

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

To: Senate

From: Sarah Dench
Secretary, SCUS

Date: September 6, 2000

Subject: Motion on Duplications



Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at a meeting held June 27, 2000 gives rise to the following motion:

“that Senate approve that courses taken at Simon Fraser University for which a student has already received transfer credit from another institution will count within the current limit of five duplications.”

Rationale

In high demand faculties students attempt various strategies to raise their gpa to gain admission to a program. Students will use their current limit of five duplications, duplicating courses for which they have earned a C- or higher in an attempt to raise their gpa to the current admission level.

When students transfer in from another institution an additional strategy may be employed. Currently, a student can take a course at SFU for which the student has already received transfer credit at another institution. If the student completes the course at SFU with a passing grade, the transferred-in course remains on the academic transcript as a duplicate, with a zero credit value. In other words, the SFU grade counts in the SFU gpa even if it is lower than the transferred-in grade. As well, currently limits on course duplication do not apply to duplicate transfer courses. Students could repeat all of their transferred-in courses and still have their five duplication limit intact. The SFU gpa of such students is not truly comparable to students who have only taken courses at SFU and who had to live within the five duplication limit.