

Memorandum regarding Conditions in Macdonald College.

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1. The members of the Faculty of Agriculture are seriously concerned about existing conditions in Macdonald College and about the prospects of the School of Agriculture.
2. Although the mutual relations of the staff and those of the staff with the students are harmonious and even cordial there is an atmosphere of discontent and dissatisfaction pervading the institution the character of which can only be appreciated by those living within it. There is a feeling that the College is not in sympathetic contact with its constituency and that the institution is falling far short of making the best of its opportunities to serve the cause of rural improvement in whose interests it exists.
3. There is no central influence directing the work of the Departments within the College. Each department has been obliged to work out its own policy, with the result that there is little co-ordination from the standpoint of the institution as a whole. The College does not keep in close and sympathetic touch with the various local and Provincial organizations in which it should display interest and from which it should draw support. Furthermore, there appears to be no organized effort to blend the work of the College with that of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.
4. The financial situation is only vaguely known to members of the staff. The impression prevails that it is serious and a policy of restriction is being enforced but too often the restriction is not based on mutual understanding.
5. Important departures of policy such as the establishment and discontinuation of local demonstration centres in the Province, the inauguration and discontinuation of school fairs, and the planning of Federal Grant extension work have been undertaken without conference. Frequently there is no official announcement of important changes and but little opportunity is given for discussion of fundamental problems. Consequently there is no encouragement for mutual understanding or co-operative effort.
6. In spite of the inducements of free tuition and the government grant for board allowance, only a very small number of students is attracted from the rural districts of the Province of Quebec. Making due allowance for the effects of the change in regulations and for the existing economic conditions, this deplorable decrease in attendance may be accepted as evidence that the College is not being kept before the rural public of the Province in as persistent a manner and in as favourable a light as is not merely desirable but absolutely essential. There is little collective effort to keep the College before the attention of the agricultural population. Under existing conditions