

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.07-116

Senate Committee on University Priorities Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Centre for Disability Independence
Research and Education (SCUP 07-46R)

DATE: September 27, 2007

At its September 26, 2007 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the creation of the Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education. This Centre will be a Schedule B Centre.

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education as a Schedule B Centre.

encl.

c: A. Hoffer

Proposal for Creation of a University Centre

Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education (CDIRE)

I. Statement of Special Purpose

The proposed SFU Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education will provide a site where persons with physical disabilities can meet with researchers to analyze ways to improve their performance of activities of daily living and other needs, and to come up with innovative solutions that may be jointly conceived, developed and tested.

This setting will encourage participation and knowledge transfer by researchers, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, educators, clinicians and health professionals.

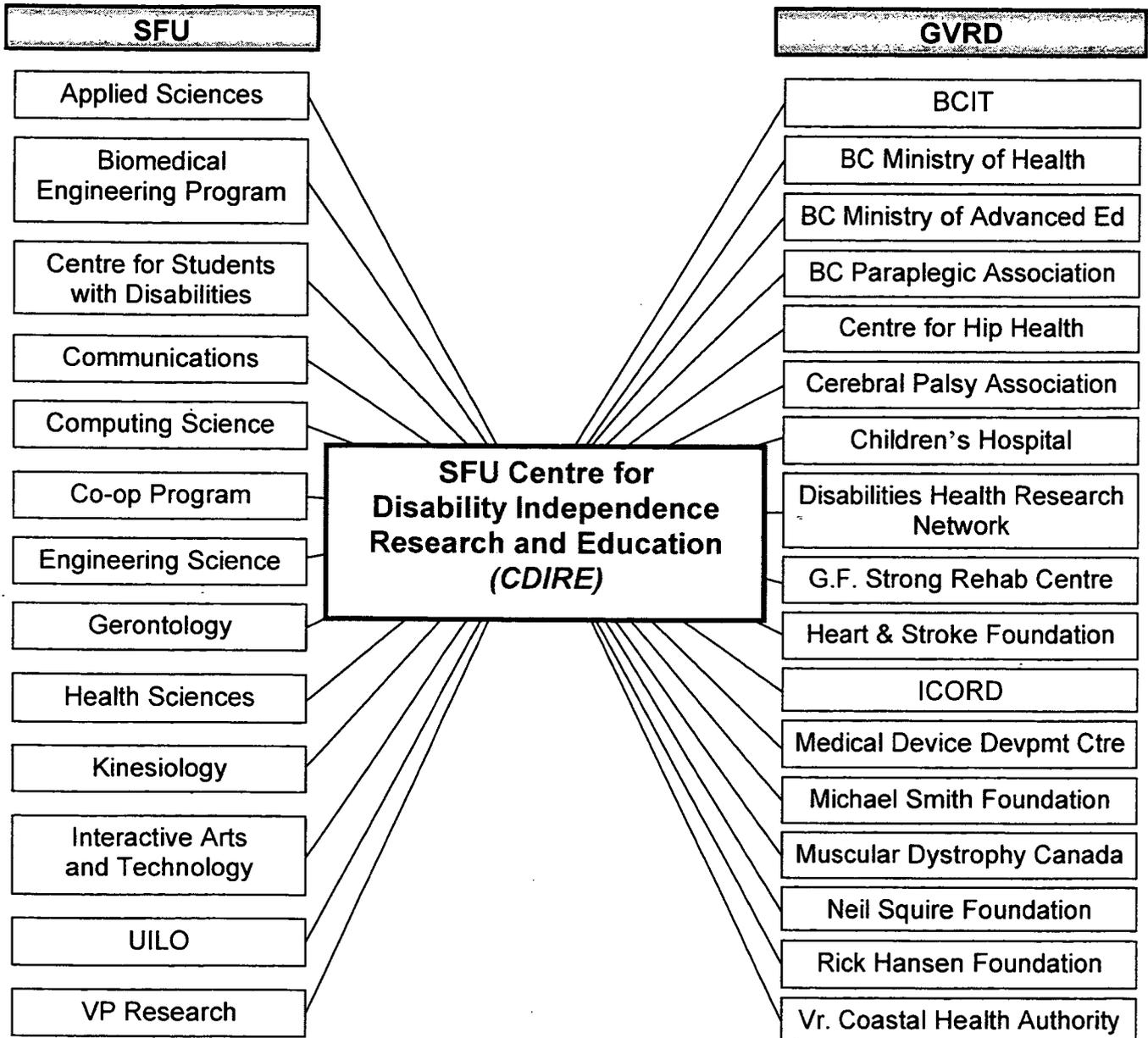
Full community integration will be fostered by regularly holding events such as seminars and think tanks to assist in identifying and solving challenging issues.

In the initial phases of development, the CDIRE is expected to facilitate close, day-to-day interaction among SFU students, faculty or staff members who have physical disabilities, graduate students considering thesis topics in rehabilitation research, undergraduate students seeking projects, faculty supervisors, mentors, and expert advisors from the Lower Mainland community. Close cooperation with the SFU Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) is envisioned to establish mutually beneficial, synergistic programs.

In 2008, the CDIRE will participate in the first offering of ENSC 472 (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Devices), a senior design course. Biomedical Engineering students in the Rehabilitation Stream will be able to meet in the proposed Centre with SFU students or staff with disabilities, and propose specific engineering design projects.

In later phases of development, the CDIRE will expand its geographical scope to also include persons with physical disabilities, researchers and experts from the entire Lower Mainland of British Columbia with goals such as: jointly identifying unmet needs of people with physical disabilities; formulating, designing, developing and testing innovative solutions; and eventually making new rehabilitation solutions available to persons with physical disabilities elsewhere in Canada, and beyond.

The Centre has established, or intends to establish, initial operational links with internal (SFU) and external (Greater Vancouver Regional District) partner organizations that are summarized in the following Table.



II. Identification of the Applicable Schedule

Given the university-wide scope of activities to be conducted, this Centre shall fall under Schedule B, with the Administrative Director being SFU's Vice President of Research.

III. Statement that recognizes the Centre's obligation to conduct its activities in accordance with University Policies

The SFU Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education recognizes its obligation to conduct its activities in accordance with university policies.

IV. Provision for the Appointment of a Director

The Director of the CDIRE shall be a SFU faculty member to be appointed by the Vice President, Research based on nominations from Centre members and a ratification ballot. Term of service shall be 3 years, renewable upon re-nomination and ratification.

Dr. Andy Hoffer is serving as Acting Director until the Centre is established. Hoffer is a professor of Kinesiology, director of the Neurokinesiology Lab, former director of the School of Kinesiology (1991-1997) and founder of Neurostream (1997-2004), a SFU spin-off company that developed an implantable assistive device for impaired mobility.

V. Statement of Internal Governing Procedure

The Director will manage the operations of the Centre, and will report to the Vice President of Research as Administrative Director, who will in turn report to the University Governing Committee for Centres and Institutes.

VI. Requirements for Space or other University Funding

The Dean, FAS has agreed to provide initial space for CDIRE activities in the TASC 2 building, Room 7440. This room adjoins laboratory space allocated for the ENSC 472 Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Devices Project course, and will thus provide an ideal physical setting to establish close interactions between people with disabilities on campus and biomedical engineering students planning research projects, the intended first phase of development of Centre activities.

No dedicated University funds are required to start the Centre. Later, if the Director's workload on behalf of the CDIRE warrants it, partial teaching relief may be requested.

VII. Requirement for Library Resources

Establishment of the CDIRE will not require any incremental SFU library resources.

VIII. SFU Faculty Founding Members of the CDIRE

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