



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA
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OF THE
IDENT

November 20, 1985

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1983-84 and 1984-85

To: Members of the Senate and of
the Board of Governors

From: Robert H. T. Smith, President *pro tem.*
from March 7 through October 31, 1985.

This brief report will place on record the major achievements and developments of the University during the two-year period to August 31, 1985. I acknowledge warmly the assistance I have received in its preparation from Dr. Peter A. Larkin (Associate Vice-President, Research), and Mr. James Banham (Department of Community Relations). Responsibility for the contents (and the inevitable omissions) of course rests with me.

Robert H. T. Smith

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Attachment: President's Report (9 pages)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
VANCOUVER

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

November 20, 1985

It is my privilege to present this report for the two academic years that have elapsed since Dr. Douglas T. Kenny's report for 1982-83. To say the least, they have been interesting years, marked by the appointment, as successor to Dr. Kenny, of Dr. K. George Pedersen as President, and his subsequent resignation on March 7, 1985. Serving as Dr. Pedersen's Vice-President, Academic, I shared his deep concerns for the future funding of the University. As President pro tem. from March to October, 1985, I was faced with the difficult task of supervising the absorption of a second consecutive five percent reduction in the provincial operating grant. Despite the establishment in the 1985-86 provincial budget of the University Adjustments Program, it was necessary to take some drastic steps, including the discontinuance of some programs and activities, and the severe curtailment of others. These actions have serious ramifications for the University's academic programs and reputation.

With the difficulties of the past two years, I have been heartened by the unflagging support and assistance of the senior administrative officers of the University. Dean D. R. Birch accepted the challenge of the position of Acting Vice-President, Academic, and I am greatly indebted to him for his outstanding service. The four associate vice-presidents in Dr. Birch's office (Drs. Dybikowski, Larkin, Risebrough, and Russell) and my two advisors, Dr. C. B. Bourne and Dr. A. J. McClean have also served ably, and ensured a smooth transition in March of 1985. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance, Mr. A. B. Gellatly, who came to U.B.C. from the University of Waterloo at the beginning of 1984, has undertaken major revisions of administrative and financial systems. The energy, competence and unfailing good humour of both Dr. Birch and Mr. Gellatly have been invaluable in troubled times. The deans of the faculties have all worked hard in making the many difficult decisions that were necessary, and to all of them I express my appreciation. Both major governing bodies, Senate and Board of Governors, have been constructively supportive during this trying time.

Although the administration of the University has posed problems over the past two academic years, there have been many encouraging developments and significant accomplishments. Enrolments have been maintained at approximately the same level despite substantial increases in student fees. The registrations for the 1983-84 and 1984-85 academic years were 36,231 and 34,737 respectively as compared to 35,223 in 1982-83. The lower total in 1984-85 was a source of surprise, and the undergraduate quotas established by Senate (notably but not exclusively in Arts, Education and Science) after the unexpected 1983-84 enrolment surge were not reached. The experience of these two years emphasized the two major constraints on rational academic planning: sudden enrolment shifts, and funding uncertainties. Graduate student enrolment, which increased substantially over the last decade, held constant at roughly 4,000 with an encouraging increase in doctoral candidates (more than 1,000 in 1984-85). Otherwise, enrolments were more or less steady, the only exception being those for summer session which declined from 4,362 in 1983-84 to 3,846 in 1984-85. Continuing Education programs enrolled 62,468 registrants in 1983-84 and 61,750 in 1984-85. If credit and all kinds of non-credit headcount enrolments are combined, the University continues to serve almost 90,000 annually, a remarkable reflection of the wide community the University serves.

The graduating classes continued the trend of increase of recent years totalling 4,817 in 1983-84 and 4,994 in 1984-85. As a departure from erstwhile practice, the spring congregation in 1984 was expanded from three to six ceremonies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon on each of three days, each focussed on a particular Faculty or group of Faculties. The new format was widely appreciated permitting greater public participation, the time for a short address (usually by a faculty member), and the opportunity for a more cohesive social gathering at the conclusion of the ceremony. The same practice was followed in the spring of 1985 and seems likely to become the new tradition.

Fifteen honorary degrees were awarded over the two academic years:

John J. Robinette, Canada's foremost authority on constitutional law, was awarded the **Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at a Special Congregation** held at the Vancouver Law Courts.

**AT THE SPRING CONGREGATION ON MAY 30, 31 AND JUNE 1, 1984,
HONORARY DEGREES WERE CONFERRED UPON:**

J. V. Clyne, who completed his second term as Chancellor of U.B.C.;

Henry P. Bell-Irving, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Province;

Dr. Charles A. McDowell, Head of U.B.C.'s Chemistry Department
for 26 years;

Mstislav Rostropovich, internationally acclaimed conductor,
cellist and musical director of the National Symphony Orchestra
in Washington, D.C.;

Thomas K. Shoyama, a U.B.C. graduate and one of Canada's leading
civil servants in the post-Second World War period, former
Chairman of the Board of Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd.;

Saburo Okita, President of the International University in
Tokyo, Japan's foreign minister in 1979-80 and one of the
architects of that country's post-war economic recovery;

Leopold L. G. Bentley, co-founder of one of Canada's leading
forestry companies, Canadian Forest Products.

**AT THE SPRING CONGREGATION MAY 29, 30 AND 31, 1985 HONORARY
DEGREES WERE CONFERRED UPON:**

Arthur Erickson, noted architect, former U.B.C. student and a
faculty member from 1956 to 1964;

Robert Langlands, a U.B.C. graduate now at the Institute for
Advanced Study at Princeton University, credited with reviving
interest in number theory, the oldest and purest of the
mathematical disciplines;

James Inkster, for 42 years a leading teacher, principal and
administrator in B.C.'s secondary school system;

Pierre Berton, U.B.C. graduate and a distinguished Canadian
writer, broadcaster and journalist;

Stuart Keate, former publisher of daily newspapers in Victoria
and Vancouver and one of Canada's best-known journalists during
a career spanning 42 years;

Margaret Siwallace, documenter of the language and culture of
her native Indian tribe, the Bella Coala; sadly, Mrs. Siwallace
died in August 1985, some three months after being awarded her
honorary degree;

J. J. "Jack" Munro, one of Canada's leading trade unionists and
a leading official in the International Woodworkers of America.

The growth area of the university in the past two years has been research. In 1982-83, the University received roughly \$48 million in sponsored research contract and grant funds. In 1984-85, the total was almost \$60 million. Increases were recorded in almost every faculty, the most significant being in the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts, Medicine and Science. Particular efforts have been made to increase research contracts with industry clients. This number increased from 107 in 1983-84 to 177 in 1984-85, with an increase in value from \$1.7 million to \$3.4 million. An industry liaison officer was appointed in 1984 and industrial contracting is continuing to grow.

The University should not become so preoccupied with research that teaching activities are affected, nor become so involved in applied research as to distort academic priorities. However, as the major research institution in the province and as one of Canada's major universities, it has an obligation to participate actively in all phases of provincial and national research activity, contributing to all aspects of the social fabric. To date, the University has done extremely well across a broad research front and will no doubt continue to make significant contributions.

As might be expected from the magnitude of research funding (the majority of which is awarded from peer reviewed competitions), U.B.C. scholars have received many significant awards in the past two years.

Dr. John Brown of the Department of Physiology was awarded the **1983 Gold Medal of the B. C. Science Council** as leader of a research group that has discovered two hormones that regulate the gastro-intestinal tract.

Dr. Peter Larkin, Associate Vice-President, Research, and Professor in the Department of Zoology, was the recipient of the **1983 Award of Excellence of the American Fisheries Society** for "outstanding achievement in fisheries science and management."

Dr. William Unruh of the Department of Physics was the winner of the **Steacie Fellowship from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada** and the **\$5,000 Steacie Prize of the National Research Council** in January 1984.

Dr. Walter Hardy, also of the Physics Department, named the winner of the **1984 Professor Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize** for "an outstanding record of achievement in research that ranges from molecular and solid state physics through applied physics and engineering."

The 1985 winner of the **Professor Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize** was Dr. John H. McNeill, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for significant contributions to the understanding of effects of cardiovascular drugs.

Dr. Anthony J. Merer of the Chemistry Department was the 1984 recipient of the **Barringer Award of the Spectroscopy Society of Canada** for his contributions to atmospheric spectroscopy. The award is made to younger Canadian scientists to encourage applied research in analytical spectroscopy.

Dr. Margaret Prang of the Department of History was the recipient in 1984 of an **Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History** in recognition of her contributions to the study of B.C.

Professor Douglas Sanders of the Faculty of Law was named the first recipient of the **Bora Laskin Fellowship in Human Rights**. The award was established to encourage research and the development of expertise in the field of human rights.

Drs. Lawrence Bongie and Ruth White, both of the Department of French, were the recipients of **Decorations from the French Government** in January, 1985, for services to French culture.

Dr. Crawford Holling of the Department of Zoology and the Institute of Animal Resource Ecology was the recipient of the **Cross of Honor of Austria** after spending three and a half years in that country as director of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna.

The first winner of the **Charles A. McDowell Award for Excellence in Research** was Dr. Daniel R. Brooks of the Department of Zoology, for his innovative work on the theory of evolution. Dr. McDowell, the former Head of Chemistry, established the award to recognize outstanding achievements in pure or applied science.

The largest number of **Killam Research Fellowships** in the University's history was awarded in 1984. Winners of the prestigious Canada Council awards were: Dr. Christopher Brion, Chemistry; Dr. R. Allan Freeze, Geological Sciences; Dr. Walter Hardy, Physics; Dr. Ernest Peters, Metallurgical Engineering; and Dr. Alexander Woodside, History.

A prestigious **Guggenheim Fellowship** was awarded in 1984 to Dr. Charles McDowell of the UBC Chemistry Department, and in 1985 to Dr. Richard Unger to enable him to write a complete history of the brewing industry in the Netherlands. Dr. Izak Benbasat of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration was selected as the first **Marvin Bower Fellow** at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. Dr. Benbasat will spend a year at Harvard conducting research on computer based information and support systems.

Five U.B.C. faculty members were elected to the **Royal Society of Canada in 1984**. They are: Dr. David Jones, Zoology; Dr. Frank Clarke, Mathematics; Dr. Christopher Brion, Chemistry; Dr. William Unruh, Physics; and Professor Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Librarianship.

Students also received a number of prestigious awards:

Dominic Barton, an honors economics student was the winner of the **1984 Rhodes Scholarship**; Meredith Wadman, a student in the Faculty of Medicine, was awarded the **1985 Rhodes Scholarship**, making her the second B.C. woman to win the award (U.B.C. student Catherine Milsum was the first in 1978). Two students in the Department of English, Heesok Chang and Corinna Sundararajan, were the winners of **1984 Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities**. Elaine K. Chang was the recipient of a **1985 Mellon Fellowship Award** that will take her to Stanford University for graduate study in English. Music student James Parker was named first-prize winner in the 8th annual **Eckhardt-Gramatte Competition** for the performance of Canadian Music in May 1984. The **1985 Eckhardt-Gramatte Competition** was won by U.B.C. violin student, Joanne Opgenorth. For the fifth time in nine years, U.B.C. students have topped this national competition.

I regret that in this report I cannot draw attention to new programs of instruction. Although there is always an invisible evolution of academic programs, with new knowledge constantly replacing the old in each course of instruction, it is important to the dynamism of the University that new programs should emerge in response to major new fields of human enquiry and to new requirements from the society we serve. It is thus unfortunate that two new approved programs, a Bachelor of Science in atmospheric sciences and a Master's in journalism, have been held in abeyance pending the availability of funding.

The construction of new buildings has also been deferred because of the financial restraint of the times. The Library is in particular difficulty as collections accumulate. The library collection, which grew to 2,465,584 catalogued volumes in 1985, constitutes an irreplaceable resource for the province as well as for the University. U.B.C.'s Library is one of the top twenty research libraries in North America. Lack of shelf-space for collections required the removal of more materials from the Main Library stacks to storage, bringing to one quarter million the number so relegated. One encouraging development was the designation by the Board of Governors in July 1985, of the Old Bookstore site for Library expansion and the recognition of this project as a priority for private capital fund-raising. It is anticipated that this building will include the Management Research Centre and Library, made possible by the singular outstanding generosity of Vancouver resident and businessman, Mr. David Lee-Chai Lam.

The University has continued to give high priority to the Library collections budget. It has been protected from reductions required of almost all areas of the University's operations, and in 1984-85 received a 5% increase. Sources of outside funding have become increasingly important for the development of specialized collections at the research level. Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council provided \$50,000 in 1983-84 for collections on Italian Renaissance art and 19th century music, and \$45,000 in 1984-85 for Chinese historical gazettes. Through the use of a major endowment from the estate of Dr. W. K. Burwell, the quality of collections in sociology, psychology and anthropology has been assured. Particularly gratifying was the community support for fund-raising to purchase books for the Asian Studies Library.

The volume of service provided (as indicated by the number of both loans and reference questions) recorded a steady increase. Expanded library services to the six affiliated teaching hospitals, introduced in 1982, proved extremely popular, with cooperative use of the improved health science collections greatly exceeding anticipated levels. Improvements to Extension Library services, providing long-distance reference service and assistance to U.B.C. credit students throughout the province, were also positively received.

It is noteworthy that two new buildings have been constructed on the University lands, both concerned with the forest industry. One building, on campus in the Applied Science complex, houses the PAPRICAN research group that is affiliated with the University. It will be an important facility for the Master's program in pulp and paper engineering. The other building, funded jointly by the Federal and Provincial Governments, is on the Discovery Park site. It houses PAPRICAN research and development staff and is planned to provide for other forestry related research organizations. Regrettably, no progress was made during this time on the Chemistry-Physics building beyond the preparation of documents still waiting to go to tender. The project remains at this stage. However, designation by the Board of Governors in July 1985 of some endowment funds (to be augmented through private and public capital fund-raising), for an extension to the Museum of Anthropology, prompts me to be optimistic about the prospects in the relatively near future for a suitable home for the University collection of works of art.

Several new deans have been appointed: Dr. Peter Suedfeld (Head of the Department of Psychology since 1972) succeeded Dr. Peter A. Larkin as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in July 1984. (Dr. Larkin continues to serve as Associate Vice-President, Research). Professor Beryl March of the Department of Poultry Science, served as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences in 1984-85 following the resignation of Dr. W. D. Kitts. Dr. James Richards was appointed Dean of the Faculty succeeding Professor March in July 1985. Dr. John H. McNeill (formerly Associate Dean) became Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in January 1985, following the retirement of Dr. Bernard E. Riedel who had served as Dean for 17 years. Dr. Riedel's responsibilities as Co-ordinator of Health Sciences were assumed by Dr. Peter Larkin on an interim basis, until the appointment of Dr. Morton Low of the

Department of Medicine to this position in July 1985. New deans were also appointed in the Faculties of Applied Science and of Science in July 1985: Dr. Axel Meisen to succeed Dr. L. M. Wedepohl as Dean of Applied Science, and Dr. Robert C. Miller Jr., as Dean of Science to succeed Dr. C. V. Finnegan. Dr. Meisen, a Professor of Chemical Engineering, had served as Associate Dean of the Faculty, since 1976. As well, Dr. Miller was Head of the Department of Microbiology before being appointed Dean.

Several changes occurred in the staff of the President's Office in these two years. Dr. R. Doncaster Russell was appointed Associate Vice-President, Academic, in 1983. Dr. Neil R. Risebrough's title was changed from Vice Provost for Student Affairs to Associate Vice-President, Student Services, in 1984. Also in 1984, Dr. James Dybikowski was appointed to the new position of Associate Vice-President, Faculty Relations. Dr. James M. Kennedy, who had served as Vice-President (University Services) from 1980, assumed full-time professorial duties in the Department of Computer Science in 1984. At that time, Mr. A. Bruce Gellatly's area of vice-presidential responsibility became Administration and Finance. The area of Development and Community Relations (a new vice-presidency created in 1984) is of critical importance to the University in these times. Mr. David McMillan carried this portfolio during 1984-85.

With prospects for improvement in the economy, both provincial and national, I hope that The University of British Columbia has experienced the worst. While it has not been easy to make the required adjustments, the University and its people have risen to the occasion. If I may be permitted a parting observation, it is that I very much hope that the future will see a willingness on the part of the three universities and the government to recognize the Universities Council as the independent body it was intended to be. Only with this dual recognition can the Council be expected -- and obliged -- to play its most important role as the principled advocate of universities in British Columbia.

I am proud to have had the opportunity and privilege to serve the University in the several roles which I have been asked to fill. I shall have many fond memories of U.B.C. as I take up my position at The University of Western Australia.

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Robert H. T. Smith, President pro tem. to November 1, 1985; and Vice-Chancellor-Designate, The University of Western Australia