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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Paper S-89

MEMORANDUM

SM 8/1/68

From Dr. A.M. Unrau

Department of Chemistry

Date November 27, 1967
Awards Committee.

To Mr. D. P. Robertson

Registrar

Subject Student Representation and Open Meetings of the Senate Scholarship and

The Senate Scholarship and Awards Committee is appointed and functions under the terms of reference set forth by the Senate. It follows, therefore, that the minutes are open to the members of Senate; and in the appointment of the members of this committee, it is obvious that any member of Senate could be appointed. Since we now have student representation on the Senate it is therefore possible that a student could actually be appointed as a member of the Senate Scholarship and Awards Committee. It is indeed doubtful whether this would be desirable or for that matter proper since the primary responsibility of this committee is to award scholarships to qualified candidates. This, therefore, involves access to confidential documents to which students should not have general access.

The subject of open meetings and student representation on the committee was discussed at some length at the last meeting of the Scholarships Committee. It was strongly felt that it would be improper to have open meetings with unlimited participation because of the highly confidential nature of the majority of the transactions of the committee. At no time should students have general access to student transcripts. Since the applicant's transcripts and letters of reference are the main documents which are circulated to the members of the committee for the purpose of reaching reasonable decisions with respect to the awarding of scholarships, it is therefore obviously not possible to transform the general meetings of the Scholarships Committee into a parliamentary form. It would also be highly inefficient during the course of the meeting to have to declare which particular agenda items are confidential and to request visitors to leave. Such a "Jack-in-the box" procedure would be of little value to the visitor and would certainly impede the progress of the meeting.

The Scholarships Committee would, however, wish to suggest that should there be sufficient interest, the committee members would be happy to meet such interested parties at a general meeting in which general issues could be discussed and specific questions with respect to the general availability of scholarships could be answered. It was felt that since the Senate now has student representation, the initiation of such a meeting should be through the proper channels of the University Senate.

A.M. Unrau

