

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: D. Gagan, Chair *D. Gagan*
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: Transfer credit for D grades

Date: November 27, 1996

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

Motion:

"that Senate approve as set forth in S.97 - 4 , the changes to the policy on transfer credit for D grades."

Memo from Nick Heath
Director of Admissions
Simon Fraser University

To: Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Date: 7 October, 1996

Subject: Transfer credit for D grades

Existing policy permits the transfer of all passed courses (usual minimum is D grade) from recognized colleges and universities except in two circumstances, when a minimum grade of C is required:

- a) if the new student is admitted on Academic Probation with an admission average below 2.0
- b) if the individual is already a student of SFU and is seeking either re-admission or a letter of permission to take a course outside SFU toward her/his credential.

Very few students are admitted on Academic Probation. There are a few special cases who have failed years at other universities and have more recently done good quality work and there a few cases admitted on appeal by CRUA. Occasionally, a small group of students with low averages might be admitted, for instance, to a sponsored program such as those operated on behalf of B.C Hydro and C.P. Rail employees.

Granting no credit to these new students below a C grade can sometimes make large differences in the total transfer credit awarded. It is not fully clear why these students should not receive all earned credit. In most cases, it does not affect prerequisites either because the D grade is recorded on the student record system or because many of our department accept D grades to fulfil prerequisites.

If the motion is approved, the University's position on transfer credit becomes simpler and more logical. This could be important in dealing with related issues with the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer and other similar bodies.

Suggested motion:

That transfer credit be awarded to new students for all passed courses, regardless of the student's admission average or admission standing.

It is not proposed to change the other exception at this time. Once an individual becomes a SFU student, s/he is subject to rigorous Academic Continuance requirements and any encouragement to take 'difficult' courses outside SFU should be discouraged, to prevent unfairness in the Continuance process and erosion of academic standards.

