

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Vice-President, Academic
MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Senate

FROM: John H. Waterhouse
Vice-President, AcademicRE: SCEMP Recommendation re
Admission GPA for Associate Degree
Holders

DATE: September 2, 2003

In 1991, Senate approved a policy whereby students who had completed the requirements for an Associate Degree from a BC College or University College and who had an admission GPA of 2.00 or more would be granted admission to SFU. It was expected that a small number of students would follow this route. Unexpectedly, by 2002 30% of the transfer students were being admitted to SFU via this program with a significant difference in the GPAs for these students:

Regular transfer students	average admission GPA 3.19
Associate Degree transfer students	average admission GPA 2.64

In March, 2003, Senate approved a change to this policy so that the admission GPA of Associate Degree holders would be increased to 0.25 GPA points less than that required for regular transfer students. The slight differential was supported and approved because the set of courses required by Associate Degree programs supply a more complete grounding across the undergraduate curriculum. In addition, when comparisons of the two groups are undertaken and one controls for admission GPA, the Associate Degree students perform better than regular transfer students.

This policy change was to be implemented for 2004-3.

In response to College concerns about the abruptness of the change to Associate Degree holders' admission grade point average, discussions were held with Douglas College and BCCAT to consider possible transition strategies. Arising from these discussions and consideration of modeling data from Analytical Studies, SCEMP made the following procedural decision:

"That the Senate policy approved in March 2003 (to admit Associate Degree holders at 0.25 GPA points less than that required for regular transfer students) be implemented in two stages: a fixed admission GPA of 2.50 commencing in 2004-3 and a floating admission GPA of 0.25 below the cutoff for regular transfer students commencing in 2005-3."

However, there is still the issue of advance notice about the GPA for admission, and after consideration, SCEMP forwards the following motion for Senate approval:

Motion:

"That the admission GPA for Associate Degree holders be fixed at least one year in advance, and the information communicated to the Colleges."