

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.92-21

As amended by
Senate
3 Mar 92

Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

DATE: February 18, 1992

SUBJECT: Senate Committee on Instructional Methods
and Organization

MOTION: "that Senate establish an ad hoc Senate Committee on Instructional Methods and Organization with the Terms of Reference and Membership as set out in S.92-21"

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Committee on
Agenda and Rules

FROM: W.G. Saywell,
President

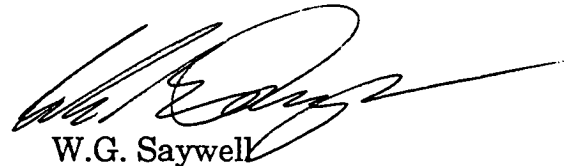
SUBJ: Senate Committee on
Instructional Methods
and Organization

DATE: February 17, 1992

It is timely that there be a comprehensive examination of the University's instructional system. We have experienced major and unpredicted increases in enrollment. The pressures of this growth led to the establishment of the Task Force on the Quality of Service in 1990. More recently, the AUCC's Smith Report (1991) has noted many concerns over the approach to instruction in all universities.

These concerns are set in an extended period in which increases in funding are falling well short of increases in costs. For us, this situation may worsen in the next three years. Further, pressures on the University to continue to grow will be strong and, perhaps, irresistible. Funding will increasingly be tied to the level of enrollment, especially undergraduate enrollment. Therefore, growth can be expected to bring increases in resources; these could exceed the direct costs associated with growth, but only if we can introduce ways of operating the University which reduce the per student cost of instruction. If we cannot do this, the downward pressures on salary levels, infrastructure, and non-salary budgets will become ever stronger.

In order to provide an in-depth, balanced review of these issues, I am recommending that Senate move to establish an ad hoc Senate Committee on Instructional Methods and Organization. This proposal follows extensive consultation within the senior administration and with the Faculty Association. I believe it will provide us with invaluable guidance on improving and rationalizing one of our most important functions, the provision of undergraduate education.



W.G. Saywell

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ORGANIZATION

Terms of Reference

1. To review the patterns ~~and impacts~~ of enrollment growth from 1987 to the present and into the future, *and to assess the costs & benefits of that growth.*
2. To evaluate ~~various changes in~~ ^{current & alternate} instructional methods, ~~and organization, which~~ ^{& incentives for} ~~might improve the University's instructional quality and cost-effectiveness.~~ ^{excellence & renovation.}
3. The Committee will seek input from across the University in its deliberations. In particular, Faculty Deans will be asked to report on the situation facing their own units.
4. The Committee will be a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning. It will report to SCAP before September 15, 1992.

Membership

- Four faculty members & two students (one undergraduate & one graduate)*
1. ~~Five members~~ elected by Senate, ~~one of whom shall be a student.~~
 2. Two members appointed by the President.
 3. The Vice President, Academic or his designate, who shall act as Chair.

February 17, 1992