

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SENATE OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY HELD ON MONDAY,
MAY 11, 1992 KLAUS RIECKHOFF HALL, 7:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

Present: Blaney, J., Acting Chair

Absent:

Barrow, R.
Bukovac, S.
Cerccone, N.
Choquer, K.
Covell, M.
Dill, L.
Dobb, T.
Gray, P.
Jones, C.
Luk, W.S.
Morrison, T.
Munro, J.
Rae, B.
Reilly, N.
Saywell, W.
Shannon, D.
Soheili, A.
Smith, S.
Swartz, N.
Walker, R.
Warsh, M.

In attendance:

Heath, N.

Bawa, M.
Beattie, S.
Blackman, R.
Boland, L.
Bowman, M.
Brown, R.
Carlson, R.
D'Auria, J.
Etherington, L.
Evenden, L.
Gee, E.
Haje, P.
Heinrich, K.
Hoegg, J.L.
Hoffer, A.
Leiss, W.
Lim, K.
Marteniuk, R.
Mauser, G.
McKeown, B.
Menzies, R.
Nicol, I.
Nielsen, V.
Northcott, P.
Palmer, E.
Palmer, L.
Percival, P.
Pinfield, L.
Rieckhoff, K.
Saunders, R.
Shapiro, S.
Stewart, M.L.
Thomas, S. (representing T. Dobb)
Thomson, K.
Toohey, K.
Verdun-Jones, S.
Wade, S.
Winne, P.
Wotherspoon, A.

Heath, W.R., Secretary
Grant, B., Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF APRIL 6, 1992

Reference was made to 'Other Business' on page 7, and Senate was requested to delete the words "and hopefully the Government" from the last sentence.

Following this amendment, the Minutes were approved.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Paper S.92-30 - Senate Attendance

As a result of a previous inquiry with regard to attendance at Senate meetings, Senate received Paper S.92-30 for information.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

There was no report from the Chair.

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

i) Paper S.92-31 - Annual Report - Senate Committee on Academic Planning

The annual report of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning was received by Senate for information.

ii) Paper S.92-32 - B.A. Program to be offered at the University College of the Fraser Valley

Moved by R. Saunders, seconded by S. Wade

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the proposed Bachelor of Arts Degree to be offered at the University College of the Fraser Valley which is contained in Paper S.92-32"

Reference was made to page one, last sentence of the first paragraph, regarding the description of the program as being oriented toward both depth and breadth, and opinion was expressed that this statement was contradictory. Deletion of the reference to depth and breadth was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Discussion turned to item 6 (literacy requirement) under the Extended Minor Requirements on page 2 and inquiry was made about the validity of the Composition Placement Test. Further information was requested with respect to this test but since this was a requirement of Fraser Valley College, no detailed information was available.

In response to a request for clarification as to what was intended by the label (reasoning requirement) with respect to item 7 on the same page, Senate was advised that students are being encouraged to develop critical thinking abilities. Concern was expressed that some of the courses listed in this section might do little to develop a student's ability in the area of critical thinking and/or reasoning,

and opinion was expressed that it might be worth further investigation with Fraser Valley. It was pointed out that this requirement is currently in place at Fraser Valley College and in this document there was an attempt to be consistent with existing language.

Reference was made to the fact that in some instances courses are listed with Fraser Valley numbers while in other parts of the document SFU course numbers appear, and opinion was expressed that the document was confusing and inconsistent. Suggestion was made to delete all reference to the equivalent SFU course numbers and just list the required Fraser Valley courses since the information was already contained in the Transfer Guide which students would be referring to in any event. It was pointed out that the SFU course equivalents were there simply for information and could be deleted. However, it was pointed out that having the SFU equivalent courses listed was quite useful for students transferring from any of the other colleges or from one of the other universities.

A motion, moved by L. Palmer and seconded by E. Palmer, to refer the document back to SCAP for reconsideration and representation to Senate was withdrawn temporarily in order to allow further general debate.

Senate was advised that the proposal is an attempt to interface an Associate of Arts credential with our Extended Minors because Fraser Valley College wants to retain both programs. Consequently there is some deviation from current SFU degree requirements. The differences occur mainly in the first and second year requirements.

Further concerns were expressed that the document appeared to be very confusing and needed further clarification and additional information before Senate could take a well-informed vote. R. Brown advised Senate that it was important that he be able to provide Fraser Valley with some indication that Senate at least agree in principle with the development of this degree program and, if Senate was willing to approve in principle, he would undertake to bring the document back to Senate in a more readable format. Given this undertaking, the motion to refer was withdrawn with the approval of the mover and seconder.

Amendment moved by P. Northcott, seconded by S. Shapiro

"that Senate approve in principle that the degree be approved, with corrected and clearer wording of requirements to be brought back to the June meeting of Senate for approval"

Question was called on the amendment, and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Question was called on the main motion as amended, and a vote taken.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

iii) Paper S.92-33 - Advanced Registration for Direct Entry Grade 12 Students

Moved by R. Saunders, seconded by R. Blackman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, that students seeking admission on the basis of direct entry from B.C. secondary schools be given advanced registration for 92-3, and that the Registrar monitor the effects of this change and report on the findings to SCUS"

In an introduction to the paper, Senate's attention was drawn to the memorandum from R. Blackman, Chair of SCUS which outlined the reasons for the proposal, and a memo from R. Heath, Registrar which identified Alternative 2 as the preferred method of implementation for an advanced registration. It was pointed out that because the registration process with regard to Grade 12 students is approximately six weeks later at Simon Fraser University than at other institutions, Simon Fraser lacks a competitive edge in recruiting direct entry high school students.

Opinion was expressed that the proposal would have a detrimental effect on continuing students at the higher level who still require a few first year credits to obtain their degree. However, it was noted that upper division students do not represent a large proportion of students in the 100-level courses, nor in fact do the Grade 12 students, and SCUS/SCAP felt that advanced registration for Grade 12 would have a relatively modest effect in reducing opportunities for continuing students.

Objection was raised to the proposal because it attracted new students with the opportunity of advanced registration and the possibility of getting the courses they want, but after the first semester these same students will receive no special registration status and may then find themselves with a lower priority and most likely unable to get some of the courses they want. Opinion was expressed that the problem could be better solved by changes to the process which would provide earlier registration for all students. It was also noted that the University should be able to provide students with a program that can be finished in a timely manner, but is unable to do so at the present time because of over-enrolment problems, and opinion was expressed that the University's problems could be resolved by approaches other than early registration for new students.

Concerns were also raised that the proposal favoured direct entry Grade 12 students over other categories of students such as transfer students and mature students. It was noted that transfer students make up a fairly large proportion of SFU's incoming students, and opinion was expressed that the proposal implied that these students were not as important to the University as the direct entry Grade 12 category.

Discussion turned to points of clarification with respect to the existing registration priority system and how the proposed change to it would be implemented. As a result, it was agreed that reference to Alternative Two which is the method of implementation proposed would be included in the motion.

Question was called on the motion,
and a vote taken.

MOTION DEFEATED

- b) Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board
- i) Paper S.92-34 - Annual Report

The annual report of the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board was received by Senate for information.

- c) Senate Appeals Board
- i) Paper S.92-35 - Annual Report

The annual report of the Senate Appeals Board was received by Senate for information.

6. Other Business

- i) Paper S.92-36 - Motion re guarantee of Library resources

Moved by K. Rieckhoff, seconded by S. Wade

"that Senate establish regulations which will ensure that no new or revised courses and programs, or offerings of existing courses and programs at new locations, including individual offerings of special topic courses, can be offered unless adequate library resources are in place, or funds for them guaranteed in the base budget of the Library"

In order to clarify the motion, K. Rieckhoff requested that the words "direct that the Chair of Senate" be inserted after the word 'Senate'; there were no objections to this request.

Senate was advised that the intent of the motion is to improve the current situation and practice with respect to allocation of library resources and to make sure courses/programs are not offered without adequate library resources. It was noted that ownership and/or access to the necessary library facilities must be guaranteed in order to ensure the academic quality of SFU's courses and programs, and the motion would direct the Chair and the administration to establish an effective mechanism to guarantee adequate servicing of courses and/or programs on and off campus.

A request by R. Saunders to insert the words "including ownership and/or access" after 'library resources' was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Concern was expressed that the motion, if approved, would place a barrier to any upgrading, refinement and adjustment to existing curriculum or degree programs, and opinion was expressed that this would be detrimental to the efficient administration of a Department, Faculty or School. It was pointed out, however, that the motion would not prevent curriculum development or approval of new courses/programs on their academic merit; it would merely place a barrier on the implementation of those revisions without appropriate access and ownership of the necessary resources. Opinion was strongly stressed that the final decision on what is "adequate" with respect to library resources must rest with the faculty/department offering the course. It was noted that substantial curriculum revisions are always vetted by the Library and that the problem appeared to be that nothing much happens with that statement. It was suggested that if the motion received approval, the regulations produced should include a process

whereby something definite will be done with the library statement and this should not result in the freezing of SFU's present curriculum.

The following suggestions by R. Brown were accepted as friendly amendments: i) insertion after the word 'regulations' - "and procedures for implementation of these regulations"; ii) insertion after the word 'establish' - "and bring to Senate, for approval,"; iii) deletion of the word 'base' before the word 'budget'.

An amendment by L. Boland to insert in the fourth line between 'unless' and 'adequate' the following "adequate space is available and" did not receive a seconder.

Reference was made to the large number of reports and committees which have dealt with Library issues recently and especially to the reports of the Library Review Committee and the External Review Committee. It was also pointed out that there are committees, such as the Faculty of Arts Users Committee and an implementation committee, reviewing recommendations and suggestions from these reports and question was raised as to whether there needed to be yet another body established to look into essentially the same issues. It was hoped that the expertise and available work which has already been done in many of these reports would be taken into consideration in the establishment of the proposed regulations and that the main goal of the motion is to strengthen and provide more weight to the current practice with respect to allocation of library resources.

Concern was expressed that the term 'resources' was too broad and suggestion was made that the definition should be more specific to include not only books but space and library personnel as well.

Senate was reminded that the concept of 'adequate' is a relative term because what is adequate for a course to be offered on campus may not be adequate for the course to be offered elsewhere. Everything can not be viewed in the same way, and it was stressed that whatever regulations are established and whatever procedures are put in place, they must be flexible enough so that the kind of creative energy which has gone into programs such as the Prison Education Program and the Native Education Program is not lost.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretary of Senate read the motion, as amended prior to the question being called:

"that Senate direct that the Chair of Senate establish and bring to Senate, for approval, regulations and procedures for implementation of these regulations which will ensure that no new or revised courses and programs, or offerings of existing courses and programs at new locations, including individual offerings of special topics courses, can be offered unless adequate library resources (including ownership and/or access) are in place, or funds for them guaranteed in the budget of the Library"

Question was called,
and a vote taken.

MOTION (AS AMENDED) CARRIED

7. Notices of Motion

The following notices of motions were received from P. Haje

1. "that senate approve an election or appointee to chair the senate committee on international students instead of appointed chair from Faculty of Business Administration because of conflict of interest. Pursuant to inquiry (RE: Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Business Administration - and - The Human Rights Act of B.C.)"
2. "that senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors to provide access of computer services to all Simon Fraser University prison educational programs"
3. "that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors to elect the President of Simon Fraser University instead of government appointment when the position is vacant"
4. "that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that the President of Simon Fraser University pay rent to his or her accommodation as other Simon Fraser University residents"
5. "that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that sons and daughters of professors attending Simon Fraser University pay their equal share in tuition just like any other students"
6. "that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors to abolish the differential fees for international students as recommended by U.B.C. Task Force Report"

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, June 1, 1992.

Following a brief recess, the Assembly moved into Closed Session at 8:50 p.m.

W.R. Heath
Secretary of Senate