

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.83-65

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject..... POLICY ON ADMISSION FROM
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Date..... August 30, 1983

Action undertaken by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board at its meeting of July 14, 1983 gives rise to the following motions:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.83-65

MOTION 1 - 'That for purposes of undergraduate admissions, the University accept applicants from all independent schools which adhere to the British Columbia High School Curriculum, subject to the same conditions as apply to applicants from British Columbia public schools'

MOTION 2 - 'That the University consider applicants from independent schools in other Canadian provinces only if the applicant meets the admission requirements of the leading university in that province'

MOTION 3 - 'That the SUAB in Spring semester 1986 review the academic performances of students from independent schools to evaluate the effect of the above policies'

MOTION 4 - 'That above policy changes become effective for applicants for 1984 and subsequently''

The above action modifies actions taken by Senate in February, 1983 under S.83-16 revised.

Motion 1 does not supercede the quota regulations on international students, whether entering from British Columbia public or private schools.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject..... ADMISSION FROM INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Date... AUGUST 26, 1983

At the February meeting of Senate the following motion was approved and subsequently approved by the Board of Governors:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.83-16 Revised

'That for admission from a Private High School, Simon Fraser University consider only those qualified applicants from B.C. Private High Schools granted Group II status under the Ministry of Education guidelines (including equivalents in other Canadian Provinces and Territories). Where a school chooses to remain outside the Ministry of Education guidelines for Group II status, for reasons other than academic, the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board may grant that school a waiver.'

That this policy become effective for applicants in 1984 and subsequently."

This measure was adopted for the purpose of ensuring that academic standards of entrants from private schools would be consistent with those entering from public schools. There was concern over the possible proliferation of new private high schools, recruiting students mainly from overseas. The University had established no standards by which to evaluate such new schools.

A number of difficulties have arisen over the implementation of the new policy with the result that it would be impractical to implement the policy in January 1984 as planned. Certain private schools do not wish to apply for Category II status for other than academic reasons and hence have appealed for waivers. The University has therefore been placed in the position of virtually accrediting such schools by granting a waiver or denying the school a waiver on potentially inadequate grounds. The University is not equipped to establish an accreditation process for independent schools. Such a process would require significant resources.

Other recently adopted policies will also have a mitigating affect in respect of the Private High School policy. Firstly, the total number of international students has been limited by the quota adopted by Senate and effective September 1983. Secondly, for international students those with inadequate or marginal ability in English will be screened and assisted by the new ESL test and remedial program. Lastly, the new continuance policy will have the affect of removing the poorly-prepared student in a shorter time than previously.

A full comparative evaluation of the performance of students from independent schools cannot be carried out before adequate data has been collected. This will require that students from independent schools entering Simon Fraser University in Spring 1984 be allowed two years to establish an academic record for evaluation. This would normally take the student half way through a degree program, i.e. to the 60th semester hour.

Independent schools elsewhere in Canada will most likely not be adhering to the B.C. Curriculum. It has been the practice of the Registrar's Office to accept students from such schools if they met the entrance requirements of the most prominent university in that province. Therefore students from an independent school in Ontario should meet the published entrance requirements of the University of Toronto and those from independent schools in Alberta should meet the requirements of the University of Alberta. This approach is pragmatic but is necessitated by the additional problems encountered in attempting to evaluate or accredit institutions outside this Province.

The proposed policy is consistent with the policies of the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria, except that international students attending UBC may not be admitted on transfer from another Canadian institution.

Implementation for January, 1984 of the revised policies set out in the motion sheet is not expected to pose any additional difficulties.