

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

MEMORANDUM

To: The Members of the Senate,

From: The Secretary of the Senate.

Proposed Graduate Students' Society

(appeal against the decision by the Faculty Council)

The following papers are attached for your consideration:

- (a) A copy of two resolutions passed by the Faculty Council September 22, 1966.
- (b) Summary of factors considered by the Faculty Council in reaching its decision.
- (c) A copy of certain extracts from the Constitution of the Alma Mater Society.
- (d) A copy of a letter dated 31 October from the President of the A.M.S. to the Dean of Student Affairs showing changes made in the Constitution of the A.M.S. to permit the formation of a Graduate Students' organization under that Constitution.

RRJ:mm

14 November 1966.

(a) Extracts from Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting of 22 September 1966

MOTION: "that all students registered in the Regular Session as graduates, undergraduates, as well as those registered in professional schools or faculties, be members of the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria." CARRIED.

MOTION: "that the Faculty Council recommend to the Students' Council of the A.M.S. that students registered in the School of Graduate Studies be authorized by the Council to form a graduate student organization; that, upon this organization being constituted, one-half of the A.M.S. fee in respect of each graduate student registered full-time in the Regular Session be paid to the treasurer of the graduate student organization; that effective immediately the Students' Council grant one seat on the Council to the graduate student organization; that these arrangements have force for a period of at least two years; and finally that part-time graduate students be eligible for membership in the Alma Mater Society and the graduate student organization upon the payment of a fee agreed upon by these two parties." CARRIED.

(b) Factors Considered by the Faculty Council

1. The willingness of the A.M.S. to give maximum autonomy to the proposed Graduate Student Society and to make it a generous budgetary allowance.
2. The desirability of having a single student executive making representations to the University on behalf of all students.
3. The desirability of maintaining harmony and close liaison between all students, and, in particular, of encouraging graduate students to bring the benefits of their additional experience and learning to the whole group.
4. The fact that, at the moment, the graduate students are relatively few and that a two-year "trial marriage" (as recommended by the Faculty Council) might avoid fragmentation in the student body.
5. The terms of the A.M.S. Constitution which describes the Society as "the only recognized medium between the Society, the Faculty and Administration, the Board of Governors, the general public and other student organizations."
6. The fact that graduate students should have access to all those facilities, clubs, special programmes, etc. which are financed from the A.M.S. budget.
7. The fact that at other institutions in North America many graduate students' societies remain part of the undergraduate society.
8. The fact that the educational aims and goals of graduate and undergraduate students are not markedly different in final analysis, even though certain aspects of undergraduate life may be relatively unimportant to graduate students.

(c) Extracts from the Constitution of the Alma Mater Society

...

2. Subject to the provisions of the Universities Act, being Chapter 52 of the Statutes of British Columbia 1963, the purposes of the Society are:

(a) To promote and direct all student activities within the University.

(b) To advance the cause of higher education in the Province of British Columbia.

(c) to promote unity and good will amongst its members.

...

(e) To erect on such lands any buildings or improvements necessary for the proper use and occupation of the same by the Society.

...

By-Laws

...

4 (c) The Students' Council shall:

i. Act as the Board of Directors of the Society.

ii. Be the only recognized medium between the Society and

1. the Faculty and Administration,

2. the Board of Governors,

3. other student organizations.

...

(d) Official action by the AMS (31 Oct. 1966)

Dean R.R. Jeffels
Dean of Student Affairs
University of Victoria

Dear Dean Jeffels:

The decision of the Faculty Council regarding the inclusion of Graduate Students within the Alma Mater Society has led to the presentation of two constitutional amendments to the Society for ratification by referendum. Both were passed by large majorities and are now included in the Constitution of the Alma Mater Society. The new clauses are:

1. ByLaw 7/2

"Students registered in fewer than 9 units in the School of Graduate Studies who wish to become members of the Graduate Students' Society are permitted to pay a reduced Alma Mater Society fee, as determined in ByLaw 7/1, half of which will be granted to the Graduate Students' Society."

2. ByLaw 8/4

"A minimum grant of one-half of the total Alma Mater Society fees paid by students registered in the School of Graduate Studies shall be given to the Graduate Students' Society per annum."

A third resolution (not a constitutional change) was authorized as well by referendum:

3. That the Alma Mater Society requests the Board of Governors to approve this reduced fee as set at \$10.00 (for students in 9 or fewer units.)

The Students' Council has passed a motion at its meeting of October 30 to provide for election of a Graduate Student Representative to the Students' Council. No date was specified in the motion other than the "regular spring elections" but the referendum would be presented during the Presidential elections in mid-February and representation would follow immediately. In view of the present situation regarding the number of graduate students on campus and the lengthy debate concerning status as members of the Alma Mater Society, it is the recommendation of the Students' Council that such a referendum will be successful only if presented as a long-term step and that it is imperative that the decision be accompanied by a complete factual presentation to the students to ensure informed consideration.

The Alma Mater Society has allotted \$600 of its budget for 1966-67 to the Graduate Students' Society, if and when the Society's Constitution is formally ratified by Students' Council. This is in excess of the minimum amount guaranteed the Graduate Students by constitutional amendment, and we have requested that the Bursar release the activities fees to the Alma Mater Society to be distributed as the Constitution guarantees. I would appreciate some early indication of the Senate's stand on any appeals from the decision of the Faculty Council, particularly since the original question has already been referred through Senate to the Faculty Council for a decision.

We would appreciate particularly an early recommendation regarding the Senate appeal.

Sincerely,
Stephen Bigsby