

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.01-30

*As amended by
Senate 2/4/01*

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Allan MacKinnon, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Subject: Grade requirement for Transfer Credit - Exchange Students
(SCUS Reference 01 - 4)

Date: March 15, 2001



Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of February 6, 2001 gives rise to the following motion:

"That Senate approve that SFU students who are participating in formal exchange programs receive exchange credit for courses completed at the host university with a passing grade ~~(equivalent of 50%)~~, effective immediately."

Rationale

Currently, there is no formal regulation specifically governing the transfer credits earned by SFU students participating in international exchange programs. Students participating in these programs are governed by the same regulations as SFU students taking courses at other institutions on Letters of Permission. Therefore, students participating in international exchange programs may only transfer credits earned at the host universities toward their SFU degrees with the grade equivalent of C (60%) or higher.

Students selected to participate in international exchange programs must be in their third and fourth years, and have a gpa of 2.67 (B-). Although they are typically good students seeking to broaden their academic experiences, they may sometimes experience

difficulties adjusting to different academic systems and standards at the host institutions. There may also be challenges presented in adjusting to different cultures, and this has a negative impact on academic performance. When such circumstances arise, the students on exchange programs are disadvantaged upon their return to SFU in that credits earned below a C cannot be awarded credit. This has the impact of delaying graduation for some students who participate in exchange programs. Additionally, the transcripts do not accurately reflect the students' academic activities.

It should also be noted that students transferring into SFU from our international exchange partner schools may receive transfer credit at the grade equivalent of D (50%) or higher.



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To: Senate Committee on
Undergraduate Studies

From: Daria Hucal *Daria H.*
Coordinator, Student Exchanges

Subject: Grade requirement for
awarding exchange credit

Date: 25 January 2001

Proposal

This proposal is to enable SFU students who are participating in formal exchange programs to receive exchange credit for courses completed at the host university with a passing grade (equivalent of 50%).

Background

Simon Fraser University currently has formal exchange agreements with over 50 universities worldwide. SFU students who are selected to participate in a formal exchange program attend recognized, approved institutions following a variety of academic systems.

Students who participate in a formal exchange program are able to undertake and transfer a maximum of 30 exchange (FX) credit hours. All courses attempted at the host university must be evaluated by the appropriate SFU academic department for credit articulation.

At the present time, exchange (FX) credit is processed for those courses the student completes at the host university with the grade equivalent of C (60%) or higher. However, there is no formal written regulation regarding the grade requirement for the awarding of formal exchange (FX) credit. This grade requirement has been assumed based on the standard transfer credit policy for SFU students attending another institution under a Letter of Permission -- students must pass the course(s) "with a grade of 60% or higher to receive transfer credit". As with transfer credit, exchange credit is not used in the calculation of the SFU Cumulative Grade Point Average.

Students transferring to SFU from domestic or international institutions may receive transfer credit for "all courses passed, which are acceptable under University policy."