

SM 24/1/66

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Student Society

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6952 Lanark Street,
Vancouver 15, B. C.

November 27, 1965

REGISTERED
FILE

Registrar,
Secretary of Senate,
Simon Fraser University.

Dear Sir:

Upon reading the latest edition of "The Peak", the following statement came to my attention, ". . . students who have paid student activity fees are members of the Society . ." (Simon Fraser Student Society). Obligatory membership to any organization, society, union or association is contrary to the foundation of Christian fellowship - ie. the teaching of the Holy Scriptures (that by which Members of Parliament are sworn into office).

At present there is no concession made for persons with a conscience in regard to belonging to this Society. Therefore, I appeal to the Senate for its consideration. As one who is a Christian, I therefore recognize the authority of scripture. 2 Corinthians 6:14 reads, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" and in verse 17, "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord". 2 Timothy 3:14 reads, "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for conviction, for instruction in righteousness". I therefore believe I cannot be linked with the S.F.S.S. by paying a fee or due and desire that you will insert a suitable conscience clause amendment in the Constitution of Simon Fraser University.

Precedents

1. Some of those of us who enjoy Christian fellowship on the basis of 2 Timothy 2:19, "And, let every one who nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity"; who take on no name, as this is not scriptural, and have gatherings throughout the world, have been granted exemption from student unions elsewhere, such as the Provincial Institute of Technology in Calgary and the University of California (please see sample letter and reply in Appendix).
2. In New Zealand, amending legislation has been passed allowing exemption from membership in professional associations (including surveyors, lawyers, pharmacists and accountants) on conscientious grounds.

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3. The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have made provision in their laws for conscientious objection to membership in trade associations.
4. The Government of Canada has recognized our conscientious objection to military service and granted "Restricted Enlistment" exempting from bearing arms.
5. The Government of Alberta has provided exemption from membership in the Chiropractors' Association on conscientious grounds.
6. The Atlantic Charter specifies that no person shall be compelled to belong to any association.

Suggestion for Conscience Clause Amendment - When a student, on grounds of conscience, declines membership in the S.F.S.S. (Simon Fraser Student Society), he shall be excused from compulsory contribution to this Society.

The decision of the Senate in relation to this matter will not only decide the termination or extension of my personal education, but also that of like-minded prospective university students. Recognizing the authority of the Senate to accept or reject this suggested amendment, I would beg your careful consideration. I would be glad to answer any further queries as to my stand in this matter.

Yours very truly,

A. Bruce Thomson

A. Bruce A. Thomson
(Science I)

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APPENDIX

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Steven Simon

1440 Finley Lane
Alamo, California
23 January 1966

Miss Katharine A. Towle
Office of the Dean of Students
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Dean Towle:

With regard to our discussion on January 16th, we are writing to you to make clear our convictions and inquire if there is any way we can be relieved of membership in the Associated Students of the University of California on the basis of conscientious objection. We understand that, at present, anyone who enrolls at the University becomes also a member of the ASUC.

As Christians, we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, and "are not our own...for we have been bought with a price..." (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20); "We have been redeemed...by precious blood...the blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1: 18-19). On the basis of His ownership, the Scriptures, being the Word of God, contains truth which governs every department of our lives. We are quite willing to be subject "to the powers that be" and honor authority vested in governments and ruling bodies of men, as, indeed, Roman 13:1-2 teaches. But where the demands of men conflict with the teachings of Scripture, we must obey the Scriptures. Where men require us to act in a certain way, honoring God we believe that we must fulfil our responsibilities to God at all cost.

We thus believe that we cannot be involved in any association, or be linked with other men through any organization, supporting it by paying dues, and yet keep clear consciences before God, to whom we are responsible. We are fully convinced that, by reason of conscience and Scripture, we, in belonging to the ASUC, are not wholly pleasant to God. 2 Corinthians 6:14 bears on our links with any association of men. "Be not diversely linked with unbelievers, for...what fellowship of light with darkness...?"

The government of the United States and the University of California honor conscience as a valid basis for exemption from the taking up of arms, which some, including ourselves, feel to be contrary to their beliefs. Is there any provision made, or could any provision be made, so that we, for conscience sake, would not be forced to purchase membership in the ASUC by paying the dues when paying the entrance fees, so that we could study at the University of California as non-members of the ASUC? Could some ruling be made whereby conscientious objection would be a valid basis for students to appeal for exemption from membership in the ASUC, and yet be allowed to pursue a normal academic career at the University?

At present, we know of no others besides ourselves involved in this matter. If any further information is necessary, we would be most happy to furnish it.

Yours very truly,

DONALD T. HAWKINS

GERALD W. GEIKEN

CHRISTINE D. BEATTIE

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Student Society

University of California

May 27, 1963

Miss Roberta M. Geiken
1430 Finley Lane
Alamo, California.

Dear Miss Geiken:

Dean Towle has referred your letter of May 20, 1963, to me for reply. Approval has been given to a waiver of the ASUC membership fee (5.50) for the Fallsemester, 1963, and a memorandum to this effect has been sent to the Cashier and Registrar. If you wish a waiver of this fee for succeeding semesters, you should let me know before registration so that the proper offices may be informed.

Should any problem concerning this waiver arise at the time of registration, ask to speak with the supervisor of registration.

Sincerely yours,

LOUISE A SKAIN (Miss)

Assistant to the Dean.