

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

Memorandum

TO: Members of Senate

FROM: Bruce P. Clayman, Chair
Senate Library Committee
Vice President, Research

SUBJECT: SLC - IB Students

DATE: April 18, 2000

I am pleased to provide the attached report on the consideration by the Senate Library Committee (SLC) of the suggestion that the SFU Library reinstate free Library privileges for local high school students enrolled in an International Baccalaureate program.

Recruitment of excellent students, graduate and undergraduate, has always been a very high priority of mine. As some members of Senate are aware, over the years I have visited a large number of high schools throughout the Province, presenting more than 85 talks on low temperature physics, with the goal of attracting the best students to SFU. I have presented undergraduate entrance awards at high school graduation ceremonies, with that same goal. At the graduate level, I instituted Special Graduate Entrance Scholarships and a number of other measures in order to attract the best students to SFU.

However, after weighing the costs against the possible benefits, I find that I agree with the recommendation of the Librarian and the decision of the SLC not support the reinstatement of free Library privileges to local IB students. I will be pleased to participate in discussion of this matter at the next meeting of Senate.

c. L. Copeland

enclosure



Senate Library Committee
International Baccalaureate Students

Background:

At the December, 1999 Senate meeting, the Library was asked to review the cancellation of the program which in the past had provided free Library cards and Library tours to International Baccalaureate (IB) students. Prior to August 31, 1996 this program had been in place with the goal of attracting a potentially outstanding pool of students to SFU.

Previously, the Senate Library Committee (SLC) had expressed interest in extending such privileges to other students with equivalent potential, for example Advanced Placement students. The Library consulted with Mr. Nick Heath in 1994 as to the value of such a strategy. He felt that free access had not impacted on IB students' subsequent registration at SFU. This led to reconsideration and dropping of the suggestion of extending free privileges.

Reductions in the Library's operating budget resulted in cutbacks in staffing and services to members of the SFU community; for example, Library tours were eliminated for SFU students. These also led to the 1996 decision to eliminate the free borrowing service and tours for IB students. The Library's operating budget has not increased since that time, although the acquisitions budget has increased substantially. The Registrar has confirmed that free access for IB students would not significantly support their recruiting strategy and would create difficulties due to inequities with respect to other highly qualified high school students.

Members of the public, including IB students and other high school students, may use most, but not all, of the Library's resources in person at no cost. If they purchase an external user's card for \$50 per annum, they may borrow most circulating Library materials and may access on-line services in the Library.

Library Recommendation:

After reviewing the history and current situation with the IB teacher who raised the initial concerns and with the Library Planning Committee, the Librarian, Pro Tem recommended against re-instituting a program of issuing free Library cards to IB or other high school students.

SLC Committee Discussion and Action (March 27, 2000):

With respect to borrowing privileges, the committee noted that materials borrowed by IB students would directly reduce the access of SFU students, faculty and staff to those same materials and noted the lack of evidence of benefits of providing free Library cards to IB students. The continuation of the \$50 annual fee for external users was considered a reasonable compromise. The committee voted unanimously to accept the Librarian, Pro tem's recommendations.

At the SLC, there was no discussion of Library tours for IB students, reflecting in my opinion the continued need to conserve scarce personnel resources and the inability of the Library to provide tours for SFU students. The specific problems raised by the teacher were dealt with separately by the Librarian, Pro Tem.



Bruce Clayman, Chair
Senate Library Committee