

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic



RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences:
David Lam Centre – Revised Terms of Reference
(SCUP 07-74)

DATE: December 10, 2007

At its December 5, 2007 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the revised Terms of Reference for the David Lam Centre from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the revised Terms of Reference for the David Lam Centre, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: T. Perry



Faculty of
Arts and Social Sciences

MEMO

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ATTENTION John Waterhouse, VP Academic

FROM Lesley B. Cormack, Dean, FASS

RE David Lam Centre: Revised TOR

DATE November 27, 2007

As you are aware, the David Lam Centre has existed for around 18 years, but has not had the governance procedures in place that would permit the Centre to move forward after the retirement of Prof. Jan Walls, the Centre's founding and only director. The Centre seemed to exist for the first five years without any formal terms of reference, and the terms of reference established in 1994 do not define a means of granting membership or a process for selecting a new director beyond the default for Schedule B centres, that is, by appointment of the Vice-President, Research. The 1994 proposal lists 8 founding members by name, 5 of whom have since retired. No further records on membership have been discovered.

You have discussed with my predecessor, John Pierce, this Faculty's vision for revising the Centre so that participation in it could be broadened while maintaining the essential character of the Centre as a research unit dedicated to the Asia and the Pacific Rim, and more particularly to the connections between Canada and this important region. We also anticipate that the Centre will continue to maintain its important ties with the local communities, and will be instrumental in disseminating the research on the interrelationships between Canada and the Asian region in collaboration with the communities themselves.

In order to sharpen the focus of the Centre on research, we are close to completing an agreement with Continuing Studies to take over the noncredit teaching of Asian



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languages and cultures that the Centre had been managing since its founding. The Centre will continue to have a close identification with those activities, but will be freed of the overhead of managing those programs. Continuing Studies has the infrastructure and expertise to oversee noncredit programs of this sort, so an overall gain of efficiency for the institution will result from this move.

We are now prepared to put forward the attached terms of reference for a revised David Lam Centre. We foresee a centre that is focused on research and that takes advantage of the broad expertise about and interests in Asia that are reflected across the various departments of the Faculty and the University.

We are proposing that the Centre move from a schedule B centre to schedule A. This is intended to reflect the fact that most of the activity of the Centre is and will continue to be related to departments in this Faculty. This is not to preclude a very inclusive slate of activities that draws in colleagues from across the University. Indeed, the Ming and Stella Wong Professor in International Business will have a seat in the steering committee. We are likewise proposing that the holder of the new Jack Austin Chair in the Asian Economies become a permanent member of the Centre and its steering committee.

The revised terms of reference assure that continuity can be maintained in the appointment of a director, as they put in place new governance procedures that empower the steering committee to nominate a director to the dean. The changes that have been introduced are relatively few and are simple, but they improve the viability of the Centre in the long term while allowing it to focus on research.

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I strongly support this revision, and request that you
forward it to Senate for consideration.



LC/rt

Attachment

Cc: T. Perry, Associate Dean, FASS

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Terms of Reference
David Lam Centre

Statement of Special Purpose

The purpose of the David Lam Centre is to conduct research and organize related activities with a focus on the interface between Canada and the Asia-Pacific region. These activities are intended to extend across a broad spectrum of social, cultural, and economic issues from both contemporary and historical perspectives.

Membership

Members of faculty at Simon Fraser University who have academic expertise in Asian and Pacific studies and in Canadian-Asian relations may become members of the Centre. Colleagues from outside the university and retired members may be appointed as corresponding members for a specific term. The holders of the Ming and Stella Wong chair of International Business (Faculty of Business Administration) and the Jack Austin Chair in the Asian Economies (Department of Economics) will be permanent members of the Centre by virtue of their appointment to these chairs. All invitations to become members will come from the Steering Committee (see below).

Statement of Internal Governing Procedures

The Centre will be governed by a Steering Committee, made up of members of the Centre. The Steering Committee will be appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences and will consist of at least six members. The holders of the Ming and Stella Wong chair of International Business (Faculty of Business Administration) and the Jack Austin Chair in the Asian Economies (Department of Economics) will be members of the Steering Committee by virtue of their appointment to these chairs. The Director of the Asia-Canada Program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will also be a member of the Steering Committee *ex officio*.

Operational responsibility for internal governance of the Centre lies with the Centre's Director, who develops Centre policies in consultation with the Steering Committee and manages the activities of the Centre. The Director will chair the Steering Committee.

An Advisory Board consisting of leading members of the business, professional and cultural communities with interest in the Centre's mandate will also provide guidance to the program of the Centre. Membership in this Board will be at the invitation of the Steering Committee, subject to the approval of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The Chair of the Advisory Board will be elected annually by and from the members of the Board.

Appointment of Director

The Director will be appointed by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, upon a nomination by and from the Steering Committee of the Centre. The term of appointment would normally be for a three-year period, renewable upon mutual agreement.

Identification of the Applicable Schedule under R 40.01

The David Lam Centre is identified as Schedule A, reporting to the Dean, faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Centre's Obligation to Comply with University Policy

The David Lam Centre will comply with Simon Fraser University policies in all its activities.

November, 2007