

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Roger Blackman, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Subject: Proposed change to the Associate Degrees Admission Policy
(SCUS 04-17)

Date: September 16, 2004

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of September 14, 2004 gives rise to the following motion:

Motion

“that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Associate Degrees Admission Policy wording from “graduates... from a public BC or Yukon community college or university college” to “graduates ... from a BC or Yukon community college or university college recognized by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education” as set forth in S. 04- 71 , in effect as of Spring Semester 2005.”

Rationale

Simon Fraser University's admission policy only references public institutions for Associate Degree transfer credit. Until recently, only public colleges had the authority to grant this credential but some private colleges are now authorized by the Ministry of Advanced Education. The proposed change reflects the current reality.

This proposed change is in response to a request from Columbia College. Data collected by Analytical Studies provides some detail on the experience of Columbia College transfers who entered the University from 1998/99 and 1999/2000. Of the 79 students admitted during this period from Columbia, 74.7% have graduated and demonstrate one of the highest degree completion rates. And, of those who entered with 55 transfer credit hours or greater, the degree completion rate is 91.7%.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

established 1936



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Mr. W.R. Heath,
Dean of Student Services and Registrar,
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Simon Fraser University,
8888 University Drive,
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

27th August, 2004

SCUS 04 — 17

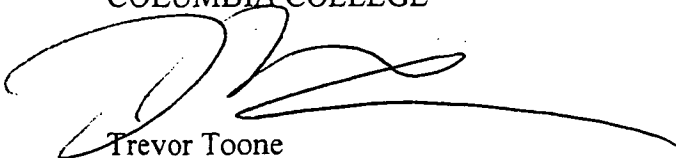
Dear Mr. Heath:

As you probably know, Columbia College has applied to the Degree Quality Assessment Board for permission to award Associate Degrees (of both Arts and Science). The DQAB has approved Columbia's request and has so advised the Minister of Advanced Education; we are hopeful that the Minister will sign the necessary papers and formally grant his consent before the end of August.

Given that significant numbers of Columbia College students transfer to Simon Fraser University, we would like to know how Simon Fraser University plans to treat a student applying to SFU on the strength of a Columbia College Associate Degree. I ask because the BCCAT website, in discussing SFU's policies with regard to Associate Degrees, states that "graduates.....from a public BC or Yukon community college or university college will be offered priority admission". Columbia College is, of course, a private rather than a public institution, and we are wondering whether the same policy will be applied to Columbia College. I appreciate that in the past only public colleges (in BC and the Yukon) were authorized to award Associate Degrees and that this wording might simply reflect an older reality; it might, however, reflect a policy decision made by SFU, and if this is the case this would be of considerable concern to us.

I would be most grateful if you could clarify SFU's position on this matter. For international colleges the Fall is a busy recruiting season, and I would like to be able to clarify this issue for our recruiters before they set out on their scheduled promotional trips

Yours truly,
COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Trevor Toone
Principal