

SM 118/66

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TO: SENATE

PAPER 3F

FROM: SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

July 22, 1966

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS POLICY

File: 7-A-1

The Committee is empowered by Senate, "to determine the credit to be given to accepted applicants, for previous academic work." The Committee has under consideration a request from an applicant, supported by a Department Head at Simon Fraser, for credit based on maturity, experience, publications, etc. The individual in question is undoubtedly capable and meritorious, but has not taken any previous academic work for which credit can be given.

The Committee is quite clear that it can admit mature students to the University who may have incomplete high school, or in extreme cases, no high school, but this is the first time the question of advance credit has been raised in this connection.

There are a number of points that should be raised for the attention of Senate. One is that the University does not extend credit (as different from standing) to "native speakers" who enrol in language courses. That is, a native Russian may not receive credit for the elementary Russian courses even though it is obvious he has far more than a mastery of the language at that level. He would not be required to take the elementary courses: he would be allowed to take senior courses, but he must still take enough courses in total to meet the credit requirements for the given standing in the elementary accounting course, but he would not be given credit for it.

The Committee discussed a number of other anomalies of this sort which are traditional with Universities, such as the creative writer, the amateur historian, biologist, etc. These people are not eligible for earned degrees; if they are outstanding they often receive an honorary degree.

If the Senate decides to recognize maturity and performance outside the area of academic credit courses, the Committee would appreciate very detailed advice as to how this recognition is to be decided and who would do the deciding.

D. P. Robertson  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on  
Undergraduate Admissions

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