

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Dissolution of the Centre
for Systems Science (CSS)

DATE: July 19, 2004

At its July 7, 2004 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the recommendation from the Vice President, Research for the dissolution of the Centre for Systems Science (CSS) and recommended the following motion:

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Centre for Systems Science (CSS) effective immediately.

encl.

c: B. Clayman
B. Havens
B. Lewis
G. Nicholls

SIMON FRASER UNIVER

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

TO: Glynn Nicholls, Secretary
Senate Committee on University
Planning (SCUP)

FROM: Bruce P. Clayman
Vice-President, Research

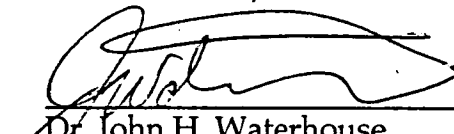
RE: Centre for System Sciences (CSS)
Schedule A

DATE: May 26, 2004

Attached is a letter dated April 28, 2004 from Dr. Bill Havens, Acting Director, CSS and a memo dated May 12, 2004 by Dr. Brian Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences recommending that the Centre for the System Sciences (CSS) be dissolved.

Accordingly, the Governing Committee for Centres and Institutes recommends that the Centre be granted approval to dissolve. If approved by SCUP, the recommendation would be forwarded to Senate, followed by submission to the Board of Governors.


Dr. Bruce P. Clayman
Vice-President, Research


Dr. John H. Waterhouse
Vice-President, Academic and Provost

Attachment

c: Dr. Bill Havens, Acting Director, CSS
Dr. Brian Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science

MEMORANDUM
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Received by
Mar 13 2004
Vice President Research Office

DATE: May 12, 2004

TO: Bruce Clayman, Vice-President Research
and
John Waterhouse, Vice-President Academic
University's Governing Committee for Centres

FROM: Brian Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences

RE: Discontinuance of the Centre for System Sciences (CSS)

Attached you will find a recommendation from the Acting Director of the Centre for Systems Sciences requesting the discontinuance of the Centre. You will note that the Director came to this decision on the advice of the CSS Steering Committee.

I support this recommendation and ask that you act upon it. If you require any further information, please contact me.

Brian Lewis

Brian Lewis
Dean
Faculty of Applied Sciences

BL/lc

Enclosure

cc: B. Havens, Acting Director, Centre for Systems Sciences

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Centre for Systems Science
Simon Fraser University
ASB 9801, 8888 University Drive
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5A 1S6



Telephone: (604) 291-4973
Fax: (604) 291-4424
e-mail: havens@cs.sfu.ca
www: css.sfu.ca

April 28, 2004

Dr. Brian Lewis, Dean
Faculty of Applied Science
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Dear Brian:

With great reluctance, I must report to you that the CSS Steering Committee has voted overwhelmingly by email ballot to disband the Centre For Systems Science. After 16 years the CSS has come to an end. By this letter, we are requesting that you forward this recommendation to Senate for their action.

While the work of the centre has now finished, the CSS has had many successes at SFU. Initially, the CSS brought together researchers from across multiple faculties and disciplines under the rubrik of research in Systems Science. The CSS pioneered the use of research computer networks with Sun Canada. The new CSSNet comprised about 90 computer workstations distributed among the CSS membership. The CSS approach to computing eventually became the model for ACS, and now the entire campus is using a similar system of distributed workstations.

In 1987, the CSS introduced the innovative CSS Update Newsletter. Since then, dozens of newsletters stories, as well as the occasional radio and TV appearance have brought fame, people, and resources to SFU. CSS communications have inspired similar newsletters at the VP Research and other BC universities.

Subsequently, a Distinguished Speaker Series was introduced that brought experts from around the World to speak at SFU about science and technology. The speaker series has been a huge success and a major advertisement for research at SFU. Other centres and departments at SFU have now emulated our model.

The CSS also pioneered the use of Grants Facilitators to encourage and assist CSS members in obtaining grant funding. ~~The grants facilitators were able to greatly increase the funding for~~ Systems Science research and the success rate for submitted proposals. Again, an original CSS idea was copied first by the VP Research office at SFU, and now every campus faculty has their own grants facilitator.

All the while, the CSS continued to fulfill its mandate to work with the BC Advanced Systems Institute to promote collaborative research among SFU faculty and BC high-technology industry. The CSS has been instrumental in establishing countless collaborations over the years. As well, the CSS has worked tirelessly with the ASI in their Research Fellowship, Graduate Scholarship and ASI Exchange programs.

So with these accomplishments behind us, we move forward. Please accept this recommendation from the Steering Committee. We believe that this is the right decision.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bill Havens
Acting CSS Director

BH/tl

cc: CSS Steering Committee
Victor Jones, BC Advanced Systems Institute
Tracy Lee, Vera Robinson, Barry Shell, Sara Swenson, Research Resource Group – Applied Science