

Profs, students fear police roam campus. Are they here? If so, for what purpose?

There are "no specific regulations pertaining to the role of the security officer . . ."

Faculty and student reaction to the fact that no specific regulations govern campus security operations have ranged from horror to astonishment.

Reported interference in classes by campus police and the lack of regulations are seen as serious threats to academic freedom by some faculty members and students.

The reactions have come on the heels of the uncovering of a series of letters between the head of the pharmacology department and the vice-president in charge of administration and finance.

In those letters, and in subsequent comments, the vice-president has made it clear that the re-

Police disturb zoology class

Campus security officers in search of a student tried unsuccessfully to enter a zoology lab about three or four weeks ago, says Professor W. D. Staines of the zoology department.

At that time, one of his academic staff had gone to him asking for clarification of policy. Prof. Staines contacted C.A. Breakey, head of campus security, who informed him that the student was in some sort of difficulty with the RCMP who had no way of contacting him, other than on campus.

"I understand that the RCMP in some cases have jurisdiction to go anywhere, and that they must be co-operated with," said Prof. Staines. Mr. Breakey had told him this, Prof. Staines added, "so they did have the right to come on campus and hunt this fellow down."

Two non-uniformed campus security officers, in co-operation with the RCMP, went to the classroom and asked for the student who was not there that day.

There was some disagreement with the lab supervisor who went to seek the student anyway. He claimed the officers were quite insistent and rude about contacting this student.

"As far as I know, they didn't enter the classroom," Prof. Staines said. Apparently, the officers returned the next week at which time the lab instructor told them they could not contact the student in his class, said Prof. Staines. They went away without, to his knowledge, having gotten hold of the student.

When Prof. Staines spoke with campus security, he didn't find the campus police had acted in a highhanded manner. The campus security officers themselves had considered the lab supervisor rude and insistent.

Mr. Breakey, when questioned by Prof. Staines, admitted there was little written policy but that there were certain agreements between campus security and the RCMP. In this instance, the campus police agreed to make the inquiries for the RCMP as they feared the RCMP might not be as discreet as was required.

sponsibility for deciding what is an "emergency" requiring police action lies with the head of campus security, as does the decision to what action should be taken.

The letters, published on page two, were released last week by the chairman of the University Government Committee, Dr. Grant Davy.

Pharmacology head Dr. E. E. Daniel released the series of letters between himself and vice-president D. G. Tyndall to the committee three weeks ago. As a result, Dr. Davy requested from Dr. Tyndall a set of all regulations governing campus security.

In his reply last week, Dr. Tyndall stated that there are "no specific regulations pertaining to the role of the security officer, his staff and the campus police."

The committee, an arm of the staff association, recommended Friday that "there should be fairly specific rules and regulations" for the operation of campus security. It has appointed a sub-committee to further study the situation.

Dr. Davy has been more outspoken in his criticism of the matter. "It is absolute nonsense," he says, "that the security officer decides what an emergency is."

"I'm just horrified to read in Tyndall's letter that there are no regulations. I want that decision made by someone like the president." On March 14, Dr. Davy, as acting head of the political science department, informed the members of the department that an individual purporting to be a member of the campus security force had "interrogated a student about the instructors and the course." His instructions to the faculty as to the future precautions against such actions are on page two.

"William Dryden, the lecturer concerned, says he cannot be positive the man watching his class was a plainclothes policeman. However, he says, "I am sure myself he is and on the basis of what I know is happening in other departments, it could reach dangerous proportions."

"Tyndall's powers are such that they make him able to do almost anything. He could make very silly moves. Particularly with student unrest, there is a need for consultation."

Dr. Davy says two plainclothes policemen on the campus patrol have told him they cannot go into classrooms without checking with the department head. "They claim they haven't been in any classroom," he says.

Security head C. A. Breakey has refused comment on the situation. When he was contacted by phone, his secretary relayed this message: "You may send my compliments to The Gateway. As Gateway is a member of the news media, they may get any information from public relations."

If the campus patrol is involved, says Dr. Davy, "they'll have a real mess on their hands because if we were prepared to fight the RCMP for two years, we won't allow campus police to do it. We want to clarify the situation as to the powers of the campus patrol, and as well, their relation to the RCMP and city police."

Dr. Davy was involved in a national campaign by the Canadian Association of University Teachers several years ago to remove from the campuses RCMP members in plainclothes who were questioning students and professors. A commitment from the federal justice minister was subsequently received that the RCMP would be told to discontinue such activities. "My bet is that these people who are doing this are either city police or RCMP."

Dr. Tyndall, under whose direction security precautions are taken, says no city plainclothes police are on campus, at least to his knowledge.

"It is my understanding that Mr. Breakey would be advised of this, or of such matters as police posing as students," he said.

"Dr. Daniel has raised a pertinent question. In this case I am quite prepared to admit that some clarification was desirable and it has been achieved."

The vice-president says that the decision as to what constitutes an emergency should stay with Mr. Breakey. "I frankly think it is impractical to set out in advance procedures to cover every conceivable emergency," he said.

"There is an informal liaison between the campus security office, the Edmonton police force and the

RCMP. It is my understanding that it is a liaison in good faith and that the campus patrol office is advised when officers of the other units come on campus. "I'd be happier if it were in writing but I'm not sure it's practical."

"If the authorities have grounds in their opinion to believe there is a conspiracy afoot to destroy life or property, they have a responsibility to investigate," he said.

Dr. Tyndall said he "hesitated to discuss this issue" because "my experience with the student press is that I have been misquoted more than once."

Dr. Daniel, who gave permission to release the correspondence to graduate student Jon Bordo, says he cannot see "any basis at all for what has been happening in some departments, of the campus police coming in and questioning students in the classroom and lab."

"Mr. Breakey is allowed to make these decisions without procedures acceptable to academic personnel. Very bad mistakes could be made."

"Freedom between faculty and students should prevail, and not be interfered with by the campus police or anyone else. It is really a surprise to me that someone has to force this on the administration's attention."

"I would rather see it dealt with now rather than later when dis-

astrous consequences could follow. The decision of an emergency, except possibly armed entry, should be left to the discretion of the instructor or department head. I have a great deal of faith in my staff to fulfill such responsibilities," he said.

Students' union President David Leadbeater echoed the comments of the pharmacology head. "It has to be stopped right now or it will get worse," he said Sunday.

"It's quite clear that there is a problem with the administration. Allowing police to have free access to the university, to go about in plain clothes interrogating as they pleased may intimidate academic freedom if it is allowed to continue."

"It is a serious kind of omission," he said.

One other point the student president has expressed concern over is the security at the recent special meeting of the General Faculty Council. "It was incredible to see the number of policemen there, some of them in plain clothes. They could have done with almost no one."

Comments by the city police department and the RCMP concerning the campus and schools situation are included in the page eight story on paid informers.

