

S214

RECOMMENDATION OF THE

SENATE COMMITTEE

ON

RULES AND PROCEDURES

March 20, 1969
DAM/kgw

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: President
Chairman of Senate
Subject: Special Meeting of Senate

From: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
K. E. Ricekhoff et al
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MAR 18 2 48 PM '69
Date: March 18, 1969

14733-PC

We, the undersigned members of the Senate of Simon Fraser University, request a special meeting of Senate to be called at the earliest convenience for the purpose of discussing the attached interim recommendation of the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures.

It appears imperative that Senate take immediate action with regard to these recommendations, and that Senate has the opportunity to implement these recommendations before any other business meeting.

Klaus E. Ricekhoff

William Chiles

John Walker

Kenneth R. Beutler

Bruce W. Aust

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Kenneth Strand, Chairman

Senate

Subject INTERIM RECOMMENDATION ON
OPEN MEETINGS

From Senate Committee on

Rules and Procedures

Date March 12, 1969

14733-PC

When Senate decided to open its meeting on non-confidential business to the university community at large, it was to assure that members of this community would be enabled to be fully aware of the debate and argument preceding the decisions of Senate. The only reservation individual members of Senate had with regard to opening the meeting arose out of concern for the effect that such openness might have on the effective and efficient conduct of business by Senate. To ensure that Senate would continue to be in a position to perform its duties in open meetings without interference and free of pressure exerted by the presence of observers, Senate laid down certain rules with respect to observers at its meeting. In particular, Senate decided that i.a.

- (1) The number of observers be limited and
- (2) Observers be required to refrain from applause and other audible or visible forms of expression that could prove distracting to Senate.

It is a matter of public concern and historical record that partly due to the action of minority groups and partly due to the lack of discipline and consideration of others, it has been impossible to enforce these rules.

It is further a matter of record and common knowledge that this disregard for its rules has led to a most serious deterioration of Senate's abilities to perform its duties and to conduct its business effectively and intelligently with a resulting threat to the proper functioning of the university as an academic institution.

Clearly Senate would be remiss in its duties if it continues to allow a state of affairs to persist that interferes seriously with the effective conduct of its business. It is thus faced with a choice among the following alternatives to ensure that it will be enabled to perform its duties adequately and effectively:

- (1) rigorous enforcement of existing rules,
- (2) abolishment of open meetings altogether,
- (3) changing the existing rules such that the meetings may remain open in that the deliberations of Senate on nonconfidential matters remain available to the university community while at the same time screening Senate from outside interference during meetings.

The first alternative does not appear to be viable unless distasteful measures will be employed and even under such circumstances success appears to be questionable.

The second alternative seems equally distasteful, since there appears to exist a wide spread consensus that the university community and the public have a legitimate interest in having access to the deliberations of Senate.

The third alternative remains the only one that is both technically feasible and also safeguards all legitimate interests of the university in making the deliberation of senate accessible while preventing a deterioration of Senate's effectiveness through exposure to an environment not conducive to rational conduct and debate.

The Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures is charged in its Terms of Reference to make recommendations to Senate on matters such as discussed above. It has given careful consideration to these questions and has unanimously agreed to make the following recommendations to Senate:

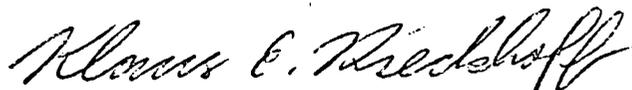
- (1) Effective immediately upon approval by a majority of Senate
 - (a) That all observers be excluded from Senate meetings except for the presence of authorized representatives of the press which will be allowed while nonconfidential business is being conducted.
 - (b) That during nonconfidential parts of all Senate meetings, procedures and deliberations be made accessible to the university community through a closed circuit audio system with speakers provided in the main student cafeteria and such other areas as are, in the view of the Chairman of Senate, desirable.
 - (c) That if, in the view of the Chairman or a majority of Senate this appears desirable, the audio circuits be supplemented by closed circuit television to the same areas as in (b).

- (d) That the Chairman of Senate be required to take all necessary steps to rigorously enforce these rules and that in the event that enforcement of these rules, in the judgement of the chairman, would require measures less desirable than the closing of Senate meetings, he be empowered at his discretion to close meetings to the public until such time as he considers enforcement of these rules by reasonable means possible.

The Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures in considering other practises in Senate that tend to interfere with the effective conduct of business, came to the conclusion that the use of movable microphones during debate tended to be disruptive and interfered with the efficient conduct of debate. It therefore makes the following additional recommendation to Senate:

- (2) That if technically feasible and financially possible the present system of movable microphones be replaced by an audio system that will be able to pick up all discussions of Senate without the presence of people moving individual microphones to individual speakers.

In conclusion, the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures urges the Chairman of Senate to take all necessary and possible steps to obtain Senate approval for these recommendations such that they can be implemented at the next meeting of Senate.



K. E. Rieckhoff, Chairman
Senate Committee on
Rules and Procedures

KER/smg

c.c. Dr. A. R. MacKinnon
Dr. D. Sullivan