

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**Office of the Associate Vice President,  
Policy, Equity and Legal**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: President Michael Stevenson

From: Judith Osborne

Subject: Interpretation Policy

Date: February 13, 2002

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Most University policies contain a clause setting out a process for dealing with questions arising about the interpretation and application of the policy.

In policies that are negotiated between the University and the Faculty Association, for example, these issues are resolved by agreement between the President of the University and the President of the Faculty Association. Non-negotiated policies usually refer issues of interpretation and application to the President of the University.

There are some policies, the Research Ethics Policy for example, that are silent on questions of interpretation. I am proposing that this omission be remedied by enacting an Interpretation Policy that refers issues of interpretation of this category of policies to the President. I would also propose that Senate and the Board of Governors be informed of these interpretations if they approved the policy in question.

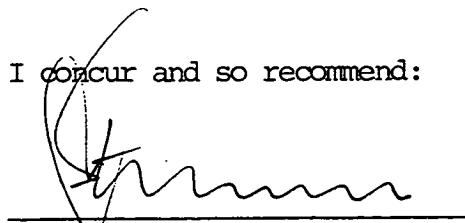
A draft policy that incorporates these proposals is attached and I recommend that it be forwarded to Senate and the Board of Governors for approval.



**MOTION:**

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the attached Interpretation Policy as set forth in S.02-16"

I concur and so recommend:

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Dr. Michael Stevenson  
President and Vice-Chancellor

**DRAFT**

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**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**Policies and Procedures**

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**SUBJECT: INTERPRETATION POLICY**

**GP30**

**POLICY:**

This policy provides a mechanism for resolving questions of interpretation and application of University policies where the policy does not contain an explicit interpretation mechanism.

1. Where a University policy is silent as to the final authority for resolving questions of the policy's interpretation or application, these issues shall be referred to the President, whose decision is final.
2. If Senate or the Board of Governors approved the policy at issue, they shall be notified of the interpretation.