

SIMON FRASER STUDENT SOCIETY

SM 2/10/67

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. D.P. Robertson
Secretary, Academic Senate

Date: September 25/67

From: Mrs. Sharon Yandle, Student Representative
Academic Senate

SY:kp

SUBJECT:

Enclosed please find, item of teaching assistance and space usage for the agenda on October 2, 1967 Senate Meeting.

Sharon Yandle

Encl.

RECEIVED

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Academic Planning

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



SM 2/10/67

BURNABY 2, BRITISH COLUMBIA
Telephone 291-3111 Area code 604

18 September 1967

To: Sharon Yandle, Senator:

The Graduate Student Association requests that the Senate meet as soon as possible to discuss the space shortage in the university, particularly with respect to Teaching Assistants. Many of the T.A.'s returned to Simon Fraser at the beginning of the semester to find that their offices had been appropriated for other purposes, i.e., tutorials and faculty offices. These offices had been used for counselling students, for teaching preparations, and for research; presently the T.A.'s have no place to continue these activities which are obviously a necessary and integral part of their teaching duties and scholarly pursuits, and thereby of the functioning of the university. We are presently carrying out these duties in cafeterias, lounge areas, faculty offices (which are being shared with up to five other persons) or in crowded, often unavailable, cubicles in the library. The hardships which the situation imposes on the Teaching Assistants is only equalled by that imposed on the students and faculty.

Since the Teaching Assistants are responsible for over 80% of the tutorials and most of the labs, grading and counselling, present spatial shortages can only adversely affect the academic standards of the entire university.

Enclosed is a letter dated September 13 which was sent to President McTaggart-Cowan, along with his reply to that letter. Not only did we receive merely token satisfaction from the latter, but also the rumoured acquisition of four trailers, which might have ameliorated the situation, has proved abortive, as have other attempts and sug-

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gested alternatives. Conferences with Mr. DeVries indicate that there are no solutions in sight. We are grievously concerned with the apparent complacency of the Board of Governors and the provincial government in the face of what we consider to be a serious problem.

We feel that the minimum requirements which would enable us to carry out our work efficiently are: 1) a desk and chair, 2) a filing cabinet and bookshelves, and 3) an enclosed area of some sort where a modicum of privacy could be maintained for counselling students.

As an interim solution we suggest that SFU acquire a sufficient number of trailers to accommodate the Teaching Assistants. In the long-term view, we strongly urge that Phase III of the building program commence immediately. We should also point out that the shortage of office space for Teaching Assistants is merely one of the first manifestations of a much larger space problem which concerns all members of the academic community. Overcrowding in the library and lack of research space for members of the Science Faculty already present serious obstacles to scholarship.

We urge the Senate to meet as soon as possible, to treat the situation with the concern it calls for, and to take whatever immediate steps are necessary to alleviate the present very unsatisfactory conditions.

Respectfully yours,

Ian Spencer

Ian Spencer, President, Graduate Student Assoc.
Dell Texmo, Secretary
Trevor Chandler
John Edmond
Kwat The
Elia Zurick
Bernard Clark
Jim Cromwell
Johan Schuyff

Academic Planning

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SM 2/10/67

x ~~DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY~~



BURNABY 2, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Telephone 291-3111 Area code 604

13 September 1967

Dear Mr. President,

A meeting of the Graduate Student Association Executive was held today to discuss the problem of the lack of space in the university. The departmental representatives reported that over 250 teaching assistants are without adequate office space to carry on their teaching and counselling duties. This situation does not only affect teaching assistants but the entire faculty and student population and therefore may adversely affect the quality of instruction in the university.

The executive realizes that the space problem is closely bound up with the faulty long-term planning of the university. More generally, the question is related to the provincial government's restrictive attitude toward higher education in British Columbia. This association realizes that despite these long-term considerations the university faces a serious short-term problem which has to be solved immediately.

The rumored plan to increase the number of trailers by four will obviously not provide an adequate solution. At most, these trailers can accommodate twenty-eight small offices or if the tutorial rooms on the fifth floor of the Academic Quadrangle are released as teaching assistant offices then approximately twenty T.A.s will have to share one small area. The T.A.s believe that a private area is essential for proper counselling and teaching preparation.

We deplore the fact that neither the Graduate Student Association nor teaching assistants have been consulted by the administration on this problem and we urge in the interests of the academic community as a whole that in future steps be taken to involve the Graduate Student Association in university problems. We would appreciate the co-operation of the university administration in the solution of the problem. Failing this, the Graduate Student Association intends to take direct action.

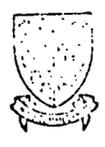
Respectfully yours,

Ian Spencer, President
Trevor Chandler
John Edmond
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Elia Zurick
Bernard Clark
Jim Cromwell
Johan Schuyff
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Academic Review

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



SM 2/10/67

BURNABY 2, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Telephone 291-3211 Area code 604

September 14, 1967

Mr. Ian Spencer, et al,
President, Graduate Student Association,
Simon Fraser University,
Burnaby 2, B. C.

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Thank you for your letter of September 13. I can assure you that the Deans, Department Heads and the University administration are very conscious of the space problems in the University and are doing everything they can to find the best possible solution.

Mr. De Vries either has been or will be in contact with you and he will welcome your cooperation. In addition I think your members can make a valuable contribution by working directly with their Department Heads so that we may be sure that every good idea is available to us as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

P. D. McTaggart-Cowan,
President.

c. c. Mr. W. De Vries