

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.75-19

MEMORANDUM

SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC
PLANNING

Subject ALLOCATION OF SPACE IN THE
LIBRARY BUILDING

Date DECEMBER 18, 1975

The Senate Committee on Academic Planning discussed the allocation of Library space at its meetings of December 10th and December 17th, 1975. Discussion within the Committee centered around the following concerns:

- (1) The needs of the Library for space for the collections.
- (2) Reading space requirements for faculty and students.
- (3) Surge space to meet departmental growth needs in the immediate and near future.

In discussion, there was recognition of and agreement on the following:

- (1) The growth of current and emergent academic programs require additional faculty.
- (2) There is no current space to provide for additional faculty offices except in the addition to the Library.
- (3) The Faculty of Education desperately needs office space to relieve their overcrowded conditions as does the Department of Kinesiology.
- (4) The decision to add both floors of the Library at one time stemmed from rising building costs coupled with the pressing need for more space for academic departments. In making the commitment to add both floors of the Library at one time, it had been agreed that some academic departments should be moved onto the seventh floor of the Library until additional classroom and office space is made available by the completion of other buildings in the late 1970's and early 1980's.
- (5) This spring 35,000 gross square feet on the sixth floor of the Library will become available for Library use which will provide additional reading space for faculty and students. During the next few years it is anticipated that the north concourse will be completed at the same time as the construction of the Education and Archaeology building, providing workspace for students. A second University Centre Building is projected which will also provide additional work space for students. Reading, recreation, and study areas will also become available with the re-development of the west concourse.

- (6) Conversations with the librarian and deputy librarian indicated that the Library had no need for additional space, other than the sixth floor which it will move into in the spring of 1976, until 1983 or 1984. By that time the two major academic projects will be completed, to the best of our knowledge, as well as a planned classroom/office building which will provide the space necessary to relocate those departments that are proposed to move to the seventh floor of the Library in 1976.
- (7) Because of the transfer of existing staff to the new office of Analytical Studies, space for this unit must be provided in close proximity to the offices of the President and Academic Vice-President. Space for this unit is not available in the present administration building.
- (8) The office of the Fire Marshal has become a major one in Burnaby and when modifications of a building take place, the Fire Marshal looks at the entire building and suggests modifications. This is a major factor to consider in building costs and also adds a time element to proposed revisions. For this reason, it is important to decide on the allocation of space for the Library as soon as possible in order to complete a review by the Fire Marshal's office early next year.

The proposed disposition of space on the seventh floor of the Library is set out in the memorandum from Dr. B. G. Wilson, Vice-President, Academic to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning, dated 10 December 1975 (attached). These proposals generated two additional concerns. The first of these was whether the second floor of the Library would be more appropriate for faculty and administrative offices thus leaving the seventh floor available solely for Library expansion. The second concern related to whether the move of the senior University officers to the Library was permanent or subject to relocation again in 1981/82.

Regarding the first of these concerns, there are 6,000 square feet less on the second floor of the Library than on the seventh floor. In addition, the second floor of the Library also includes space for the Audio Visual Centre, an independent department, and the heating plant for the University. Because of the anticipated needs for faculty offices in the next few years as well as additional space for T.A.'s, graduate students and support staff, space on the second floor of the Library is insufficient to meet these anticipated needs. While possibly satisfactory for 1976/77, it is anticipated that the pressure will be such as to then require additional space elsewhere.

Because of the availability of adequate space on the seventh floor of the Library to meet both immediate and future needs, it would be less disruptive to Library operations to now commit the seventh floor to surge space for departments for the next five years rather than relocate to a floor in the Library which will be inadequate in two years.

Regarding the second of the concerns expressed, the question of a subsequent move of the senior academic administrative staff of the University from the Library will be reviewed when Library needs for the seventh floor are urgent. Other alternatives will exist at that time. It was made clear that both President and Vice-President, Academic felt that the academic administration should be located in academic buildings as are the Deans.

Discussion on the allocation of Library space has made it abundantly clear that the Library represents a unique University facility whose use affects students, faculty and administrative staff. Clearly, the needs of all three groups within the University community must be taken into consideration in any allocation or reallocation of Library space. Because of the pressing space needs which will exist in this University for the next five to seven years, it was emphasized that a process for a frequent review of Library space needs be developed and maintained. Consideration has been given to the use of minimum space standards and other quantitative means by which space in the Library might be allocated for various purposes. However, it was agreed that this does not represent a viable approach. Rather, a periodic assessment of the Library's present situation and anticipated future possibilities in the context of University priorities is more appropriate. For this reason, it is proposed that the Senate Library Committee be charged with incorporating in its annual report an assessment of the current space allocation situation in the Library and the implications for the Library of projected subsequent increases in students, faculty, programs and collections.