

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Vice-President Academic

Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: J. Munro, Chair
Senate Committee on
Academic Planning

RE: Department of Communication -
Enrolment Limitations
SCAP Reference: SCAP 91-5

DATE: February 7, 1991

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and the Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning, gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91- 15 the mechanism for enrolment limitation proposed for the Department of Communication in Dr. Laba's memorandum of 16 January 1991"

J. Al. Munro

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Ron Heath, Registrar

FROM: Martin Laba, Chair
Dept. of Communication

DATE: 16 January 1991

RE: Proposed change to entry requirements: Entry to
specialization in Communication; Maintenance and graduation
standard; Entry to upper division courses.

In my memorandum of 19 November 1990, and at the meeting of SCEMP on 21 November 1990, I detailed the need to implement some mechanism of enrollment management in the Department of Communication. The rationale presented outlined two reasons for the request to modify entry, maintenance, and graduation requirements: first, to effectively manage the extraordinary enrollment increases over the past five years, and to work toward a balance of these enrollments with resources, particularly, faculty resources; and second, to maintain the integrity and quality of a program that has earned the Department an international reputation. With one of the highest student-instructor ratios in the University, a responsible management of enrollments is imperative. Stated succinctly, the Department is proposing to impose some restrictions on entry to specializations in Communication, maintenance and graduation standards, and entry to upper division courses, and is seeking an improvement to the quality of students entering the program.

The following proposals reflect the feedback and concerns expressed by SCEMP, and the detailed and comprehensive set of suggestions offered by the Registrar subsequent to meeting with SCEMP:

ENTRY TO SPECIALIZATIONS IN COMMUNICATION (MAJOR AND MINOR PROGRAMS)

To gain approval for entry to a specialization in Communication (major or minor programs), a student must have fulfilled the following:

- a minimum CGPA or transfer GPA of 2.25; and
- completion with a grade of C- or higher, CMNS 110-3 and CMNS 130-3, and four courses in Communication at the 200 level including at least one course from each of the Department's areas of concentration (Media, Technology and Science, Policy).

MAINTENANCE AND GRADUATION STANDARDS

Once approved for a specialization in Communication, a student will be required to maintain a CGPA of at least 2.00 to maintain good standing in the program (that is, to retain eligibility to continue in the program), and to graduate from the program.

ENTRY TO UPPER DIVISION COURSES IN COMMUNICATION

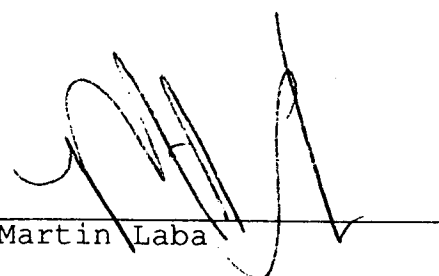
The following priority system will govern entry to upper division courses in Communication:

First Priority: Students who have been approved for entry to one of the specializations in Communication, and students in other specializations outside the Department of Communication for whom an upper division course in Communication is specified as required for completion of program. If the number of requests from First Priority students exceeds the number of available spaces, the Registration Priority Number will determine assignment of available spaces.

Second Priority: Students in any other program in the University who have satisfactorily completed any stated prerequisites, and who have a CGPA of at least 2.25. When requests from First Priority students have been met, if the number of requests from Second Priority students exceeds the number of available spaces, the Registration Priority Number will determine assignment of available spaces.

There are three important features of the above proposal to point out:

- (1) The "Entry to Specializations in Communication (Major and Minor Programs)" is, in our view, a modest but effective means of achieving the stated concerns of the Department in terms of managing the current substantial enrollment pressures and addressing the issue of the maintenance of the quality of the program.
- (2) The "Maintenance and Graduation Standards" responds to the concern expressed at SCEMP regarding the situation of those students in the program who falter below the 2.25 entry standard.
- (3) The "Entry to Upper Division Courses in Communication" sets out a system which prevents a student from doing an "end run" and gaining entry to upper division courses without having met the minimum CGPA entry requirement.



Martin Laba