

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

S. 84-7

SENATE.

From..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
BOARD.....

Subject..... EARLY ADMISSION.

Date..... 19 DECEMBER 1983.

Action undertaken by SUAB at its meeting of 14 December 1983 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That the Early Admission be deleted from the Calendar as a special category of admission with effect from January 1985."

The rationale for this change is contained in SUAB 121 (revised), attached.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SUAB 121
Revised

MEMORANDUM

To.....SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS.....
.....BOARD.....

From.....N. HEATH, SECRETARY.....
.....SUAB.....

Subject.....REVIEW OF EARLY ENTRY AND.....
EARLY ADMISSION

Date.....December 8, 1983.....

Definitions:

The Calendar describes these two entry categories thus, (p.16):

i) **EARLY ADMISSION** (Entry to Spring Semester starting in January)

This category is designed for Grade 12 students who are attending schools on a semester system and who would therefore normally be eligible for graduation in January. Such students may apply for entry to the Spring Semester starting the beginning of January.

Applicants for Early Admission must meet the following requirements:

- a) An applicant must have demonstrated his/her ability by above-average academic records, and have shown mature intellectual development to such an extent that he/she would profit from admission to the University without first securing Grade 12 standing.
- b) An applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from his/her school principal, along with an official copy of his/her academic record.
- c) Admission under this category is at the discretion of the Admissions Board. Enquiries regarding admission under this category should be directed to the Director of Admissions.

ii) **EARLY ENTRY**

This category is designated for students who have completed Grade 11. An applicant must have demonstrated his/her abilities by exceptional academic records (B+ or 80% or higher) and have shown mature intellectual development to such an extent that he/she would profit from admission to the University without securing Grade 12 standing. Sections (ii) and (iii) described under Early Admission also apply to this category of admission.

Early admission has enabled some students to enter SFU immediately instead of waiting until the Summer or Fall semester. In practice, the school Fall semester runs to the end of January, therefore, those admitted into this may have strictly not graduated by the time they start at SFU.

Early entry has enabled students to be admitted to SFU without having taken B.C. Grade 12 and without Secondary School Graduation. In practice, students entering under this category have usually completed some Grade 12 work in their Grade 11 year.

History:

The University began these special entry categories (along with Mature Student Entry) in its early years on an experimental basis. There was a

REVIEW OF EARLY ENTRY AND
EARLY ADMISSION Contd....

review in 1969, at which time the categories were put on a regular footing.

Recent statistics:

Data for the past three years indicates

Early Admission - Total 4 students (81-1 (2), 81-2 (1), 83-1 (1))

Early Entry - Total 6 students (81-1 (1), 81-3 (1), 82-3 (4))

The samples are small, but the six Early Entry students have clearly performed at an above average level in their SFU courses. The four Early Admission students appear to be below average.

Provincial Exams

The introduction of the exams has some effect on the Early Admission category since graduation in January is more uncertain than before and cannot be confirmed until end of February when exam results are released to the student. In addition, the student most likely will be writing one or more Grade 12 exams in the week of 23-30 January, which is already the third week of the SFU Spring Semester. Thus the problem of semester overlap is more serious than it was before the provincial exams were introduced. Under this arrangement, the school might be reluctant for the student to miss two or three weeks of revision work before the exam. One alternative is to require that the student register in a reduced course load in SFU courses that semester and attend both the secondary school and University for the first three weeks. However, this is not likely to be a popular option.

Advantages and disadvantages:

Advantages

Disadvantages

Early Entry SFU gains by admitting students of high ability. Student makes best use of his time and is challenged academically.

Students miss opportunity to win entrance scholarships and provincial scholarships. Students might be insufficiently mature. Unpopular with school principals because students' high standing not reflected in school graduation results, provincial scholarship exams, etc.

Early Admission Students gain time. Makes good use of SFU trimester system.

Admitting students before graduation can be risky. Students miss opportunity of SFU scholarships. Students tempted to condense programs unreasonably (e.g. attend SFU Spring and Summer then transfer to UBC

contd...

REVIEW OF EARLY ENTRY AND
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(2nd Year in Fall) - this can be to their academic detriment. Student is expected to be in two places at once in January, including taking provincial exams in last week of January (week 3 of SFU semester). Failure to pass or sit provincial exams could result in failure to graduate, but this is not known before the end of February - i.e. mid-semester - too late for effective action.

Recommendations:

1. Maintain Early Entry category and maintain strict controls on quality of students entering in this category.
2. Discontinue Early Admissions category for Spring semester entry with effect from January 1985.

NH:aj