

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

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To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: Winegard Commission Report

Date: 16th September 1976

Motion: The University is currently reviewing the implications of the Winegard Commission report relating to the proposed role for Simon Fraser University in interior programming. The Senate, however, does not accept the role limitations for this University as stated on page 10 of the Report.

Rationale: From the Report of the Commission on University Programs in non-metropolitan areas (p. 10):

"The University of British Columbia is the major professional, graduate and research institution of the Province; in these areas it is a national and international resource. It must carry a heavy responsibility for extension work in all parts of the Province in the professional disciplines. As well, it must assume a major responsibility for continuing education and evening credit programs in the Vancouver area. The Commission feels very strongly that the role of the University of British Columbia as outlined above is the correct one and that the people of British Columbia and indeed of Canada would be ill-served by any proposal that diluted this role. It is difficult to believe that the University of British Columbia can expand its existing degree programming for the non-metropolitan areas without detracting from its major responsibilities as outlined above.

The University of Victoria wishes to be, and should be, a highly residential undergraduate Arts and Science University with a few professional programs and limited graduate work. It has the opportunity to stay relatively small and promote quality in its restricted programs. It has been carrying much of the load for continuing education on Vancouver Island and on some parts of the Mainland coast and could continue to do so without being detracted from its main role. The Province needs a university of the type envisaged for the University of Victoria.

Senate

Senate Committee on  
Academic Planning

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Simon Fraser University originated as an Arts and Science institution with an emphasis on tutorial teaching, and in recent years it has developed interdisciplinary programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The University has little interest in further development of professional schools and has or should have ambitions for a somewhat restricted role in graduate work especially at the doctoral level."

The above role assumed for Simon Fraser University by the Winegard Commission should be rejected for the following reasons. First, the assignment of roles to specific universities was not within the terms of reference of the Commission. Second, the Commissioner, Dr. Winegard, did not formally discuss this question with the University, and these comments are deemed only to reflect his preferences. Third, the University has long expressed its interest in the development of professional programs of an integrated and interdisciplinary nature, several of which have been successfully implemented. Finally, and most important, Simon Fraser University has, since its inception, been committed to graduate work at both the masters and doctoral level. Today, only four of the University's nineteen departments do not offer doctoral level programs.

To accept the role restrictions assumed in the Winegard Commission Report would be to deny the commitments that this University has made over the past ten years to high quality graduate teaching and research. The Committee recommends that the role assumed by Dr. Winegard for this university be rejected by Senate since it is not in fact our role, and that the Universities Council be so advised.