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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	December 12, 2017
FROM	Daniel Leznoff, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	BC High School Admission Requirements (SCUS 17-60)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 7, 2017, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approves the attached changes to the undergraduate admission requirements for BC high school applicants:



MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	SCUS	DATE	November 29, 2017
FROM	Rummana Khan Hemani Registrar & Executive Director, Student Enrollment		
RE:	Proposed Changes to BC High School Admission Requirements, Effective Fall 2019 and Fall 2020		

Rummana

I. Proposed Motion for SCUS

That the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approve and recommend to Senate changes to the undergraduate admission requirements for BC high school applicants (refer to Table I). A full review of the new requirements will be provided to Senate three years from their implementation.

II. Background

In response to a number of internal and external changes in the enrollment environment, in May 2017 a working group was established to undertake a review of the admission requirements for BC high school applicants. Externally, these changes include a continued increase in competition across the post-secondary sector combined with a declining domestic demographic; grade inflation at the high school level as reflected by rising admission averages; and most recently, a new BC high school curriculum, which no longer includes provincial exams. Internally, these changes include shifts in the demand for and capacity of academic programs; more sophisticated enrollment management practices; and an equal focus on student recruitment and retention.

The current admissions model relies almost exclusively on performance in English 12 and three additional Grade 12 courses. It disregards a great deal of relevant data from the high school transcript. Extensive consultation across all Faculties indicates support for a model that both includes grade data across the full spectrum of courses, from the University's approved course list, taken in Grade 11 and 12, and allows individual Faculties to put emphasis on courses that are most relevant to their discipline. The anticipated benefits of such a model are: (1) clearer communication to high school students about SFU's expectations with regards to the type and mix of courses that will prepare them for university-level studies in their area of interest; (2) improvements in admissions outcomes through a more robust evaluation of the full breadth and depth of course work and the criteria established by individual Faculties; (3) facilitation of earlier offers to highly qualified students through the inclusion of Grade 11 data; and (4) greater flexibility in managing new student enrollment targets.

To address the needs identified in the review of the admissions model, a set of changes to the BC high school admissions requirements for all applicants, entering SFU in Fall 2019 and Fall 2020, is proposed in Section II below. Several factors have been considered in the timing of the implementation of the new requirements. Changes to high school admission requirements must be announced in advance of the course planning cycle in high schools, which commences in February each year. The timing of changes should also be responsive to changes in the high school curriculum. Although many changes have already been implemented, the balance of changes to the curriculum will be implemented for students entering Grade 11 and 12 in Fall 2019. Finally, UBC is set to make major changes to its admission requirements effective Fall 2019, including using all Grade 11 and 12 marks in the admissions evaluation. Our past experience has shown that, when appropriate, making and communicating changes in sync with the other major universities in the province makes prospective students, parents, and guidance counsellors more receptive to new policies.

Current	Effective Fall 2019	Effective Fall 2020
Required Grade 11 courses: ·English 11 ·Science 11 ·Language 11 ·Math 11	No change	Add Social Studies 11
English 12 with a minimum final grade of 60%, based on combined school & provincial exam mark	English 12 with a minimum final grade of 70%, based on combined school & provincial exam mark	English 12 with a minimum final grade of 70%
Minimum of 4 Grade 12 courses, including English 12, from SFU's approved course list must be completed	-Minimum of 5 Grade 12 courses, including English 12, from SFU's approved course list must be completed -Minimum of 3 of the 5 courses must be from the program-specific Grade 12 List A courses	No change
All program-specific Grade 11 and 12 required courses must be completed	No change	No change
n/a	n/a	Completion of the new provincial graduation assessments
Admissions average calculated on the 4 Grade 12 courses (including English 12) required by program	Admission evaluation based on all Grade 12 courses taken from SFU's approved course list. For applicants with ≥ 6 Grade 12 courses, lowest Grade 12 course grade excluded from the evaluation as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if ≥ 6 courses taken from List A, lowest List A grade not needed to fulfill admission requirements of the program excluded from evaluation • if ≤ 5 courses taken from List A, lowest grade from List B excluded from evaluation 	Admission evaluation based on all Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses taken from SFU's approved course list. For applicants with ≥ 6 Grade 12 courses, lowest Grade 12 course grade excluded from the evaluation as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if ≥ 6 courses taken from List A, lowest List A grade not needed to fulfill admission requirements of the program excluded from evaluation • if ≤ 5 courses taken from List A, lowest grade from List B excluded from evaluation

Notes: Program-Specific List A & B Courses

- Faculties have established List A and List B Grade 11 and 12 courses for the programs to which they admit. These lists are comprised of courses that have previously been approved for admission. Faculties individually determined the placement of courses in either List A or B based on their chosen criteria. For all Faculties, English 12 is in List A and Grade 11 courses are in List B; Grade 11 List B is effective Fall 2020. Program-specific List A & B courses have been provided for information to Senate in a separate memo that is included with this material.
- Social Studies 11 required for graduation and proven to be a good indicator of academic success in first year
- English 12 provincial exam eliminated after 2019