

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Senate

**FROM: G. Mauser
S. Wade**

SUBJECT: Notice of Motion

DATE: January 15, 1992

In light of the Report of the University Library Review Committee presented at Senate on January 6, 1992, the following notice of motion is presented:

"the Senate of Simon Fraser University believes that the funding level for Simon Fraser University Library acquisitions should be increased to approach the goal recommended in Challenge 2001 - The President's Strategic Plan and in the Report of the University Library Review Committee"

The Library Report, recently tabled in the Senate, brought to light some significant shortcomings in the SFU Library. Since an adequate library is central to the academic health of any university, we have decided to place the following motion before Senate:

The Senate of Simon Fraser University believes that the funding level for the Simon Fraser University Library acquisitions should be increased to approach the goal recommended in Challenge 2001 – The President's Strategic Plan and in the Report of the University Library Review Committee, to wit, that Library acquisitions funding on a per student basis be increased at a rate twice that of enrollment growth over the next five years.

As the Library Report made clear, and as many members of the campus community know from personal experience, the SFU Library's resources are less than adequate. (See Table 1 in the Library Report.) The continued growth in the student population (as spelled out in Challenge 2001)¹ means that this situation, if not corrected, will only get worse. The same document, endorsed by Senate, provided a way out of this impasse, and it is this recommendation which inspired this proposal. Challenge 2001 also noted² that without proper governmental support the university's plans for growth served to be placed in some peril. By implication, it can be extrapolated that without an adequate level of funding for the library that the viability of continuing the access program is open to question.

That the SFU Library can no longer adequately serve neither the students nor the faculty of our institution is attested to by the Library Report which cited very high inter-library loans in Table 3.³ Certainly, some of these loans are understandable especially in light of the specialized nature of some of our graduate and faculty research needs. However, nearly a 2:1 ratio indicates that UBC is providing more than a few obscure volumes. This imbalance suggests that SFU is starting to be a "free rider" and to rely upon UBC to provide core research material for undergraduates in addition to graduate students and many faculty. The question is, how much of the ordinary research material should be expected to be found at SFU? It is simply unacceptable to expect UBC to subsidize SFU to such a high degree. This is particularly so, as our enrollment is expected to grow rapidly over the next ten years. By the year 2001, our undergraduate population may surpass 20,000.⁴

In light of inflation, student population growth, growth in course offerings, the demands placed upon our collection by Distance Education Projects,⁵ and the need to upgrade the Geac computer system, clearly something of the nature of what we propose is required if we are even to maintain our library's current unsatisfactory state. The SFU Library must find ways to deal with all of these factors. Since, only in the areas of course proliferation and distance education do we have any chance of exerting some control over the demands placed upon the library, a strong mandate, such as the one we are proposing, is necessary to merely keep pace with the increasing pressures that will continue and may even increase over the next decade.

While the sentiments embodied in the Challenge 2001 document and expressed in the Provincially funded Access Program, are laudable, they do tend to be rather short on specifics.

¹Saywell, William G. Challenge 2001. The President's Strategic Plan, February 1, 1991, p.6.

²Ibid, p.15.

³Report of the University Library Review Committee, pp. 11-12. See also the reference to the less than adequate primary collection, (Challenge 2001, p. 13.)

⁴Challenge 2001, p. 6.

⁵The recommendations of the Library Review Committee notwithstanding (p.13).

Should SFU continue its growth strategy (and rather compelling arguments can be made for such a strategy), the University community must be prepared, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, to give us the tools, so that we might finish the job.

In the past few years more funding has been accorded the SFU Library, but as Figure 1 in the Library Report shows, library funding at SFU is continuing to decline of as a percentage of the university budget -- from 6.51 in 1985/6 (compared with the national average of 6.73) to 6.45 in 1989/90 (compared with 6.5 nationally). This seems to indicate that the problem in absolute terms is getting worse not better.

The picture on the spending per capita is somewhat better. (See Figure 2 in the Library Report.) After declining precipitously for a few years, there appears to have been an increase in the last year -- however the library spending per student is still way below the national average. This however fails to take into account the large gap in spending per student from 1986/7 through 1988/89. This gap in our spending per student has contributed to a situation in which students accepted by the university during these years (especially 1987/88) were seriously underfunded, and in effect their library needs have been subsidized by the students who entered SFU before and after them. In effect, our deficiency in current (new) resources per student is worse than the spending figures indicate, since resources deficits are carried over from one year to the next, and are applied against next year's acquisitions budget. (Books which are needed but not bought one year are either never bought or are bought the next year; in effect diverting resources from some other demand that year).

In closing, we would like to urge that Senate approve our motion in order to encourage the administration to give the library the funds needed to adequately finish the job which Senate, in endorsing the growth plan in Challenge 2001, and in enacting new course proposals, is asking of it.

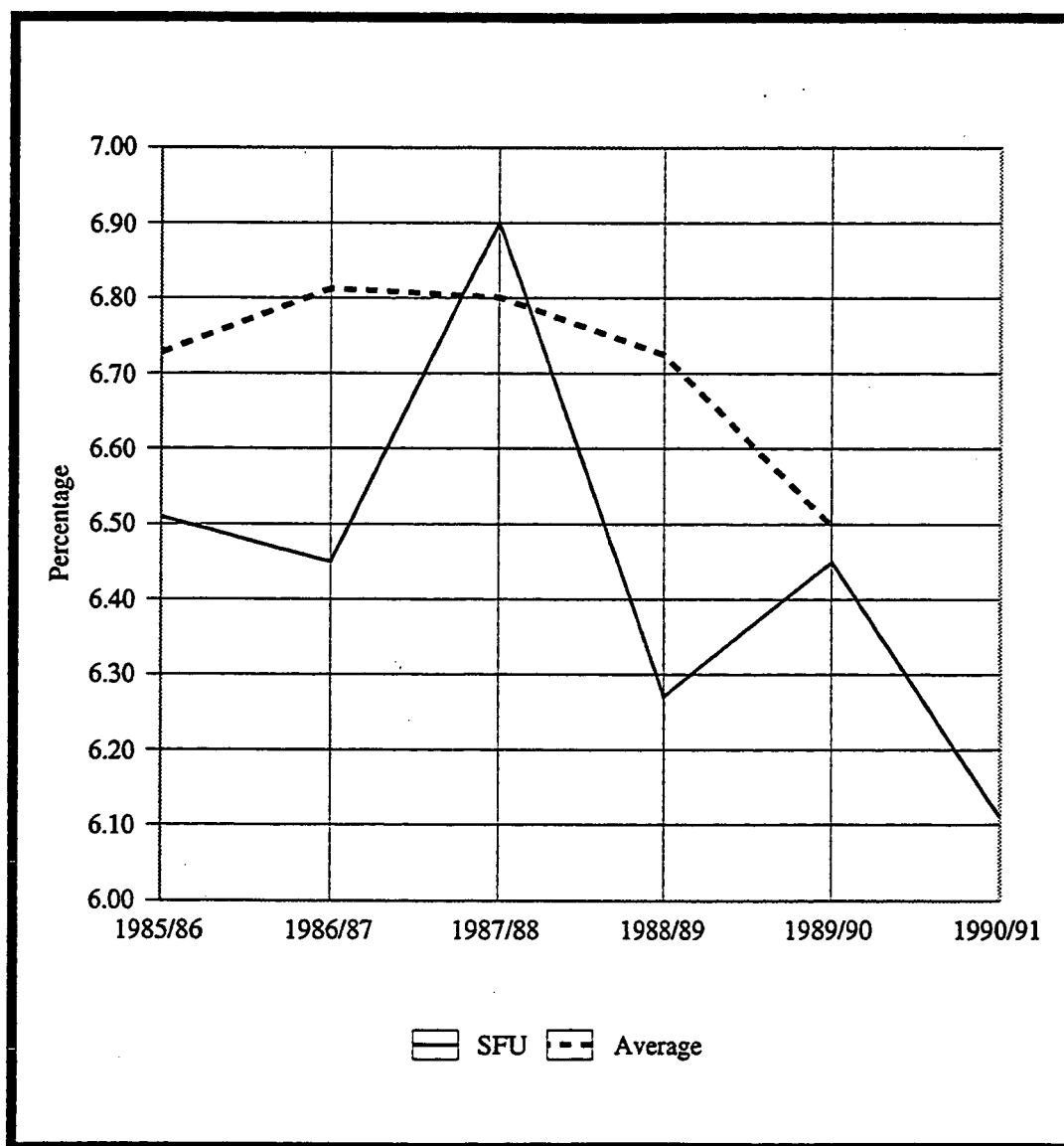
Respectfully submitted,

Senators Gary Mauser and Shawn Wade

1992 February 13

FIGURE 1

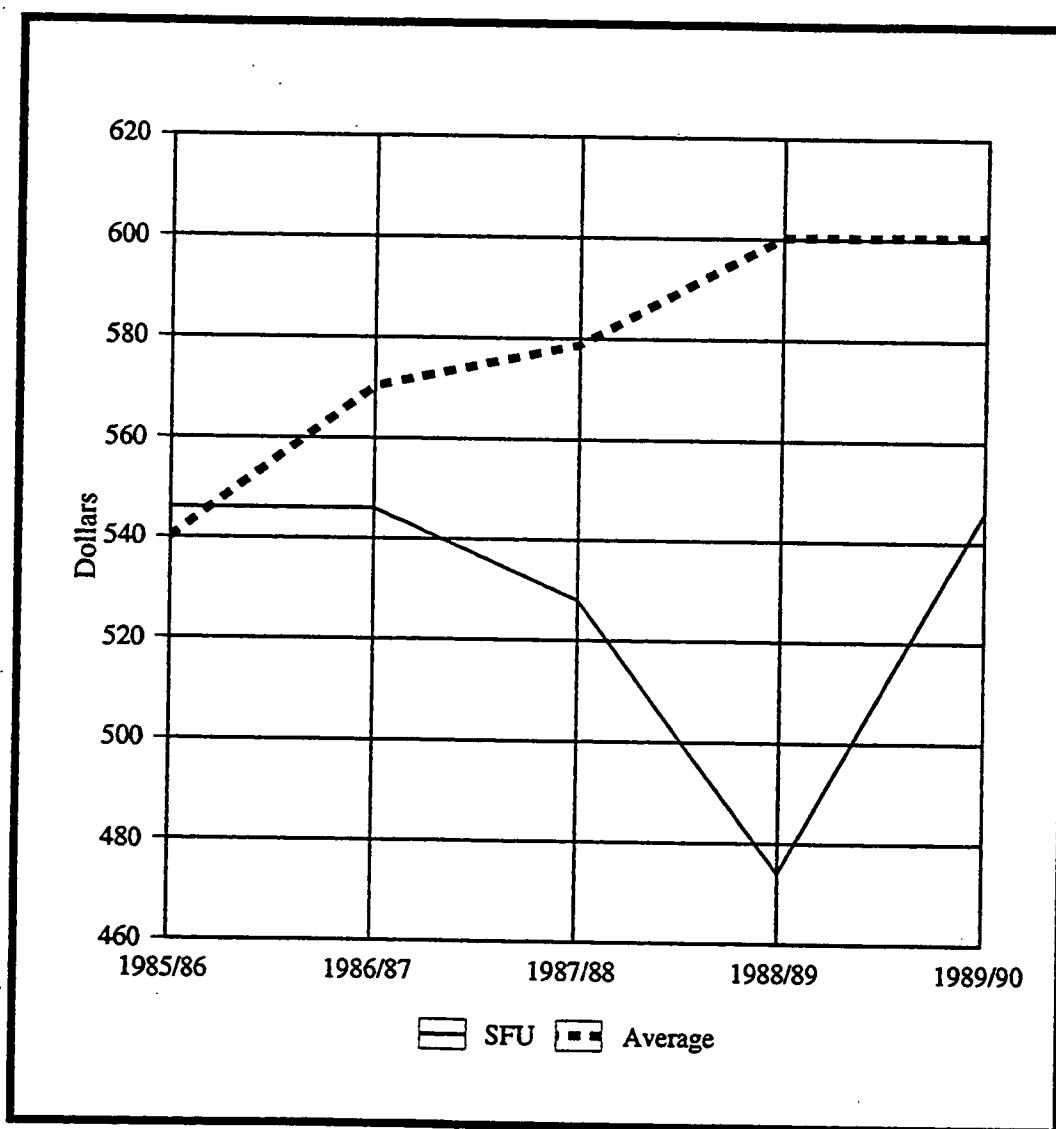
Library Expenditure as Percent of University Expenditure
(SFU and Average of Canadian University Libraries)



Source: See Appendix D

FIGURE 2

Library Expenditure Per Student
(SFU and Average of Canadian University Libraries)



Source: See Appendix D

of adequacy. However, some insights can be gleaned through comparisons with other Canadian institutions. Detailed data collected by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) are provided in Appendix D. From these data a ranking according to several commonly used ratios was constructed and the results are shown in the following table (Table 1).

Table 1
Ranking of Canadian University Libraries
(1989/90)

Library as % of Univ. budget		Library \$ per Student		Students per Library staff		Volumes per Student	
Toronto	8.45%	Toronto	826	Toronto	60	N.Bruns.	306
Regina	8.37%	McMaster	823	Dalhousie	63	UVic	255
UVic	8.30%	McGill	810	UBC	65	UBC	241
McMaster	8.25%	UBC	746	McGill	67	Sask.	229
Carleton	7.66%	UVic	721	UVic	70	McMaster	221
Queen's	7.65%	Dalhousie	697	McMaster	70	Regina	210
W.Ontario	7.12%	Concordia	685	Concordia	72	Guelph	199
UBC	7.12%	Montreal	684	Alberta	75	Toronto	188
N.Bruns.	6.92%	W.Ontario	678	Memorial	75	Memorial	185
Memorial	6.89%	Memorial	673	W.Ontario	76	Alberta	184
Waterloo	6.88%	Alberta	664	Montreal	81	Dalhousie	176
Sask.	6.88%	Sask.	663	Sask.	81	Calgary	173
Montreal	6.80%	Regina	662	N.Bruns.	82	W.Ontario	169
Alberta	6.61%	Waterloo	600	Calgary	84	Queen's	162
SFU	6.45%	N.Bruns.	591	SFU	85	McGill	154
Calgary	6.40%	Guelph	588	Queen's	85	Windsor	147
Guelph	6.28%	Carleton	577	Waterloo	86	Carleton	129
Windsor	5.94%	Queen's	572	Guelph	87	SFU	124
Concordia	5.76%	Calgary	549	Regina	87	Waterloo	120
Dalhousie	5.73%	SFU	546	Carleton	88	Concordia	120
Manitoba	5.63%	Laval	526	Ottawa	102	Manitoba	115
Ottawa	5.52%	Manitoba	483	Manitoba	102	Ottawa	111
Laval	5.45%	Quebec	437	Laval	103	Montreal	111
Quebec	5.28%	Sherbrooke	422	Quebec	120	Sherbrooke	96
York	4.99%	Ottawa	420	Windsor	121	York	95
Sherbrooke	4.40%	Windsor	398	York	153	Laval	91
McGill	4.33%	York	320	Sherbrooke	176	Quebec	46
Average	6.50%		605		90		158

The SFU Library does not do well in these comparisons. It is below average in all four categories, and well below in two of them: library expenditure per student and volumes per student. This is troubling because there are some scale economies in the provision of library services. Some minimum collection is necessary to be credible, but the

Table 3

SFU Inter-Library Borrowing and Lending
(1990/91)

	BC Net*	Other BC	Other Canada	US	Other	Total
Borrowed	5027	183	3142	1255	70	9677
Lent	2766	1787	5116	543	31	10243

(*BC Net includes BC post secondary institutions)