

MEMORANDUM

Smith

I. It appears to me that the objection which you raise attributes to the Head of the department at the University rather more responsibility than he in fact carries. The object of initiating the system by which the senior member of a department became known as its chairman was to emphasize the fact that the University expects the co-operation of all members of the department in the various matters you mention.

I can see no insuperable difficulty in consultation between members of a departmental staff and Macdonald and a chairman of a department at McGill, and indeed I feel that nothing but good could come of such consultation. Lectures, estimates and appropriations must all be dealt with in the last resort by the Faculty of Agriculture and its Dean, and so far as I can see this procedure will not differ materially from the present.

II. The situation referred to in this paragraph occurs in other faculties without apparently ill results; in any case the practice is not new.

III. I can see that there is no greater difficulty here than already exists in other cases.

IV. I cannot agree with your assumption that there is any degradation in regarding a professor at Macdonald as junior in his particular field to a professor at McGill who happens to be chairman of the department. I do not think that Dr. Snell, for example, need feel that his professional reputation will suffer by being classed in the same position as Dr. Whitby, Professor Haass or Professor Johnson, nor Professor Quayle by being in the same position as Professor Bieler.