S.74-162

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject USE OF VECTOR DESCRIPTIONS IN THE CALENDAR

Date November 14, 1974

MOTION #: "That Senate approve an amendment to its previous regulation on the use of vector descriptions in the calendar to permit those Faculties or Departments who so wish to have a numerical vector description listed in the calendar against their courses."

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[The intent is to amend attached Issue 7, use of vector patterns (in regularly scheduled courses) such that where the Faculty or Department wishes, the numerical vector description applicable under Issue 7(d) would appear in the calendar (as well as in the Course Guide) in lieu of the word identification called for under Issue 7(b)

If approved, this change would be effective immediately in preparation for the 1975/76 calendar.]

Extract from covering memorandum of from I. Mugridge

7. Use of Vector Patterns (for Regularly Scheduled Courses)

- the intent of this Motion was that vector patterns be eliminated from the University Calendar only and not that, in the presentation of new course proposals, no indication of the vector pattern assigned to each course should be given. A section for this information exists on the new course proposal form; and it is not intended that this section should be eliminated. Thus, in proposing a new course, departments will indicate what they anticipate will be the normal vector pattern for the course; and this will be submitted for approval through the faculty curriculum committee, SCUS and Senate.

The following should also be noted:

a) Some courses, such as directed readings, will not have vectors
b) The Registrar's Office will maintain a file of the vector originally approved. Departmental offices should do likewise.
c) This vector can be changed for any given semester, or semesters, by the Chairman of the Department, subject to the approval of the Departmental Curriculum Committee, and within the total number of contact hours assigned to the course. If change is to be made for any number of consecutive semesters, consideration should be given to a request for formal approval to change the original vector to that now desired.
d) For each semester the pertinent vector will appear in the Course Guide, identifying the method for that semester. The changes and approval under c) must reach the Registrar's Office, Scheduling Section, along with all other scheduling material each semester.

The present regulation

Issue 7. USE OF VECTOR PATTERNS (FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED COURSES)

MOTION: "That Senate approve, as set forth in S.74-43,

a) That all vector patterns be eliminated from the University Calendar.

b) That each course description contained in the University Calendar be accompanied by an indication of the nature of the course, e.g. lecture/tutorial, lecture/tutorial/laboratory, seminar, etc.

c) That, within the total number of contact hours assigned to a course, and subject to the approval of the departmental undergraduate curriculum committee, the Chairman be permitted to vary the vector pattern. Such vector patterns to reflect only the class requirements and the calendar description of the course.

d) That vector patterns for all regularly scheduled courses be included in the Course Guide; Departmental approval will be in writing and submitted to the Registrar."

Rationale

There is considerable confusion about vector patterns. This is attributable to the many uses to which they are currently put. For some courses, vector numbers indicate the lecture, tutorial, laboratory pattern, while others use the first vector number to indicate the amount of outside work required. Seminars present special problems with some departments indicating vector patterns of 0-5-0 and others the vector 2-3-0. There is agreement, however, that current vector patterns:

a) often do not bear any relationship to either the contact hours of the course or the credit hours assigned to it.

b) need not reflect the way in which the course is actually taught.

c) will vary from semester to semester for individual courses dependent upon the instructor.

d) serve no useful purpose in the University's Calendar.

e) would be of assistance to students if placed in the Course Guide provided they carried a consistent meaning.

Because teaching method and content often influence students' choice of courses, it is reasonable to expect that accurate information on both will be supplied to students in advance of the course. We recognize that individual faculty members will vary in their approach to the same course and that the annual publication of the University's Calendar cannot therefore reflect these semester changes. Furthermore, the University's Calendar is a statement of general policies and principles and we find little justification for the continued inclusion in it of vector patterns. Because the Calendar is used to determine transfer credit for students enrolling at other universities who have taken courses at this University and because it is a general guide for students taking courses at Simon Fraser, we have recommended that each course description contained in the Calendar be accompanied by a general description of the manner in which the course will be taught. Since the Course Guide provides information on individual semester course offerings, we believe that it is the most appropriate place in which to incorporate course vector patterns.

S.74-162

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject Vector descriptions in the University Calendar

Date November 14, 1974

At its meeting of 12th November, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies considered the attached proposal from the Faculty of Science that the existing Senate regulation on the use of vector descriptions in the Calendar be amended to permit those Faculties or Departments which wish to do so to include course vector descriptions in the Calendar.

For the information of Senate, a copy of the present regulation, passed earlier this year as part of Senate Paper S.74-43, and of an explanatory note to Departments from the Chairman of SCUS is attached to this proposal. The Chairman of the Faculty of Science Curriculum Committee emphasized that, in approving this recommendation, the Faculty of Science had not intended to ask for repeal of the existing regulation but merely to make provision for those departments wishing to do so to include vector descriptions in the Calendar. He noted that, in the departments in the Faculty of Science, vector descriptions seldom if ever varied and that the elimination of course vector descriptions from the Calendar deprived these departments of a valuable means of comparison with other universities. Thus, it was the wish of these departments that they be allowed to include such descriptions in the Calendar in future.

This proposal is now forwarded to Senate, with the Committee's recommendation that it be approved.

I. Mugridge

:ams

att.

SCUS 74-61

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	From: A.E. Curzon, Acting Dean of Science
Subject: USE OF VECTOR DESCRIPTIONS IN THE CALENDAR	Date: November 7, 1974

The Faculty of Science, at its meeting of October 31, 1974, passed a motion,

"To request Senate to amend its previous regulation so as to permit those Faculties and/or Departments that wish, to have a numerical vector description listed in the calendar against their courses."

Rationale:

Vector descriptions are commonly used in universities, particularly in the local universities, as a valuable means of comparing courses, especially with respect to the amount and nature of the material presented in a course, and its division between lectures, tutorials, and laboratories. Consequently, the dropping of the vector notation in the calendar is liable to lead to misunderstanding and difficulties in other institutions in comparing our courses with theirs, and could have the effect of diminishing the credibility of our programs.

A.E. Curzon.

lw

Registrar's Note:- The previous regulation and explanatory memo are attached