

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY S. 77-89

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Subject..... TUITION FEE STRUCTURE

Date..... JUNE 14, 1977

MOTION:

"That Senate ask the Board of Governors to reconsider the recently approved fee structure since its detailed structure has negative academic implications, and consider an amendment to the effect that students enrolled in courses totalling more than 15 semester hours in any one semester be charged no more than those enrolled in 15 semester hours."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To.....H.M. Evans.....

Secretary of Senate

Subject.....Tuition Fee Structure.....

From.....J.M. Webster.....

Dean of Science

Date.....June 14, 1977.....

At the Board of Governors meeting of April 5, 1977 a decision was taken to increase undergraduate tuition fees. Simultaneously, it was decided to change the fee structure. Some details of this change have negative academic implications which were not discussed by appropriate university bodies.

An outcome of this is that, at the Faculty of Science meeting of May 19, 1977, the following motion was passed:

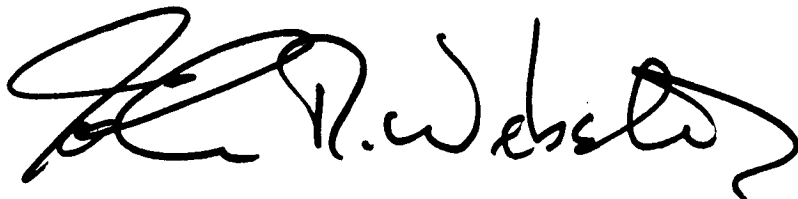
"The Faculty of Science requests that Senate ask the Board of Governors to reconsider the recently approved fee structure since its detailed structure has negative academic implications, and consider an amendment to the effect that students enrolled in courses totaling more than 15 semester hours in any one semester be charged no more than those enrolled in 15 semester hours."

The previous fee structure was such that students paid \$15 per credit hour up to a total of 11 while students taking a total of 12 credits or more paid a fixed amount of \$214. The new fee structure is now \$18 per credit hour.

The negative academic implications which support this motion are outlined on the accompanying memorandum.

I request that the above motion be placed on the agenda of the July meeting of Senate.

JMW:1a



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To H.M. Evans

Secretary of Senate

Subject Tuition Fee Structure

From J.M. Webster, Dean of Science

B.J.F. Palmer, Student Senator

Date June 14, 1977

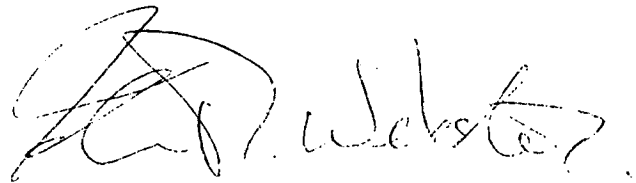
In support of the motion passed by the Faculty of Science on 19 May 1977 concerning details of the new fee structure, the following negative academic implications have been identified:

1. Students who are capable of completing their degree programmes at a rate of more than 15 credits per semester are discouraged from so doing. The benefits in having capable students enrolled in more than 15 semester hours include savings to the University in fixed costs, savings in the student's own living expenditures, and savings to the student in total fees paid. There are additional academic benefits arising from intensive application to a discipline.
2. The student with ample funding will be able to pay the additional cost of high semester loads and complete his/her degree in a minimum of time, but the student who cannot afford the additional cost of high loads will take longer to complete his/her degree. Thus, the less affluent student will incur a much higher total cost for his/her education due to the higher living costs associated with attending University for additional semesters. However, the more wealthy student is able to minimize his/her total educational costs and enter the workforce sooner. Financial aid is based on a full load of 15 semester hours and will not offset the additional cost of tuition over 15 semester hours. Therefore, the new fee structure is an additional burden on less wealthy students and limits education accessibility.
3. Students in heavily structured programmes are currently able to add elective courses for their own general interest and to broaden their educations. The old fee schedule did not discourage this, but the new one does.
4. Good students are capable of obtaining an Honors degree in the same time that the average student requires to complete a Major and yet an SFU Honors degree will cost a student more in total fees paid than an SFU Major degree (\$2376 minimum vs. \$2160 minimum).

H.M. Evans
June 14, 1977

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In addition to the negative academic implications given above, the new structure is apparently at variance with the fee structures of other Canadian universities. I do not know of any Canadian University where a four year Honors degree costs the student more than a four year Major degree. An SFU Honors degree will cost a student a minimum of \$2376 in total fees. A similar degree at UBC would cost \$2144 in a normal four year programme in the Faculties of Arts and Science. The new fee structure would tend to discourage the academically excellent student from attending SFU instead of, say UBC. At UBC the prospective student would complete his Honors degree as a four year package while at SFU he would typically take more than 8 semesters. UBC offers more services (eg. library) and better financial aid (eg. private scholarships). Yet an SFU Honors degree would cost more than the UBC equivalent. SFU must remain academically competitive and encourage, not discourage, the academically better student.

A. Webster

Brad Palmer

JMW:1a