

FILE 634

STUDENT SOLDIERS :

REMISSION OF FEES

135-

Student Council file
1920-26

February
Eighteenth
1921.

To the Editor,
"McGill Daily".

Cop. with
manuscript marks

Dear Sir:-

The issues of the McGill Daily of the dates of February 17th and February 18th each contains a letter over the signature of J. R. Lockhart.

The appearance of these letters influences me to ask you for space in which to make a formal statement as to the action taken by the Board of Governors of McGill University relative to an appeal made to them by the Returned Men's Association of McGill University for the remission of the increase in fees in the case of all students returned from War.

This appeal was placed in my hands on October 12th, 1920, on which date I left the city on an extended tour on behalf of the McGill Campaign Fund. When I returned to the city the drive for funds was on, and it was not until the completion of the drive, that the Governors had time to give consideration to the appeal. On the occasion when it was first presented to the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors it was laid over and instruction given that steps be taken to find out the number of returned men attending the University, the number in need of assistance, and other information which would influence the Board of Governors in coming to a conclusion as to whether the remission of the increase in fees was the best way of granting help to the returned soldier student.

As a result of further consideration the Finance Committee decided to recommend to the Board of Governors that the remission of the increase in fees be not allowed, but that a certain sum of money be placed in the hands of the Principal for the purpose of providing assistance to any returned soldier

in need of *such*. The Finance Committee did not wish to see any returned soldier leaving the University because he had not sufficient means to see him through. They felt that the bare remission of the increase in fees would not save for many the privilege of attending the University. They felt that, while some undoubtedly needed assistance, others were not so placed. They considered that the greatest good to the greatest number would accrue by giving substantial help to those who without such help would have to leave the University, rather than to return to each man an amount, which, no doubt, would be welcome but which would not, I believe, in any case decide the question as to whether a man could continue his studies here or not. The Board of Governors at their next meeting approved of this recommendation of the Finance Committee and I was asked to administer the fund. I preferred to administer it myself, because I felt that if the comradeship engendered by serving together meant anything at all, it would ensure that no returned soldier would have any diffidence in coming to me.

I believe the Board of Governors came to the right conclusion. The increase of fees in the case of Art students is \$42.; in the case of Science students - \$8.00; in the case of students in Medicine \$53.; in Dentistry - \$75.; in Law - \$73. and in Commerce - \$92.

When the question of help to returned soldiers in order to enable them to pursue their University education was placed before the Government at Ottawa, it was represented that the facts disclosed that only one man in five had to have assistance or give up his studies at the College. I believe the returned soldiers attending McGill would prefer to see this one helped in a substantial manner rather than to see the five men given amounts which, while useful, would not be all-important.

Mr. Lockhart speaks of "rightful payment" and "just claims", no doubt based on his statement that "the University Governors encouraged students to enlist". I prefer to believe that the students at this University enlisted because they considered it their duty to serve their Country in her hour of need, rather than on account of any encouragement from the Board of Governors.

McGill is not a State supported University. She derives her income from the fees of students and the income from endowments or gifts. The financial condition of the University rendered an appeal to the public necessary. Before an university can rightly appeal to the public she must be in a position to assure that public that there is no waste in the matter of expenditure, and that she has made full use of the opportunities within her own control for adding to her income. Higher education has always been provided at a fraction of its cost and the charge for it has not kept pace with the increase of cost. The Governors of the University felt that the fees should be raised and were within their right in raising them to all students.

The Returned Men's Association were within their rights in making an appeal to the Governors for a remission of the increase. The arguments supporting their appeal were well founded and received sympathetic consideration. The Returned Men's Association did not demand the remission of the increase as a matter of right. The Governors considered the appeal and approved of the policy which I have outlined above. I am simply their agent in carrying out that policy.

I do not wish to engage in any controversy with Mr. Lockhart, or any other student, though I cannot refrain from pointing out some glaring inaccuracies in his statements. In his letter in the issue of February 17th he states that "discussion on the matter was refused altogether". In making such

Editor "McGill Daily" - 4 -

a statement he has deviated from the path of truth. His second letter in the issue of February 18th is very personal in tone. He refers to what is the policy of the Governors of this University as being the Principal's policy, and points out what the Principal evidently thinks, rather than what the Board of Governors thought.

I dislike to make any reference to the concluding paragraph of his letter in the issue of the 18th, but for the information of all I desire to state most positively that none of "the higher military servants of Canada" were ever "offered" or received any "reward for services rendered". That being the case, the question of their refusing it "on the grounds that others might find greater need for the same" has never arisen. Why Mr. Lockhart should make such a contemptible insinuation is beyond my comprehension.

Principal.

JOHN BONSALL PORTER, E.M., D.Sc.,
MEM. INST. C.E., ETC., PROFESSOR
JOHN W. BELL, M.Sc.,
ASSOC. PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF MINING ENGINEERING
MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

Feb. 8th. 1921

The Principal,
McGill University.

Dear General Currie;

Some weeks ago I handed you a type written analysis of the Military records of the students in the Science Faculty. It has since occurred to me that as you are now becoming acquainted with the men themselves, you might like to have note of their individual services, I therefore beg to hand you a complete list of the Science Undergraduates in all four years with a brief Military record prefixed to all who served. The letters C and A indicate service in Canada and the U.S. only. E means that a man got as far as England but did not get across the Channel. F indicates that he actually fought on some active front not necessarily however in France. The number gives the months from time of enlistment to discharge, and the subscript letters P and I indicate Prisoner of War or Interned in some neutral country such as Holland. The star means casualty of a more or less serious character. Perhaps I should add that service in the Militia is not included in the above record, that is to say, that all of the men marked were members of the Expeditionary Force, although some were still in training on Armistice Day.

At the end of each year you will find written in, a summary statement for the particular year in question. In preparing this list, I considered it expedient to omit from the above records any indication of a man's rank or honours. Information on these points is however available if required.

Yours very truly,

John Bonsall Porter

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Session 1920-21.

Loss in revenue if ex-soldiers who were previously enrolled were allowed to complete their courses under the old schedule of fees.

Loss if the old fees were exacted instead of the new.

	<u>No. of ex-soldiers</u>	<u>For present Session</u>	<u>For balance of course.</u>	
<u>ARTS</u>				
Second Year	20	\$840.	\$2,520.	Difference in fee \$42.00
Third Year	7	294	588	
Fourth Year	14	588	588	
Totals	41	1,722.	3,696.	
<u>APPLIED SCIENCE</u>				
Second Year	96	768	2,304	Difference in fee \$8.00
Third Year	90	720	1,440	
Fourth Year	64	512	512	
Totals	250	2,000.	4,256.	
<u>MEDICINE</u>				
Second Year	125	6,625	26,500	Difference in fee \$53.00
Third Year	25	1,325	3,975	
Fourth Year	23	1,219	2,438	
Fifth Year	33	1,749	1,749	
Totals	206	10,918.	34,662.	
<u>DENTISTRY</u>				
Second Year	16	1,260	3,780	Difference in fee \$75.00
Third Year	4	300	600	
Fourth Year	3	225	225	
Totals	23	1,785.	4,605	
<u>LAW</u>				
Second Year	2	146	292	Difference in fee \$73.00
Third Year	47	3,431	3,431	
Totals	49	3,577	3,723	
<u>COMMERCE</u>				
Second Year	24	2,208	4,416	Difference in fee \$92.00
Third Year	4	368	368	
Totals	28	2,576	4,784	
<u>Summary.</u>				
ARTS	41	1,722	3,696	
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DENTISTRY	23	1,785	4,605	
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COMMERCE	28	2,576	4,784	
Totals.	597	\$22,578	\$55,726	

The main loss would be in Medicine, and is due to two facts (1) the larger number who entered the First Year last Session and (2) the considerable increase in fee (\$53.00). It should be remembered in this connection that these men were given an advantage over other First Year Medical students last year in that they were allowed to enter on the old five-year course, thus saving a year's expense.

The above figures are compiled on the assumption that all will finish, but it is certain that not a few will have to drop out each year, so that the above total represents the maximum.

The heaviest loss would be at first. As the men graduate the loss each year would be less.

It should be remembered that quite a large number of those who are called ex-soldiers did not serve in a fighting zone. Some of them indeed did not leave Canada. If, therefore, it is thought that the loss would be too great as it is, then the privilege in question might be accorded only to those who had seen service, or it might be arranged to allow only those in say the Third and Fourth Years (Fourth and Fifth in Medicine) to finish up on the old basis. This would mean a loss of less than \$12,000., to be exact \$11,939.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Session 1920-21.

DUPLICATE

Loss in revenue if ex-soldiers who were previously enrolled were allowed to complete their courses under the old schedule of fees.

Loss if the old fees were exacted instead of the new.

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December
Fifteenth
1920.

Dear Dean

I should like to receive as soon as convenient a statement of the number of returned soldiers in attendance in your Faculty, with the following additional information:

- (1). Whether they are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th year students.
- (2) Whether their service was in France, England or Canada.
- (3) Number of cases where it is a hardship for the student or his parents to pay the increased fee asked by the University.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

Dean F.D. Adams,
Dean H.S. Birkett
Dean A.W. Thornton
Acting Dean Harkness
Acting Dean Greenshields

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Session 1920-21.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF WAR SERVICES OF SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATES.

<u>Character of Military or Naval Service.</u>	<u>Year in which each class is to graduate.</u>			
	<u>1921.</u>	<u>1922.</u>	<u>1923.</u>	<u>1924.</u>
Total students in class	<u>110</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>204</u>
Students who served in France or some other fighting area	48	54	62	26
Per cent of whole class.	43.6	32.2	28.6	12.7
Students who went overseas but did not reach fighting area.	6	8	13	1
Per cent of whole class.	7.3	4.8	6.0	0.5
Students who trained and served in Canada but did not get overseas.	8	28	20	15
Per cent of whole class.	7.3	16.7	9.4	7.4
Total students who served with the colours.	64	90	95	42
Per cent of whole class.	58.2	53.7	44.0	20.6
Students who were wounded.	21	23	13	11
Students who were taken prisoners.	2	0	2	0

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- (2) The average length of service of men who got to the fighting areas i.e.:— class 1920 - 43.0 months, class 1921 - 39.2 months, class 1922 - 35.2 months, class 1923 - 32.7 months, class 1924 - 33.5 months.
- (3) The average service of the men who only got as far as England is 18.0 months.
- (4) The average service of the men who did not leave Canada is 10.4 months.
- (5) There are at present 291 soldier students on the undergraduate rolls, equalling 42% of the whole attendance, and this average is considerably lower than that of last year owing to a large influx of Freshmen who were too young to see service.
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Soldiers 201

**McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL**

FACULTY OF LAW
ROBERT W. LEE, M.A., D.C.L., K.C.
DEAN

746 UNIVERSITY STREET
TELEPHONE: UPTOWN 5920

December 21st, 1920.

Classification of Returned Soldiers.

	Place of Service.			Total.	In need of assistance.
	Canada.	England.	France and Elsewhere.		
1st Yr.	0	2	6	8	3
2nd Yr.	2	0	1	3	0
3rd Yr.	10	5	30	<u>45</u>	<u>9</u>
Total.-----				56	12

The number in need of financial assistance cannot be estimated with absolutely accuracy.

The first year men include one who served with the West-Indian Regiment in Egypt and Palestine, and one who was a captain in the Roumanian army.

The large number in the third year is due to the fact most of the returned men were enabled to gain a year by attending the Summer School.

W. Smith

Secretary of the Faculty.

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M c G I L L U N I V E R S I T Y .

October 12th, 1920.

To the Principal and Governors of McGill University.

At a meeting of the Returned Men's Association of McGill University, held on October 7th last, it was unanimously resolved to appeal to the Governors of the University for the remission of the increase in fees in the case of all students returned from war. In presenting this appeal the Executive of the Returned Men's Association would respectfully point out the following facts:

1. The large majority of Returned Men now at the University would have graduated during the period of the old scale of fees if they had not interrupted their courses to go to war.
2. Students who did not enlist completed their courses, or the greater part of their courses under the old scale of fees; it would seem to be unjust to penalize returned students for their war service by asking them to pay increased fees from which they would have been exempt had they not gone to war.
3. The state has refused to aid returned students. The Presbyterian Church of Canada is paying the fees and in many cases the college expenses of its students returned from war, in Arts, Medicine or Theology, and is also providing Summer Courses for them to enable them to make up lost time.

4. The financial loss to the University will not be great as it will decrease each year.
5. The remission of the increased fees will be of great assistance to many returned men and will remove one of the causes of dissatisfaction.

D. W. Aubridge
Pres.

J. J. Nicholson
Vice-Pres.

October
Twelfth
1920.

Rev. Dr. D.J. Fraser,
Presbyterian College,
McTavish Street.

Dear Dr. Fraser:-

Lack of time permits me to
make only a brief acknowledgment of your
letter of October 8th.

I fully agree with what you have
written, and at the next meeting of the Board
of Governors of this University, I intend to
draw their attention to the fees now charged
returned soldiers. It may be too much to hope
that they will be excused from paying fees,
but I think the least we can look forward to
is that, in their case, the increased fees
will not be made applicable.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.



THE
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
MONTREAL

October 8, 1920.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G.
McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Principal Currie:-

May I draw your attention and through you, if you see fit, the attention of the Board of Governors of McGill to the fact that there are several Arts students registered in the Presbyterian College who have really been penalised by the recent increase in class fees for their overseas service during the war. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church has instructed its Colleges to make provision for returned men by which they may regain lost time and be protected from further loss of time through financial embarrassment. We shall be very pleased to render this justice to our own students, but we feel that the Universities might well emulate the Church in this matter. Students who would have graduated before this, if they had not enlisted, are apparently compelled to pay the extra fees which their stay-at-home class-mates have avoided.

I am strongly of the opinion that the democratic ideal of John Knox - that society should give a chance to every lad, however poor, to attain the highest education of which he is capable - might with advantage be aimed at by our Canadian Universities, and I hoped that with the increase of fees the Board of Governors would have created a fund, such as they have at Harvard, from which any needy and promising student might receive a scholarship, not indiscriminate charity, to cover his tuition expenses. I understand that no bright young man is allowed to abandon his course at Harvard because of financial poverty, and I am inclined to think that our own Alma Mater would immensely



THE
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
MONTREAL

increase her usefulness by adopting a similar policy. This attitude towards the returned men at least would doubtless be very popular throughout the country especially under your distinguished leadership.

I understand, however, that the returned men at McGill are about to make representations in favour only of exemption from the recent increase in the class fees and I should like to express my warmest support of their request. In the present condition of social unrest the Universities ought to be a stabilising force and in order to fulfil this function ought to be very careful not to create discontent and a sense of injustice among the intellectual youth of the country.

Hoping that you will not think I am intruding by bringing this matter to your official attention and with warmest regards,

I am,

Yours very sincerely.

Daniel J. Fraser