

# UBC'S SENATE SETS ENROLMENT LIMITS

BY JIM BANHAM  
Editor, UBC Reports

For the first time in the University of B.C.'s history a decision has been made to restrict the number of students who will be able to attend the Point Grey campus.

UBC's Senate held a special meeting Feb. 7 to come to grips with the recommendations in the report of its Committee on Long-Range Objectives and decided by substantial majorities:

— To limit the total undergraduate enrolment on the present campus to a maximum of 22,000 students, and

— To limit the annual rate of increase of total enrolment in graduate studies to 15 per cent and set a ceiling of 5,500 graduate students.

UBC's present enrolment is 20,767, made up of 2,687 graduate students and 18,080 undergraduates, a percentage split of approximately 13 per cent graduate students and 87 per cent undergraduates.

## STORMY HISTORY

When UBC's enrolment finally reaches the new ceiling of 27,500 students, the percentage mix will be 20 per cent graduate students and 80 per cent undergraduates.

UBC's academic planner, Dr. Robert M. Clark, told Senate the 22,000 ceiling for undergraduate students applied to full-time and partial students in the winter session. It does not include extra-session, evening or Summer Session students. He also said UBC will probably reach its gross undergraduate enrolment within five years, but it may take up to ten years to reach the graduate enrolment ceiling.

The debate on enrolment limitation has had a long and stormy history at UBC. When the matter was raised in previous years, one argument prevailed in the decision to retain an "open door" admission policy.

The argument was simply this: UBC was the only institution in the province offering post-secondary education and a decision to restrict enrolment would deny opportunities for higher education to thousands of qualified students.

During the 1960s, however, UBC's monopoly on higher education ended. The province now boasts four universities — Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and Notre Dame University as well as UBC — and the continued growth of community colleges and technical institutes in various parts of B.C. has made post-secondary education available to most of the young people of the province who wish to take advantage of it.

The other factor which has complicated the picture is UBC's increasing difficulty in maintaining educational standards in the face of restricted operating and capital budgets while at the same time coping with burgeoning enrolments.

Ten years ago a proposal to restrict enrolment would have met with an icy reception. In 1970, however, the climate has moderated and there is a general feeling throughout the University that some restriction on enrolment is desirable.

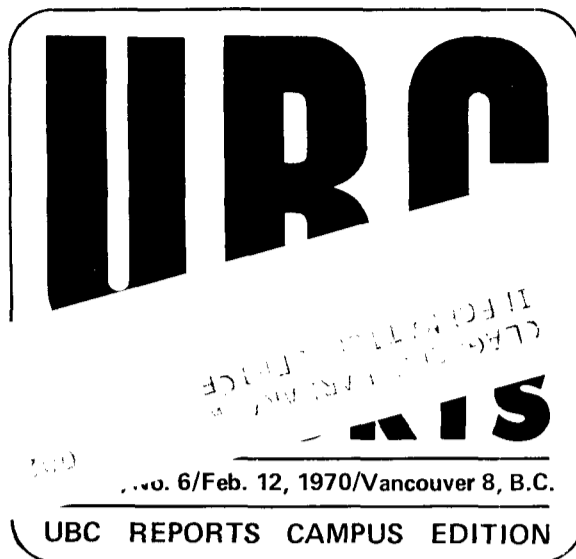
The burning question has always been: how many students can UBC accommodate?

The limits proposed by the Senate Committee on Long-Range Objectives, chaired by Dr. Cyril Belshaw, head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, were based on "consideration of interrelated academic, social and physical factors involved in further substantial growth in enrolment" and primarily a concern for the quality of education on the campus, and secondarily on the lack of facilities for the number of students now on the campus.

## FACULTY REACTIONS

When Senate met last Saturday to begin debate on the committee's recommendations almost ten months had elapsed since the proposals on enrolment limitation had first been presented to Senate.

(The first four chapters of the Belshaw report, including the one dealing with admissions policy, were first presented to Senate on May 21, 1969. There was a special meeting of Senate for a general



discussion of the report on Nov. 1, 1969, and a continuation of the debate at a regular meeting on Nov. 12, 1969).

In addition to these Senate meetings, the report had been referred to each of UBC's 12 faculties for discussion.

Considering the length of time which has elapsed since the enrolment restriction proposals were first presented, the opinions of UBC's various faculties, as presented by the deans at the opening of the Feb. 7 meeting, must have come as a surprise to some Senators.

Not a single dean said his faculty had been unequivocally in favor of the enrolment figures suggested by the Committee. The recurring theme which ran through their presentations was that some enrolment restriction seemed to be necessary but the faculties were undecided as to exactly what the ceiling should be.

The Faculty of Science felt undergraduate enrolment should be limited to 20,000 students and graduate enrolment to 5,000; the committee's recommendation to restrict enrolment in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences was termed a "preposterous proposal"; the Faculty of Forestry was "uneasy" about proposals which might ultimately restrict entry to their discipline; the Faculty of Commerce felt the enrolment proposals were "reasonable but arbitrary," and the Faculty of Education, which tended to support an open-enrolment policy, would support the committee's proposed enrolment limitation as a provisional measure only.

## POSITIVE STATEMENT

The Faculty presentations brought Dr. Belshaw to his feet with the comment that while the remarks had been important they failed to reflect an overview of the University's situation.

The committee's recommendations, he said, were an analysis of something which it felt was wrong at the University and the Faculty comments failed to recognize whether or not that analysis was right or wrong or, if the Faculties felt the committee was wrong, what should be done about it.

No one on the committee, he continued, expected that any particular recommendation would be accepted as written, but the committee did expect that the discussion would be one that would turn into a positive statement.

Senate had expressed an interest in altering policies, e.g., controlling enrolment, but when such principles were turned into concrete proposals Senate was no longer in favor of them because it was at that point that the vested interests of the Faculties came to be modified, Dr. Belshaw concluded.

This preliminary sparring on the enrolment question continued with a statement by Miss D.J. O'Donnell, a student Senator, who noted that there appeared to be "an incredible amount of agreement" on the question of enrolment restriction based on a faith in the adequacy of other post-secondary institutions in B.C.

She said she was opposed to an enrolment restriction based on academic achievement, which does two "underhanded and perhaps immoral things."

First, she said, it lies to students by telling them they won't be able to continue their education

because they're not smart enough, not because the educational system is inadequate and the University can't afford to educate them or be bothered to take them in.

Second, the result of an enrolment limitation based on academic qualifications will be that UBC will become less integrated with other institutions and more elitist and this will decrease the relative academic and social acceptability of other B.C. campuses.

## PIVOTAL SPEECH

Finally, Senate chairman President Walter Gage called on Senate to consider the first item on the day's agenda, the first recommendation of the Long-Range Objectives Committee, which proposed that UBC's admission policy be modified: (1) to limit undergraduate enrolment on the campus to 22,000 students; (2) to limit the rate of increase of total graduate enrolment to 15 per cent annually and, (3) to limit graduate enrolment to 5,500.

Senate agreed, at the suggestion of Dr. Robert M. Clark, UBC's academic planner, to consider the first part of the recommendation separately from the other two.

The pivotal speech of the day was then made by Dean W.D. Liam Finn, the newly-appointed Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, who moved that UBC's undergraduate enrolment be limited to a maximum of 22,000 students.

He began by saying there were two points to be kept in mind in discussing enrolment limitations.

First, it was proper to ask if the recommendation before Senate was a mechanical response to the difficulties of running a large institution on limited resources. The committee had been partly motivated by this, he said, but the question of moral responsibility had also been raised.

He said that while there was a collective moral responsibility by the province to ensure that there was an adequate system of higher education, there was also a moral responsibility on the part of the University to students who pay their fees and expect something for it.

There must be a threshold, he said, below which Senate will not allow the University's performance to fall and UBC is coming perilously close to that threshold in many areas. There is nothing reprehensible about limiting enrolment because resources are limited and there is no reason to be ashamed for acting on the kind of pressure which this situation generates.

A second reason for limiting enrolment, Dean Finn continued, was the feeling that when an institution becomes too large it is not functional in an educational sense.

Senate, he said, should decide on some enrolment limit, even if it is 60,000 students, in order that future planning and a curriculum tailored to that number could be worked out.

## STRIKE BALANCES

Faculty Senators could not take the position that the University should limit enrolment, but "not in my Faculty, not in my department, because we need lots of people of the kind I produce."

He referred to earlier remarks by Dean Joseph Gardner, head of the Faculty of Forestry, who expressed concern that limitation would prevent expansion of his faculty. Dean Finn said it could be asked if UBC was the only supplier of manpower for the forest industry and to what extent the University should contribute.

"We have to strike these balances," he told Senate, "but we're not going to solve the problem by everyone feeling that limitation is somebody else's problem, not mine."

Senate, he continued, has been clamouring to play a positive role in UBC's affairs and to do that Senate must take stands on issues when they arise. The Belshaw committee had spent 16 months on its report and now there were suggestions for further

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See Enrolment

# Who Is Raymond Firth?

Dr. Raymond Firth, one of the world's outstanding living anthropologists, recently returned to the London School of Economics after a four-month sojourn with UBC's department of anthropology and sociology as a Canada Council Fellow.

During his time at UBC he conducted a seminar and UBC anthropology students had the opportunity to study under a scholar whose books have been described as some of the finest anthropological studies in existence.

His best-known book "We, the Tikopia: A Sociological Study of Kinship in Primitive Polynesia" has been called a "model of anthropological research."

## FIELD TECHNIQUES

Dr. Firth began his work at a time when anthropology as a discipline was lost in the shadowy regions of impressionistic interpretations of the nature of man.

He was among the first to develop on-the-spot field work techniques. Instead of sitting comfortably at home, depending on second-hand reports, and speculating about how primitive societies function, Dr. Firth lived for two years on the Island of Tikopia, learned to speak the language of the native people, and closely observed their social customs and habits at first-hand before writing his book.

Basic as this may seem, such on-the-spot fieldwork was rare at the time. Dr. Firth's example was an important influence in the development of anthropology as a social science.

Using his careful research techniques, Dr. Firth's studies have ranged from "We, The Tikopia" to his latest work, "Two Studies of Kinship in London," an investigation of kinship patterns of man in modern-day society.

Dr. Firth carried out extensive field work in Malaya as well as Tikopia. He has been responsible for assisting in the development of anthropological research and the growth of new universities in almost every part of the Commonwealth, including former colonies in Africa and Asia.

## PACIFIC STUDIES

He was responsible for the initial developments in anthropology and in the whole field of Pacific studies at the Australian National University.

Dr. Firth has also been a visiting professor at such universities as Chicago, Harvard, and Bergen, and has received honorary degrees from many of them. He has also worked extensively with UNESCO and with the United Nations and was chairman of the United Nations working group which first analysed the components in the international index of levels of living.

Dr. Firth sees the purpose of anthropology as trying to produce awareness about the kind of society in which we live. Although stressing that his views were purely personal, he talked with *UBC Reports* about some of the problems of today's society and about how they are affecting young people.



# ETHICAL REVOLUTION NEEDED

"The kinds of problems we are faced with in today's society are so fundamental that we need a revolution in our ethic to cope with them," was Dr. Raymond Firth's conclusion after a wide-ranging conversation in which he contrasted social organization in the age of man in bark cloth with social organization in the age of man in the space suit.

## KINSHIP SYSTEM

In the early 1930's when Dr. Firth lived on Tikopia, the natives wore bark cloth and he found their society to be small, self-contained and very highly kinship oriented. Ownership of land, feasting, marriages, deaths, all took place within the closely-knit kinship system in which everybody in the island community was related to everybody else.

"In societies like the Tikopia's, the kinship system operates as the social security system," Dr. Firth observed, pointing out that in more complex societies the kinship system breaks down and unless other mechanisms within the society are developed which can take the place of kinship, individuals may feel "very much more vulnerable."

Dr. Firth finds, however, that the kinds of economic and political structures which have grown up to regulate modern technological society are in many respects "terrifying."

"We take for granted our technological development and we like so many of the things it gives us. But the implications both in terms of actual technology...pollution...the H-bomb...and in terms of the kinds of economic and political structures which have grown up in order to handle these things are really terrifying," he said.

Dr. Firth said that the major difficulty with many of our social and economic structures is that they are so difficult to influence. He said that this is a problem which today's young people have perceived clearly and to him it is a "quite warning sign" that they are protesting about it.

"I think that the difficulty is that some of the organs of society, particularly in the economic and political spheres, have developed an autonomy of their own. They are very difficult to dislodge from any position they have taken up," he said.

## CITES POLLUTION

Dr. Firth believes that the reason political and economic organs of society are so difficult to influence is that "You can't get at the operative human factors involved." He said this is what irritates and frustrates young people and provokes them to go "bursting into offices."

"They want a face-to-face confrontation where they can say their piece and get across to



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the people who make the decisions what they," he said.

Dr. Firth said a second major problem of modern society is the need to control some of the unanticipated byproducts of technological development and he cited pollution as the most obvious example.

## REJECTS VIOLENCE

"The unanticipated effects of modern technology are so spectacular and so devastating that I don't wonder that young people are responding to the realisation of this by some kind of protest, if not by actual revolt," he said.

Again Dr. Firth said that the problem is that the control of these things is inaccessible to the individual. "The kinds of protests that are made are very often either not acceded to or acceded to only insofar as they don't encroach too far on the profit-making situation or the 'national interest' as defined by the politicians in power," he said.

Dr. Firth, however, rejects violent forms of protest and believes that the western type of democratic process, although cumbersome, is still "our hope" for exercising control. "I think the violent way is self-defeating," he said. "In this instance some young peoples' analysis of society is incorrect and they just bring down the forces of repression against them," he said.

Even more important to Dr. Firth than the pollution problem are the human problems within society such as the plight of the Canadian Indians. He believes pollution will be controlled in the long-range interests of those who are in charge, but that it is a "nobody's long-range interest to do anything really radical about the Indians.

"What has struck me about the Canadian scene is that pollution gets enormous amounts of space in the newspaper, but the plight of the Indian is tucked away in relatively small paragraphs. The Indian problem seems to me to be one of the really vital problems in terms of human relationships and human values," he said.

In his description of Tikopian society, Dr. Firth said that the Tikopia, when he first lived with them, did not understand the use of money. The economy of the island operated on a system of gift-exchange, constructed in relation to the system of kinship. When a fisherman had two fish and his brother none, he gave one to his brother, said Dr. Firth.

## BALANCE NEEDED

Although reminiscent of the concept of communal living being advocated by many of today's young people who want to opt out of the rat race and return to a more "primitive" life-style where everybody shares and shares

alike, Dr. Firth was quick to reject any such idealistic interpretation of Tikopian society.

"The Tikopia are not at all a society living by love and friendship alone," he said. "They are in some ways greedy and highly self-interested. They are very human." Like all human beings, the Tikopia have a co-mingling of attitudes, Dr. Firth said. "The element of self-interest on the one hand and the perception that self-interest is also self-destructive are always at war in humanity," he said. "A balance must be found between social interests on the one hand and self-interest on the other."

## POETRY RESTORED

Dr. Firth does feel, however, that behind today's youths' rejection of materialistic values lies a very sound social instinct. "While many young people are exasperated because they still want the kind of consumption standards their parents had without being willing to go out and graft for it, their basic attitudes in this respect are sound," he said.

Dr. Firth also admires youth's focus on esthetic values, and he credits them with having restored poetry to a place of dignity. "Forty years ago poetry was something which belonged to a very esoteric circle," he said. "Now poetry appeals to an enormous crowd of people."

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# SEX A SERIOUS BUSINESS

BY DORIS HOPPER  
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Sex is a serious subject for many UBC students. Human Relations and Sex Education, the most popular and well-attended non-credit course ever given at UBC, attracted a total registration of almost 900 students this year.

Offered for the second year in a row, the course is totally student-organized and is sponsored by Interprofessional Education (an interdisciplinary group of students from Medicine, Law, Education and other Faculties) in conjunction with the Education Undergraduate Society.

"Human Sexual Response," "Cultural Attitudes to Human Sexuality," "Sexual Deviancies," "Law and Sex," and "Family Planning and the Population Explosion" are some of the topics dealt with.

The course consists of hour-long lectures by UBC faculty members who are acknowledged authorities in their field. Following each lecture, participants in the course divide into groups of approximately 15 for seminar discussions conducted by senior and graduate students. Some 77 students are acting as seminar leaders.

Students were frank, although sometimes flippant, about discussing their reasons for enrolling: "I want to find out what I don't know!" quipped one young miss. An engineering student claimed to be "very inexperienced" and said he was attending because "I'm interested in new things."

Many students, however, revealed a desire to approach the subject of sex and human relations in an enlightened way as their primary motive for taking the course.

It was another engineering student who said it best: "I'm taking it so that I can get rid of any hangups I might have. I don't want to be backward in my attitude toward sex. I want to have a good, clean attitude toward it and I think this course will help."

A simple desire for more information motivated others. A girl who claimed, "We didn't learn anything in high school," said she just wanted to "learn something general about it" and added somewhat defensively: "I mean it is not going to hurt me. I don't think..."

The major reason for attending for most students, however, was professional. Education, Social Work, and Physical Education and Recreation students said they wanted to be prepared to answer some of the questions they expect to be asked by young people when they entered their various professions.

"This is something that we've just got to know about, especially with sex education coming into the schools and being so important." "...I think it may help me answer some of the possible questions the kids may ask." "...I feel I should find out a bit more about it so that I can be relaxed in the class if it ever comes up," were some of the comments made by Education students.

"I think I might be able to use it when I'm working with young people and adolescents," said a student in Recreation and a student in Social Work said: "I expect to be doing counselling."

According to this year's course coordinator, Isobel Semple, the Sex Education and Human Relations course has been specifically designed to meet the very needs most often expressed by students.

"It has been designed to help students meet their own personal and professional needs in the area of human sexuality in a manner that fosters openness and honesty," she said.

Students paid a \$2 registration fee to attend the non-credit course that will add another 30 hours to their regular study programs. Faculty support and contributions from various organizations such as the Registered Nurses of B.C., the B.C. Teachers Federation, and the UBC Alumni Association helped to defer the cost of conducting the course.

Miss Semple estimates the total cost of the course, including honorariums for the lecturers and seminar leaders, at \$5,000 and said that this year's organizers planned to set aside approximately \$1,000 toward the cost of conducting the course again next year.

The students were unanimous, however, in saying they thought the course should be offered for credit as part of the University's regular curriculum. The said it should be required for some professions such as teaching, social work, and recreation and that it should be available as an elective for any other students wishing to take it.

Human Relations and Sex Education continues Monday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. until March 16.



ALISTAIR COOKE

## Alistair Cooke Speaks Feb. 25

Alistair Cooke, one of the world's best known journalists, will lecture at the University of B.C. Wednesday (Feb. 25) at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Cooke will speak on "How Does the Rest of the World See America?" in the Frederic Wood Theatre. His UBC lecture is sponsored by the Vancouver Sun.

Mr. Cooke is best known for his "Letter from America" series of radio commentaries, broadcast weekly by the British Broadcasting Corporation, and his dispatches to the Manchester *Guardian*, one of Britain's leading newspapers.

He is also well known as the former coordinator and guiding light of the award-winning television series entitled "Omnibus" and as host of the United Nations' "International Zone," a series which interpreted the world organization to television audiences.

Born in England and educated at Cambridge University, Mr. Cooke accepted a fellowship that took him to Yale Drama School. He abandoned a theatrical career to enter journalism and was a correspondent for *The Times* of London before becoming *The Guardian's* chief American writer. He has now broadcast well over 1,000 Letters from America for the BBC.

Mr. Cooke is also the author of a number of books, the best known of which is *A Generation on Trial*, an account of the court case surrounding Alger Hiss, a former American government official accused in 1948 of helping to transmit confidential government documents to the Russians. Hiss denied the charges and was convicted of perjury in Jan., 1950.

## Deadline Set

Students who expect to graduate this year must file "Application for Graduation" cards with the Registrar's Office not later than Monday, Feb. 16.

The regulation also applies to students who are registered in a year not normally considered a graduating year, such as the one-year teacher training program for graduates, but who expect to complete a degree program in the spring.

Students who have not received the cards in the mail can obtain them in departmental offices and at the Registrar's Office in the General Service Administration Building. The names of students who fail to file the cards will be omitted from the graduating lists placed before the Faculties and Senate for approval.

## ENROLMENT *Continued from Page One*

study that might take another 16 months.

Referring to opportunities for education for native Indians and other minorities, Dean Finn asked if the University would be doing a favor to people with an inferior academic background by enrolling them at UBC. "Is that educational opportunity or is it intellectual murder?" he asked.

He said there were reasons for wanting an institution to grow, including advantages resulting from variety and diversity of curriculum and faculty. But UBC, he pointed out, was well beyond this.

When it comes down to voting on issues such as enrolment limitation, he said, Senators as individuals must be guided by the vision each has for the University.

Dean Finn said he saw nothing wrong with a mission-oriented goal for UBC and as dean of a technical, research-oriented Faculty his goal was to turn out a technically competent person with the vision to look at the problems which technology is creating in society.

Over and above that, he said, the Faculty of Applied Science feels it has a mission to supply the research which is needed to solve the problems which have already been created.

He wound up by appealing to Senate, for the sake of the University, the province and, above all, for the sake of Senate itself, to take a stand on the enrolment question by voting in favor of the motion.

Despite the fact that Senate went on considering the motion for almost an hour, it was clear at the end of the meeting that Dean Finn's speech had mobilized Senate's thinking and led it to accept the recommendations made by the Belshaw committee.

Before it came to voting on the committee's proposals, Senate had to vote on two amendments to limit undergraduate enrolment to 18,000 and 20,000 students. Both amendments failed.

Dr. Clark, replying to questions, pointed out that the limitation of 22,000 students applied to gross University enrolment and that the ceiling would probably be reached within five years.

When it came finally to a vote on the Committee's recommendation to limit the total undergraduate enrolment to a maximum of 22,000, Senate approved the proposal by a substantial majority.

Having cleared the hurdle of undergraduate enrolment, Senate wasted little time approving the other proposals in the same recommendation to limit the annual rate of increase in graduate enrolment to 15 per cent, to a maximum of 5,500.

Dean Finn, who again spoke to the motion, said the 5,500 figure, in relation to an undergraduate enrolment of 22,000, was a common one in schools that have a strong graduate program.

The reason for defining a rate of increase was that development of research facilities required the gradual creation of laboratory space and purchase of expensive equipment.

His remarks were supplemented by Dr. Ben Moyle, acting Dean of Graduate Studies, who said an enrolment restriction of 5,500 would not embarrass the Faculty within the next five years and probably not within the next ten years.

The motion regarding graduate enrolment carried by a substantial majority.

Before it adjourned Senate agreed to hold special meetings on March 4 and 18 to continue its discussion of the recommendations in the report of the Committee on Long-Range Objectives.

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