

Senate makes the final decision

by Sun Staff

After close to two years of deliberation, Senate came to a decision Thursday-October 30, 1980. The vote went twelve in agreement, and eleven against with one abstention that the Department of Business Administration be given school status and that the decision be reviewed in three years.

Senate members voted as follows: in favour - Gerald Arsenault, Roger Black, Ronald Collins, Merritt Crockett, Ivan Dowling, John Gallinger, Frank Ledwell, Mahendra Madan, Peter Meincke, Glenn Palmer, Sue Parlee and Leslie Semple; those opposed were Philip Brown, Ken Butler, Frances Gray, Louis Hanic, Bruce Holbrook, Wendell MacIntyre, David Mihe, Palanisamy Nagarajan, Gerald Perry, Joanne Peters and Reg Stuart. Michael Hennessey abstained and Alan MacPhee was absent.

In February 1979, President Meincke formed a committee to "review and make recommendations on our academic administrative structures and procedures". One of these recommendations was that the Department of Business Administration be given school status.

The committee met with chairpersons and senior administrators on Dec. 3/79 to discuss the ideas. An interim report was circulated on Feb. 13, 1980, and in February and March 1980, three open meetings were held to discuss the recommendations. In a letter to all Faculty dated September 17, 1980, the President wrote "(The recommendations) will only work with the support of the majority of the faculty, and I must know whether or not

that support is there before proceeding further".

Evidently the support must have been there, because the President brought the recommendations forward for discussion at the second Senate Meeting on October 16th.

Discussion was so great that a special Senate Meeting was called for Oct. 23rd. After much debate, the Program Curriculum Committee Plan was approved and the Business Administration issue was scheduled for a second special Senate Meeting on October 30, at which time the vote was as above.

Following are comments made by the President of the University, the Deans, Chairpersons of most Departments, and the Student Union President regarding the decision of Senate to grant School status to the Department of Business Administration:

We regret that we were unable to contact Adrian Arsenault for comment.

Richard Wills-Sociology and Anthropology Chairman

I really don't have anything to say right now.

Gerald Arsenault, Dean of Education..

I think that overall the Senate decision was a good, cautious decision in that there is an implied commitment to monitor the effects of that decision. We're dealing with an organization that cannot afford to remain static. Change, if it is well monitored and reviewed from time to time should not pose any threat. This is not a case of change for the sake of change, but change for the sake of improvement, and for what it is worth, I do not think anyone could say for sure that improvement will occur,

and most definitely no one could say for sure that improvement won't occur, so why not try it out and keep our eyes on it.

Philip Brown, Student Union President..

My reason for introducing the secret vote was to prevent any fear that people may have had regarding what other people may think after the vote.

The closeness just shows that there was a concern, and that there was no majority, especially in the Faculty of Arts.

All I'm scared of are the long-term implications. But the Administrators decided, and how democratic is that?

Ivan Dowling, Dean of Science

During the debate in Senate, I heard sincere arguments against the motion from people I respect.

I voted for the motion because, based on my experience in academic matters involving the Department of Business Administration, I felt that the arguments supporting the motion

were stronger than those opposing it. Many of the arguments opposing the motion were based on fears, legitimately held and well articulated, concerning possible effects of the change on other areas of the University. My experience gave me no reason to believe that Business Administration was less than honest in its stated intent of continuing a policy of a broad-based rather than an ever-narrowing professional program.

I truly believe that, given time and trust, this change could well result in better programs, not only for our Business students, but for students in all areas.

Frank Falvo - Modern Languages Chairman - It is puzzling that the Senators approved it in spite of practically unanimous opposition from the Arts Departments.

I shall miss Business Administration. It is a department with high standards, still strongly believing in examinations, prerequisites and structured programs. CONT. ON PAGE 4

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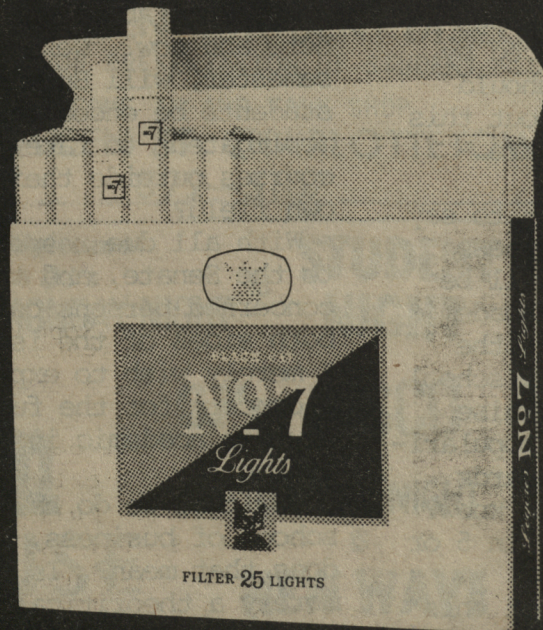
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