

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.318

MEMORANDUM

To..... MR. H. M. EVANS

From..... DR. D. MEAKIN

..... SECRETARY OF SENATE

..... DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Subject..... PAPER FOR SENATE

Date..... 24th December, 1969

Date for Dropping Courses

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings
have asked that the attached paper be submitted for consideration
by Senate at its January meeting.

Encl.
DM:bc

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF SENATE

FROM: SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDER-
GRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND
STANDINGS

DATE: 24th December, 1969

SUBJECT: DATE FOR DROPPING COURSES

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings, at a meeting on December 18th, 1969, unanimously passed the following Motion:

"That the S.C.U.A.S. recommend to Senate that the final date for withdrawal from a course be at the end of the fifth week of lectures".

Senate is, therefore, asked to endorse this deadline.

It is suggested that this should be implemented in Fall Semester 1970.

The present system of allowing students to wait until the 9th week of the semester before having to drop a course, tends to be very inefficient, both from the student's point of view and from the instructor's. At the end of five weeks, the student should know whether or not he is likely to complete a course successfully and the additional four weeks now allowed him means the postponement of the time of reckoning, and the taking away of time from other courses where there is a better chance of success.

From the instructor's point of view, the 9th week is rather late for the rearranging of course projects and assignments and again, the student has taken up time which might better have been spent on those students who are completing the course.

If the present method of dropping courses is changed and the student is required to make a decision within five weeks of lectures, then an additional recommendation may need to be made concerning the date at which a student may withdraw from the university in all courses without penalty. This would not in any way jeopardize the position of the student who must withdraw from courses on medical or compassionate grounds.

Some statistics may be of interest to Senators. Shown below are the number of course withdrawals for the 1968-69 academic year.

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Number of Course Withdrawals</u>
Summer 1968	1,128
Fall 1968	2,250
Spring 1969	1,650

D. MEAKIN,
CHAIRMAN, S.C.U.A.S.