

S. 86-91

FOR INFORMATION

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Mr. Ron Heath
Secretary to Senate**

**FROM: W.J. Wattamaniuk
Secretary to SCUB**

SUBJECT: Annual Report

DATE: November 12, 1986

**The Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Budget is attached
as per your request.**

WJW

**WJW:nm
encl.**

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET

REPORT TO SENATE

NOVEMBER, 1986

(I) The Committee

The Senate Committee on the University Budget (SCUB) is a Standing Committee of the Senate of Simon Fraser University.

The membership, as laid down by Senate in its meeting of December 1st, 1980, consists of those members of Senate elected by and from the Senate to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and the Director of Analytical Studies as (non-voting Secretary. The Chair of is elected by and from the voting members of the Committee. The present chair is Simon Verdun-Jones (Faculty member of Senate). The other members are (as of November, 1986): Faculty Senators W. Cleveland, J.M. D'Auria, D. Goodman, and K. Rieckhoff; Lay Members of Senate B. Holweg and V. Nielsen; Student Senators P. Hancock, S. Custodhino, C. Seran; and Secretary W. Wattamaniuk. The Vice-President, Finance, E. Scott, attends the meetings as a resource person on a regular basis. Other Vice-Presidents and the President attend at the discretion of the latter.

The proceedings of the Committee, information received by it from the administration, and the specifics of the advice given by the Committee are confidential. Only the activity reports that the Committee makes to Senate are not subject to this rule of confidentiality.

(II) Activity Report

This report covers the period from November 1st, 1985 to October 31st, 1986. Within this period, SCUB met in committee seven times. Dr. Saywell was present on two occasions.

A major accomplishment of SCUB, during the reporting period, was the achievement of agreement upon revised terms of reference for the Committee. The Committee believes that these revised terms have furnished it with a more clearly defined role in the University's budgetary processes. The Committee will continue to respond to the President's request for specific studies, analyses or advice. However, the Committee may also, on its own initiative, "inform and advise the President on the financial implications of Senate Approved academic program additions or those involving

substantial change". Furthermore, the Committee will bear the responsibility of considering, once a year, the "financial implications of approved new programs or those involving substantial change" prior to the assignment of implementation priorities by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning". The intention is that SCAP will be fully informed of the budgetary implications of introducing specific, new programs at the precise time when it is setting priorities for the implementation of such programs. In an era of scarce resources, the provision of such information by SCUB should prove to be of inestimable value to SCAP and should greatly assist in the rationalization of the academic planning process.

At each meeting, SCUB has been briefed by Dr. Scott on the budget situation at SFU and on expectations regarding provincial funding and overall allocations, once funding figures were ascertained. On two occasions, SCUB met with Dr. Saywell and offered advice on budgetary matters regarding the University's operating budget and the request for funds of excellence.

The members of SCUB wish to express their deep concern in relation to the increasing tendency of the Provincial Government to " earmark " funding for specific University programs. The Committee is well aware that the allocation of the "funds for excellence" has the potential to inflict deleterious and diversionary effects upon the funding for so-called "core" programs. Many of the new programs, that will be supported initially by specially earmarked funds, will involve the appointment of new faculty members and the commitment of a variety of scarce resources (such as space). Once the relatively brief period of special funding has been concluded, these programs will require funding from the base budget of the University and will, therefore, compete directly with "core" programs. This problem is further compounded by the fact that, in recent years, the real value of the base budget has been in a state of continuous decline. The major concern of the Committee centers on the extent to which these developments have removed the University's ability to plan its future according to its own set of priorities and the extent to which funding for "core" disciplines may be diverted to programs that have been identified as priorities by external agencies. SCUB understands that the University cannot realistically decline to "play according to the rules", established by the Government. Nevertheless, the Committee believes that the increasing use of " earmarked " funding will, over time, constitute a major threat to the integrity of the University's planning processes and to the University's ability to maintain its "core" programs.

Apart from new proposals that SCUB will review, as part of its mandate as provided for in the new terms of

reference, Dr. Saywell explored with SCUB the possibility of the Committee carrying out a study on Financial Aid at SFU when the recent policy changes had passed Senate. The fundamental questions SCUB will be called on to address are the following:

(i) Is the mix of financial aid programs and monies appropriate?

(ii) Is the total amount of Student Aid money, as allocated from the operating budget, appropriate for SFU?


S.N. Verdun-Jones

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BUDGET

Designated as a confidential Committee advisory to the President. The membership of the Senate Committee on University Budget is comprised of faculty, lay, and student Members of Senate elected to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning.

Terms of Reference

1. To maintain an overview and familiarity with the operating and capital funds of the University, with the current financial environment, and with financial opportunities and constraints impacting the University.
2. To propose to the President, for consideration, studies or analyses of particular activities or budgetary issues related to revenues and/or expenditures where the committee believes its particular expertise may be advantageously applied.
3. To receive for consideration, from the President, requests for study, analysis, and advice on designated issues related to the operating and capital budgets of the University.
4. To inform and advise the President on the financial implications of Senate approved academic program additions or those involving substantial change.
5. To consider, on an annual basis, the financial implications of approved new programs or those involving substantial change prior to the assignment of implementation priorities by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning.

The Committee will have provided to it confidential and non-confidential budgetary and related documentation as required to assist in the conduct of the Committee's work.

December 2, 1985

Revised March 21, 1986