

Simon Fraser strike vote called

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — The beleaguered Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology department at Simon Fraser University will hold a strike vote Monday in an attempt to fight an administrative refusal to reinstate 11 faculty members and restore autonomy to the department.

In a four-hour plenary session Tuesday, more than 400 students and faculty voted to merge as one decision-making body until an administration trusteeship over the PSA department is lifted, and voted overwhelmingly for the strike vote. Less than a dozen PSA members present voted against the move.

PSA members gave SFU President Kenneth Strand until noon Monday to either accept four demands made by the department or at least indicate a willingness to negotiate over them.

The call for a strike vote is currently confined to the PSA department—800 of SFU's 5,700 students—but the department will probably ask others to stay out of classes during the possible strike as an expression of solidarity with PSA demands.

The four demands of the department are:

- An end to the administration trusteeship of the department and reinstatement of Mordecai Briemberg as chairman of the department. Briemberg was acclaimed by both students and faculty of the department, then vetoed by an administration committee.

- Acceptance of recommendations for promotions made by the PSA elections and tenure committee. The recommendations of the committee, which is composed of students and faculty of the department, on a parity basis, were rejected by the administration.

- Reinstatement of four professors who were in effect fired when they were not granted tenure and their contracts were not renewed, and rescinding of tenure committee recommendations which placed other faculty members on a one-year conditional contract basis.

- A fundamental recognition at

SFU that experimental practices in organization and educational procedures should be encouraged and not repressed.

In a letter to the department, Strand denied that any faculty had been fired. "Failure to renew a contract of limited term or a decision not to grant tenure at the end of a probationary period does not constitute firing," he said.

Briemberg termed Strand's argument "cunning linguistics."

"We're soon to be without jobs, but we haven't been fired."

In a press release dated Monday, Strand stated he would not accept or consider the three demands relating to reinstating of faculty or restoration of departmental autonomy, and added that the fourth demand was acceptable only as a "broad principle" — provided all experimentation was conducted in accordance with university regulations.

For his part, Strand called for an investigation of the procedures of the PSA department by a five-man committee nominated jointly by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

When and if this committee reported, Strand said, he would give full attention to recommendations that fell within his jurisdiction and would present the rest to the SFU Academic Senate and Board of Governors where applicable.

But in a letter to the PSA department Strand said the AUCC-CAUT committee had been asked merely to investigate the internal procedures of the department, and it was not asked to make "any judgment or recommendation pertaining to the promotion, renewal or tenure status" of any member of the department.

The Tuesday plenary of the PSA department voted to boycott the proceedings of the investigative committee when and if it met, and agreed to support the activities of an investigation committee set up by the SFU student society.

According to SFU council pres-

ident Norm Wickstrom the students' committee, formed Tuesday, will investigate the justification for the imposition of the trusteeship on the PSA department. It will investigate allegations by the administration of:

- Undesirability of student parity in departmental decisions,

- The administrative incompetence of Briemberg which led to veto of his democratically-run appointment.

The students' council will also hold an open-air meeting Thursday to discuss the entire PSA affair.

The PSA department assembly also voted to condemn "specific violations" of a statement on academic freedom and tenure which allows faculty to appeal a decision made by the administration's Tenure and Promotions Committee before the SFU Board of Governors gives final approval to the administration's decision.

Members of the PSA department were not allowed to appeal the decisions regarding their fate, on the grounds that final decision on renewal of contract had to be approved by August 31.

The decisions regarding PSA members were not made until virtually that date, and were approved by a special resolution from the Board of Governors.

The struggle over the fate of the PSA department first started to reach boiling point this summer, when the administration at SFU declared the department to be incapable of handling its own affairs and assumed direct control of its operations.

Tenure decisions made within the department would not be ratified until the department changed its internal procedures, the administration said—implying an end to the total student parity then operating.

Administrative decisions concerning tenure, contract status and the promotion of PSA members were made on the basis of "administrative doubts" about the teaching or scholastic ability of the professors, although all have been highly ranked by their colleagues and one, Kathleen Aberle, has an international reputation.

The PSA department claims the administration's actions are a political purge of the department, based on disapproval of student parity in decision-making and tenure and promotion cases, and the "radical" orientation of the department toward the solution of community problems rather than academic work.



—George Drohomirecki photo

AND THERE ARE BOOKS AND BOOKS and books at the Varsity Christian Fellowship book exchange. Would you believe more than 25,000 books have been exchanged during the last four days? Tomorrow is the last day of sales, with the loot and unsold books being returned next week in SUB 142.

SU forum to be held this Friday in SUB

The first in a series of public forums called the "Town Hall Meetings" is to be held Friday noon in SUB Theatre.

Sponsored by the students' union, these meetings are intended to involve the community and to educate them on issues of importance.

There are seven scheduled from now until March including such topics as "Liquor Laws of Alberta," "Fees and Universal Accessibility," and "The Attitudes of Quebecers as Opposed to French-Canadians in Alberta."

Friday's meeting will discuss "Parity in GFC and the Board of Governors," with student council members and guest speakers.

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campus calendar

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WATCH THIS CORNER EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FOR THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Correction

Note: Both a student identification card and one of either a birth certificate or a passport will be needed as proof of age at the social function to be held in Dinwoodie Lounge tonight.

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