

APPEAL TO THE SENATE BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE FORMATION OF AN INDEPENDENT
GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY

Basic reasons for appeal.

The Graduate Students are appealing the recommendations of the Faculty Council for two basic reasons. The first reason is the failure of the Alma Mater Society to grant the Graduate Students immediate representation on the Students' Council as recommended by the Faculty Council. The Graduate Students can only conclude that the present Students' Council is unwilling to comply with the Faculty Council's recommendations. The second, and in the opinion of the Graduate Students the most important reason, is caused by new information which has been received and which, we feel, warrants further consideration of the question of the status of the Graduate Student Society. We refer the Senate's attention to the letter in Appendix B dated November 10 (paragraph 3 on page 2). We strongly feel that in order to participate effectively in the proposed Canadian Association of Graduate Students, we must have a society which is not an appendage of the Alma Mater Society.

Discussion of Alma Mater Society proposals.

The Alma Mater Society in their brief to the Senate Committee rested their case on two main points. In their view there is no reason why the proposed Graduate Student Society could not function within the Alma Mater Society in a form similar to that of the Education Undergraduate Society. The fact that Graduate Students are in general teaching members of the staff invalidates this particular analogy. In no other school, professional or otherwise, do students have this unique status.

Their other major point was the fear of factionalization of student government should the Graduate Students form a society outside the Alma Mater Society. We bring the attention of the Senate to the fact that many universities throughout Canada have recognized that Graduate Students have a status different from any other students and have allowed the creation of graduate student societies which exist independently of the undergraduate societies. [Please, see Appendix A].

Discussion of the proposed Constitution of the Graduate Student Society.

Appendix C is a copy of the proposed constitution of the Graduate Student Society. The Graduate Students have made provision in this constitution for close contact with the Alma Mater Society. We refer you to Article V, Section 2 [pages 2-3, Appendix C] discussing allocation of funds to the Alma Mater Society and to Article VIII, Section 5b (page 5) discussing one of the duties of the Advisory Committee. The members of this Committee would be the official representatives of the Graduate Student Society at any meetings held by the Students' Council to which they were invited. The Graduate Students would welcome a similar committee being formed within the Alma Mater Society to act as the official representatives of the Alma Mater Society at those meetings held by the Executive of the Graduate Student Society.

Recommendations of the Graduate Students.

Since the Graduate Students of the University of Victoria unanimously desire to form an autonomous Graduate Student Society, the Graduate Students respectfully suggest that the Senate make the following recommendations which would be effective either immediately or, at the latest, by the end of the present academic year(*):

(1) That in view of the status of the Graduate Students in the academic community, the Graduate Students be allowed to form their own society independent of the Alma Mater Society and as outlined in the proposed constitution of the Graduate Students.

(2) That since no other group of students, professional or otherwise, have this status, all students of professional schools form societies affiliated to the Alma Mater Society.

Conclusion.

We hope we have shown the Senate that at the university level there can be peaceful and profitable coexistence between two societies not directly attached. At a national level all indications are that after March 1967 there will be two separate organizations in Canada, one to represent Graduate Students only and the other to represent the Undergraduate Students. These organizations will exist under the same degree of independence and interdependence as the Graduate Student Society at the University of Victoria as envisaged by the Graduate Students. At no time have the organizers of the Canadian Association of Graduate Students indicated opposition from the present Canadian Union of Students. At no time have the organizers meet with the frustrations which have continually been placed in the way of the Graduate Students at Victoria. Indications are that at those universities where graduate societies are affiliated to undergraduate societies the administrations are being asked by the Graduate Students to change this situation. Meanwhile, the Graduate Students at the University of Victoria are faced with the possibility of having any policy statements they make to the Canadian Association of Graduate Students' conference, next March, subject to ratification by the Alma Mater Society. The Senate, we are sure, will understand the impracticability of this position. For these reasons, the Graduate Students hope a favourable decision will be given.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee for the Formation of an
Independent Graduate Student Society.

Victoria, November 20, 1966.

(*) In order to be adequately represented at the Canadian Union of Graduate Students' conference. This conference will be held on March 16, 1967.

APPENDIX A

POLL OF FACULTY		
July 28, 1966		
Number polled by mail: 250 - Number answering: 63.		
In favor of an independent Graduate Student Society.	Opposed to an independent Graduate Student Society.	No opinion.
33 (52.4%)	11 (17.5%)	19 (30.1%)

POLL OF UNIVERSITIES		
July 28, 1966		
Number polled by mail: 42 - Number answering: 22.		
Having an independent Graduate Student Society.	Having a dependent Graduate Student Society.	Others.
9	8	5

APPENDIX B

The University of Western Ontario

SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



LONDON, CANADA

September 23rd, 1966

Mr. P.A. Coughlan,
c/o Department of Physics,
University of Victoria,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Coughlan:

In July of this year the Society of Graduate Students sent a proposal to you in which we suggested the formation of a Canadian Union of Graduate Students.

Our executive has now approved a general plan for a founding conference since the initial response from other universities has been encouraging.

This conference will be held at the University of Western Ontario on March 16th, 17th and 18th, 1967.

In order to help finance this venture, we are applying to the Canadian Centennial Commission Youth Travel Program for Voluntary Agencies for assistance for travelling delegates as well as accommodation expenses. It looks as if our conference is just the sort of thing they are looking for in 1967.

If financial help is not forthcoming, travelling expenses will have to be borne by the individual graduate organizations.

With this plan in mind, we would very much appreciate hearing your views on this conference before October 15th and whether or not you would consider sending delegates.

In the meantime, a group from our Society and other nearby universities will be drafting resolutions and a constitution, both of which you will receive in early November. Amendments and new proposals will be considered until January 15th, 1967 from all graduate organizations. All those received will be redistributed to all organizations and these will be working drafts for the conference.

The Society of Graduate Students is particularly interested in a concerted action in connection with the problem of financial support of graduate students. You already should have a copy of last year's Needs and Means Report. We are planning another follow-up survey to be made at registration this year.

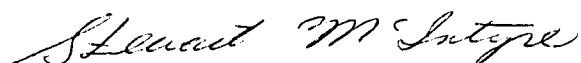
Problems with university government are particularly acute here at Western and we wonder if some time at the conference might be profitably spent in discussions of the graduate student's role in this field, as well as a generalized look at graduate contribution to university life.

We have been approached in the last year by other nearby graduate organizations to form an inter-university cultural organization through which graduate students in various fields could meet in inter-disciplinary discussions. This topic could also be pursued at the conference.

Please let us know if you are interested in such a conference as soon as possible. Any grant that we may receive is dependent on a national enthusiasm for the formation of the Canadian Association of Graduate Students.

All my best wishes for your activities in the coming year.

Yours truly,



Stewart McIntyre,
Acting Chairman,
Conference Steering Committee

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The University of Western Ontario
SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



LONDON, CANADA

November 10, 1966.

Mr. Padraig A. Coughlan,
Chairman,
Graduate Students' Society,
University of Victoria,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Coughlan:

Further to your letter of November 2, Mr. Stewart McIntyre has asked me to outline the reasons we feel there is a need for a Canadian Association of Graduate Students (as we now propose to call it). First and foremost, there is the question of the financial needs of graduate students. At Western we have conducted a needs and means survey amongst graduate students, both this year and last. As a result of this survey we have recommended that \$3,000. be the minimum stipend for a graduate student for a 12 month period and \$2,000. for an 8 month period. This stipend would be in the form of a grant, research assistantship, demonstratorship, lectureship or some combination of these. In the years surveyed (1965-66 and 1966-67) only 50% of those filling out questionnaires received \$3,000. or more for 12 months or \$2,000. or more for 8 months. If Western alone petitioned the Provincial and Federal governments for increased stipends, we would be just a voice crying in the wilderness. However, a unified plea from all the graduate student organizations across Canada would carry a great deal more weight and would be more likely to succeed.

A second important area of graduate student interest and concern is that of university government and the setting of

academic policy. While undergraduate students share this concern to a certain extent, it is the graduate student who is directly concerned since he is the professor of tomorrow and decisions reached now in this area are going to effect him directly in the future. These decisions also affect all students, graduate and undergraduate alike, in that the setting of academic policy decides how one's degree is regarded outside one's particular university, in the business community and in the academic community at large. Therefore, we feel that it is desirable for all graduate students across Canada (through their respective graduate student organizations) to formulate a policy on these matters.

A third, and somewhat more nebulous, area is that of "cultural exchange". By this we mean promoting the exchange of ideas, primarily, between the graduate student organizations of the various campuses. This could involve an exchange of programme material, cross-Canada lecture tours, exchange of students in the summer months and so on.

As for the reasons for having C.A.G.S. as well as C.U.S., these are relatively straightforward. At present, graduate students, per se, are not represented on C.U.S. and, therefore, the above concerns, which are primarily those of graduate students, are not being heard and acted upon. C.A.G.S. is not designed to supersede C.U.S. but to compliment it and, in fact, we are hoping for C.U.S. support, both moral and monetary, in founding C.A.G.S. This, then, is the primary reason for an autonomous association of graduate student organizations outside of, but in close liaison with, C.U.S. - to represent the needs and concerns of graduate students, which differ markedly from those of undergraduate students and which are not being represented within C.U.S., at a national level. The same argument holds as a reason for having an autonomous graduate student organization at the university level, outside of but in close liaison with, the respective students' council.

We hope this letter will answer most of your questions but if you have any further enquiries, we will be happy to answer them.

Enclosed is a copy of our constitution for your files.

Mr. P.A. Coughlan

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November 10, 1966

All the best in your attempts to form an independent
graduate organization.

Yours sincerely,

John Patterson

John Patterson,
Member,
S.O.G.S. - C.A.G.S. Conference
Committee.

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APPENDIX C

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

ARTICLE I - NAME

This society shall be known as the Graduate Student Society of the University of Victoria (hereafter referred to as the Society).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Subject to the provisions of the Universities Act Being Chapter 52 of the statutes of the British Columbia 1963, the purposes of the Society shall be:

- Section 1. To represent the Graduate Student Body in all matters pertinent to the welfare of it as a unit or any of the individuals comprising that Body.
- Section 2. To act as a liaison between the Graduate Student Body and the Faculty and Administration.
- Section 3. To promote social, cultural, intellectual and recreational activities among the Graduate Students.
- Section 4. To provide a communicative link with the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria and also with the Graduate Students of other universities.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The Society shall be composed of honorary members, active members and associate members.

- Section 1. Honorary membership in the Society is granted for lifetime of the recipient and applies to the following categories:
 - (a) The Chancellor of the University of Victoria.
 - (b) The President of the University of Victoria who shall be the Honorary President of the Society.
 - (c) The Head of the School of Graduate Studies of the University of Victoria.
 - (d) Others whom the Society may wish to honour for outstanding service.
- Section 2. Active membership in the Society is opened to all persons registered in the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Victoria.

Section 3. Associate membership in the Society.

- (a) The tenure of associate membership in the Society shall be deemed valid only so long as the recipient meet the requirements set out under Article III, Section 3 (b).
- (b) Associate membership in the Society shall consist of the following categories:
 - (i) Spouses of the active members.
 - (ii) Visitors to the University of Victoria who are enrolled in Graduate Studies at other universities.
 - (iii) Others, outside the School of Graduate Studies, at the discretion of the Society.

Section 4. The annual fees of admission to the Society are payable by active members at the time of registration.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2. An Advisory Committee shall be formed by the election of two representatives.

Section 3. An Executive Council shall be formed consisting of the officers and the members of the Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE V - FUNDS

The funds of the Society shall be dispensed at the discretion of the Society.

Section 1. The funds of the Society shall consist of the following:

- (a) The annual fees of admission paid by the members.
- (b) The private endowments given to the Society.

Section 2. A grant will be paid to the Alma Mater Society of

the University of Victoria;

- (a) Once each calendar year.
- (b) The amount and purposes of the grant will be determined by the Executive Council of the Society in collaboration with the Officers of the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Executive Council shall meet twice monthly and when called by the President for administration of business.
- Section 2. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in the Spring Term not later than March 15th.
- Section 3. A General Meeting shall be held in the Fall Term not later than October 31st.
- Section 4. Special Meetings of the Society may be called by the President at his discretion and shall be called upon petition of 10% of the active members.
- Section 5. There shall be at least seven days notice for any meeting and petition meetings shall be called within fourteen days of receipt of the petition.
- Section 6. Quorum for the Executive Council meetings shall be two-thirds of the Executive Council.
- Section 7. Quorum for General Meetings shall be 15% of the active members.
- Section 8. Rules of Order at all meetings of the Society shall be as in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

- Section 1. Only active members as defined in the Constitution may vote or hold an executive position.
- Section 2. The retiring president shall act as the electoral officer.
- Section 3. The election of the Executive Council must take place each year during the first week in March. The exact date will be determined by the incumbent Executive Council by February the first of that year.

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- Section 4. Nominating slips will be circulated at least two weeks prior to the election date. Members may be nominated for the positions of president, secretary, treasurer or member of the Advisory Committee. The nominations, signed by the nominee, mover and seconder, must be submitted to the election officer no later than seven days prior to the election date.
- Section 5. Ballots will be distributed to the Graduate Student Body by the members of the Advisory Committee by the day of the election and must be returned to same by 5:00 p.m. of that day. Members of the Advisory Committee shall act as scrutineers.
- Section 6. The nominee for president receiving the second largest number of votes will be named vice-president.
- Section 7. The nominees for member of the Advisory Committee receiving the first and second largest number of votes will be named members of the Advisory Committee.
- Section 8. The newly elected Executive Council shall take office fourteen days after the election.

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES

Section 1. The President shall;

- (a) Act as the official representative of the Society.
- (b) Preside over all meetings of the Executive Council and the Society.
- (c) Have the power to take any question to the membership for a general vote.
- (d) Be an ex-officio member of all committees within the Society.
- (e) Appoint the chairman of all committees except as otherwise provided.
- (f) Enforce due observance of the Constitution.
- (g) Decide all questions of voting procedure and supervise and direct the duties of the Executive Council.
- (h) Undertake all such other duties as usually fall to the office of a president of a society.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall;

- (a) Preside over all meeting and act as official spokesman

In the absence of the President.

- (b) Assist the President in the execution of his duties.
- (c) Arrange for meeting places and assist the Secretary in notifying all members of meeting, place and time.

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep accurate record of all meetings of the Society.
- (b) Carry out all correspondence for the Society.
- (c) Issue all notices pertaining to these articles and all formal invitations of behalf of the Society.
- (d) Be signing officer of the Society.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Be in charge of all finances of the Society.
- (b) Keep, or cause to be kept, a proper record of the financial operations of the Society.

Section 5. The Advisory Committee shall:

- (a) Be the liaison between the Graduate Student Body and the Executive Council by acting in an advisory capacity to the Council.
- (b) Be the liaison between the Executive Council of the Society and the Students' Council of the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria.
- (c) Assist the electoral officer as outlined in Article VII, Section 5 and in amendment votes as in Article IX, Section 3.

Section 6. The Executive Council shall:

- (a) Function as the governing body of the Society.
- (b) Carry out the objectives of the Society as outlined in Article II by planning a comprehensive program.
- (c) Execute the business of the Society. Motions and resolutions in order to be carried require a majority of at least two-thirds of the Council.
- (d) Appoint Committees as necessary.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. This Constitution may be amended only by the active members of the Society.
- Section 2. A written copy of the proposed amendment and a ballot will be sent from the Executive Council to each member at least seven days before the date set for the return of the ballots.
- Section 3. The ballots must be returned to the members of the Advisory Committee by 5:00 p.m. of the date set for the return of the ballots.
- Section 4. All amendments to be carried must be supported by sixty percent of a quorum.
- Section 5. A proposer amendment must be voted on by the membership on petition of ten percent of the membership to the Executive Council.

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