

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE HISTORY
FACULTY LIAISON COMMITTEE, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1970

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Dr. B. Leach at 10 a.m. Friday, 20th November at Okanagan College, Kelowna. The following representatives were present:

Dr. B. Leach, Douglas Regional College, Chairman
Dr. I. Mugridge, Simon Fraser University, Secretary
Dr. J. Hendrickson, University of Victoria
Dr. C. Humphries, University of British Columbia
Mrs. M. Andrews, Capilano College
Mr. A. Bartsch, Notre Dame
Mr. G. Sylvester, Vancouver City College
Mr. B. Brill, Vancouver City College
Mr. A. Hiebert, Okanagan College
Mr. A. Scutt, Okanagan College
Mr. C. Andrews, Selkirk College
Mr. C. Bishop, Cariboo College
Mr. D. Couch, Cariboo College
Mr. J. Cooling, Malaspina College
Miss Helen Brown, Malaspina College
Mr. D. Owen, College of New Caledonia

Moved by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Owen, that the minutes of the meeting of 17th April be approved as circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING

1. Faculty Evaluation

The Chairman introduced the question of faculty evaluation which had been deferred from the previous meeting and suggested that the colleges were free to pursue their aims without consultation on hiring or on any aspects of their academic policies. It would be advantageous for them to look critically at their hiring policies and perhaps to consult with the universities on

this question. He suggested, however, that it may be impossible for the committee to reach any kind of decision on this question and that it should therefore be deferred further. It was, however, questioned whether such action would be appropriate and the Chairman then suggested that colleges should circulate their hiring policies in an effort to secure the cooperation of the universities. At this point both Dr. Mugridge and Dr. Hendrickson questioned the desirability of allowing university departments to judge faculty applications in the colleges and they felt that while the universities were willing to offer any assistance which might be possible, they could legitimately go no further than this. This position was confirmed by Dr. Humphries.

There followed some discussion of faculty evaluation within colleges and universities and a number of institutions outlined the policies of their institutions. Most of the colleges indicated that formal methods of faculty evaluation existed, either by the submission of course questionnaires or by visits to classes by Deans or departmental chairmen. None of the universities had clearly defined policies on faculty evaluation and both Dr. Hendrickson and Dr. Humphries expressed considerable doubt about the dangers of all the systems which had been suggested.

Two motions emerged from the discussion on this question. First, moved by Mr. C. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Andrews, that departments represented on the committee should inform the other institutions of their faculty evaluation policies if and when they are laid down. Second, moved by Dr. Hendrickson, seconded by Mr. Bishop, that the universities attempt to establish mechanisms for tracing the performance of students from the regional colleges and to transmit such information as they may obtain, to the colleges concerned. It was agreed that the practicality and desirability of such mechanisms should be discussed at the next meeting. Both these motions were carried unanimously.

2. Liaison with B.C. High Schools

The Chairman introduced discussion of the status of government examinations in grade 12 history courses and questioned whether the committee should make a recommendation on the continuing use. After a brief discussion it was generally agreed that such action was beyond the competence of this committee.

3. Committee on Faculty Exchange

Mr. Sylvester noted that arrangements are in process for course exchange in Canadian history between the University of British Columbia and Vancouver City College. It was also noted

that there is a possibility of such an exchange occurring between Simon Fraser University and Capilano College. Mrs. Andrews noted that the committee hoped that faculty exchanges would be undertaken outside the lower mainland in the reasonably near future.

4. Visual Aids in History Teaching

The Chairman noted the result of his communication with Information Canada and said that some progress had been achieved in making film material available to teachers of history in the universities and colleges. Some work in this direction had been done in Vancouver and progress had also been made through the work of the National Film Board. He agreed to send all available information to departmental representatives. The Chairman also suggested that the question of validity of using films in history teaching should be taken up by the committee at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Colleges as Repositories of Local Historical Material

Mr. Sylvester spoke briefly on the question of the use of Vancouver City College as a repository for the Vancouver City Archives. Negotiations had continued until recently but the probability now was that the City would build its own archives.

Several college representatives spoke of courses which they were mounting in the History of their areas and of the cooperation with local historical societies and museums. Mr. Bishop, Mr. Hiebert and Mr. Andrews all indicated that cooperation with local historical societies and authorities had led to their colleges having access to a great deal of local material which was either being deposited in their college libraries or was available for teaching purposes. This discussion led to a consideration of the relationship between the colleges and universities and the Provincial Archives in Victoria and it was decided to invite the Provincial Archivist to the next meeting of the committee, so that the discussion could be continued.

2. Interdisciplinary Courses

The Chairman introduced this item by referring to the question of university transfer credit for interdisciplinary courses in the colleges. This was particularly related to the apparent refusal of U.B.C. to grant transfer credit for Douglas College History 21-402, European Thought and Culture. A

lengthy discussion of this question followed in which Mr. Sylvester mentioned Vancouver City College's B.C. Studies courses whose primary emphasis had been in History but which would probably be expanded to include other disciplines. These courses have been granted unassigned credit at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia. Other college representatives also questioned the granting of transfer credit for interdisciplinary courses. In reply Dr. Hendrickson and Dr. Humphries indicated that such courses would be given unassigned credit in the universities but that since they were not specific history courses could not expect to be given equivalent credit with the university's history departments. Dr. Mugridge confirmed that this was the position taken by Simon Fraser but he also indicated that the problem may become less troublesome in future when that university institutes its division of general studies next fall.

3. Election of New Officers

During the break for lunch some discussion took place concerning the future role of the committee and officers for the coming year were elected.

Moved by Mr. Coding, seconded by Mr. Sylvester, that Mrs. Andrews be nominated as Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Dr. Mugridge, that Dr. Humphries be nominated as secretary.

Both these nominations were accepted unanimously.

4. Other Business

Mr. Brill invited the committee to hold its next meeting at Vancouver City College. It was further agreed that this meeting should be held on Friday, 2nd April. Mr. Andrews mentioned that Selkirk College would be willing to hold the Fall meeting. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Okanagan College for arranging the meeting and for lunch and the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.