to permit consideration of a motion:

Mr. Oberlander)	<i>That Senate invite the Student Council</i>
Dr. Gibson)	<i>as a whole to meet with Senate at the earliest possible moment to discuss the substance of the brief.</i>

There was considerable support for the substantive motion and it was considered that the students would appreciate taking part in the discussions of the procedure that should be adopted and furthermore that it would be beneficial to both sides to have an informal meeting

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large (Continued)

with all members of the two bodies so that views could be exchanged.

The motion was then put and carried.

A suggestion that the numbers would be out of proportion in favour of the Senate and that an open meeting was preferable, met strong opposition. It was felt that as the brief had been submitted by the Alma Mater Society Council to the Senate, both bodies claiming to be representative, it was proper that the two meet without involving anyone else.

It was then agreed that a written invitation should be sent to the President of the Alma Mater Society Council in accordance with the motion.

Concern was expressed at the delay in getting a mechanism started for dealing with the brief and it was suggested that in the meantime the Chairman should ask the Alma Mater Society Council if they would like to produce a Committee of their own to meet with a Committee from Senate.

Dr. Norris) *That Senate appoint an ad hoc committee*
Dr. Young) *to confer with the Alma Mater Society*
 Council on the range of matters contained
 in the Council brief and bring recommend-
 ations forward to Senate.

Carried

The Chairman then summed up:

- (a) It had been agreed that Senate should invite the Alma Mater Society Council to meet with it.
- (b) Preference had been expressed for Committee procedure and it had been agreed that Senate should ask the Student

Senate to meet the Alma Mater Society in some suitable manner
on the Brief at large

(b) (Continued)

Council if they would like to appoint a committee to meet with a committee of Senate.

It was then decided that the Chairman of Senate should appoint the members of the Senate Committee.

The Chairman felt that the question of the Committee to consider the appointment of a new Dean of Arts was now taken care of and would be considered with the brief as a whole, but he did feel that a Presidential Advisory Committee should be formed to consider the issues of University Government to report to the Perry Committee, and he asked Senate to endorse this proposal. In reply to a question as to whether students would be involved, the Chairman gave his assurance that they would be consulted.

Dr. Scott)
Dean Curtis)

- (a) *That Senate endorse the creation of a President's ad hoc committee to help prepare a submission to the Perry Committee, and,*
- (b) *that such committee be representative of the composition of Senate and be capable of considering adequately the future role of Senate itself in a regime of inter-university co-ordination.*

The Chairman closed the meeting by informing Senate that he would shortly be seeing Mr. Perry and that timetable was one of the things they would discuss. He felt that if we did not get our views to the Deputy Minister by November it would not be in our own interests.

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.


Secretary

Confirmed,


Chairman