

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC
MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: J.M. Munro, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: Advanced Registration for Direct Entry from B.C. Secondary Schools

Date: April 23, 1992

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning at its meeting of April 8, 1992 gives rise to the following motion:

Motion

"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."

J.M. Munro

*Motion defeated by Senate
May 11/92*

MEMORANDUM

To: Jock Munro, Chair SCAP

Date: April 3, 1992

Topic: Advanced Registration for Direct Entry Grade 12
Students

Please place on the SCAP agenda the following recommendation regarding advanced registration for Direct Entry Grade 12 students that has been approved by SCUS.

Motion

"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."

It is further proposed that this advanced registration be scheduled in the manner described in Alternative 2 in the attached memo from Ron Heath to SCUS and dated March 26, 1992.

Additional documentation offer a brief history of this recommendation, including a rationale for the above motion.

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AR Blackman
SCUS Chair

MEMORANDUM

To: Jock Munro, Chair SCAP

Date: April 2, 1992

Topic: Change in Registration Timing for B.C. Direct Entry
Secondary School Students: A Recommendation from SCUS

When teleregistration was being planned in 91-1, it was recognized that changes accompanying this new procedure might have a negative impact on the admission of B.C. direct entry secondary school students. Specifically, it was anticipated that other universities, particularly but not only UBC and the University of Victoria, would complete the admission and course registration process much earlier than at SFU, and that this would undercut our recruiting efforts. While most secondary school students are admitted provisionally in the spring, the timing of course registration varies across universities, with SFU's registration being by far the latest. Students considering competing offers would be faced with paying substantial non-refundable deposits to other universities several weeks before they would know the outcome of their registration at SFU. It was also recognized that the problem would be exacerbated by the lower success rate in our registration system compared with that at other universities.

In response to these concerns, it was proposed by Nick Heath, Director of Admissions, that changes should be made in our registration release timing for B.C. secondary school students. The proposal was that these students applying for fall entry to SFU should be allowed to register earlier in the summer, preferably at a time before the deadline for non-refundable deposits at UBC and the University of Victoria. There was insufficient time to address this proposal before registration for 91-3. The matter was forwarded to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) for its consideration.

SCUS formed a small subcommittee to identify and assess the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed change in the timing of registration for students admitted from B.C. secondary schools. That subcommittee returned to SCUS with a split report that listed some of the pro and con arguments but left it to the full committee to decide the issue.

SCUS first considered the general question of whether B.C. secondary school students should be given early registration. The basic argument against the proposal is that it would be unfair to continuing students and to other new students who would find it more difficult to secure places in 100-level courses. The counterargument is that it would be unfair to students admitted from secondary school not to make the proposed change. It is relevant to note that about 15% of the students who currently register in 100-level courses are upper-level students.

After considerable discussion, and having received the opinion of the SFU Student Society and a large petition from students, SCUS narrowly decided in favour of the proposal. The consensus view of SCUS is that the potential disservice to B.C. secondary school students of failing to advance the timing of their registration weighs heavier than the expected costs to other student groups. SCUS asked the Registrar to report back to it with some alternative mechanisms for implementing the change.

At a subsequent meeting, SCUS again reviewed the arguments for and against the change and considered the alternative mechanisms proposed by the Registrar. SCUS then voted in favour of a proposal that would allow B.C. direct entry secondary school students to register earlier than before and on a schedule that was coincident with continuing students.

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AR Blaceman
SCUS Chair

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: SCUS

From: Ron Heath
Secretary, SCUS

Subject: BC Grade 12 Registration Priority Date: March 26, 1992

At the last meeting, the following motion was approved:

"that SCUS approve, for 92-3, priority registration for students admitted directly from BC Grade 12 and that the Registrar will monitor and provide feedback to the Committee".

It has been determined that this motion will have to proceed to SCAP and Senate for approval before implementation, and that the method of implementation should be included as part of the proposal.

Two alternatives for implementation were considered. In each case, it is assumed that there will be approximately 1200 students in this category, and that a maximum of 900 to 1000 students may be released to the telephone registration system on any given day.

Alternative 1

The first alternative would allow the BC Grade 12 students absolute priority by releasing one half of these students to the system on day 1 and the remainder on day 2 of the telephone registration process for the Fall 92-3 Semester. On day 3, the top 900 - 1000 RPN students would be released to the telephone registration system.

Alternative 2

The second alternative, and the one that is being recommended for implementation, would call for the release of the target of approximately 1200 BC Grade 12 students over the first five days of the telephone registration process for the Fall 92-3 Semester (i.e. approximately 240 per day based on a descending admission GPA). Concurrently, on each of those days, approximately 660 - 760 continuing students would be released to telephone registration starting with those students with the highest RPN. On day 6, all 900 - 1000 students would be released on the basis of the RPN.

The process being recommended should allow senior students, especially those in graduating semesters, sufficient opportunity to register in courses necessary to complete programs. It also should give those students who have been offered entrance scholarships the opportunity to gain entry to courses required for their programs. In effect, this is a compromise situation between the current procedure and one which would give the new student first chance at all courses.

Motion: "that SCUS approve, for the Fall 92-3 Semester, the process identified in Alternative 2 as set out above, for the release of students to the telephone registration system."