

SM 3/10/66

Student Faculty Rights

Paper - 3 I

TO: SENATE

FROM: FACULTY COUNCIL

Discussion Paper - Student
Faculty Rights

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 1966

Concern has been expressed over the need to have at Simon Fraser special rights of privacy for students and faculty. In this concern it is important to keep in mind that students and faculty as citizens have inalienable rights. Rights can not be arbitrarily assigned even by persons or bodies with the very best of intentions. To do so would be to question the very existence of these rights. We do not have in Canadian society a tradition of those in appointed offices assigning rights to citizens.

If rights are to be considered at all then the entire university community should be brought into the discussion. The matter should be put on the agenda of all the elected bodies in the university.

Furthermore in the matter of rights for students and faculty it is dangerous to pick out one right; for example, the right of privacy, at the exclusion of other equally important rights. Few rights can be interpreted in any absolute way. Each must be seen in relation to other rights.

The architectural design of the campus and the nature of the present student body present many obstacles to the operation of Simon Fraser in the traditional ways of Canadian Universities. Some of these obstacles we can eliminate: others we must learn to live with. In Faculty Council's opinion the assignment of any right to the students and faculty on the part of the Faculty Council or Senate would be a serious mistake. The Council doubts if it would achieve any worthwhile results and further, it would alienate this campus from the university community, and from the public.

D. P. Robertson
Registrar