

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Institute for Research on Early
Education and Child Health
(SCUP 05-026)

DATE: April 11, 2005

Attached is the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health submitted for consideration by Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean of Education. This will be a Schedule A Centre reporting to the Dean of Education in accordance with Policy R 40.01.

The Senate Committee on University Priorities reviewed the proposal at its March 23, 2005 meeting, at which time it was unanimously approved. Once approved by Senate, the proposal will be submitted to the Board of Governors.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health.

Attach.

c. M. Pinto
P. Shaker
M. Hoskyn
G. Nicholls

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

TO: Glynn Nicholls, Secretary
Senate Committee on University
Planning (SCUP)

FROM: B. Mario Pinto
Vice-President, Research


RE: Institute for Research on Early
Education and Child Health

DATE: March 2, 2005

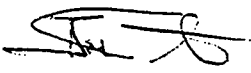
Attached is a proposal from Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean of the Faculty of Education, for the establishment of the Institute for Research on early Education and Child Health as a Schedule A Centre.

The Governing Committee for Centres and Institutes recommends that the Centre be granted approval by SCUP. Once approved by SCUP, the proposal is to be forwarded to Senate, followed by submission to the Board of Governors.

Governing Committee:



Dr. John H. Waterhouse
Vice-President, Academic and Provost



Dr. B. Mario Pinto
Vice-President, Research

Attachment


C: Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean, Faculty of Education
Dr. Maureen Hoskyn, Faculty of Education

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF EDUCATION
Memorandum

Received by

JAN 14 2005

Vice President Research Office

To: Mario Pinto
From: Paul Shaker 
Subject: Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health
Date: January 6, 2005

Attached is a proposed constitution for a new SFU research institute to be housed within the Faculty of Education: "Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health." I support this initiative in full and request that it be considered for further SFU approval. With the exception of the provision of office space and telephone costs, the funding for this institute will be found through external sources. The faculty is currently working together with Susan Street, our Advancement Officer, to find financial support for the projects outlined.

PS:aln

cc: Maureen Hoskyn

CONSTITUTION

The Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health

December, 2004

1. Statement of Purpose:

The *Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health* is a multidisciplinary research group at Simon Fraser University. The institute's mission is to generate and share knowledge about early education that will advance humanity by enriching the lives of young children and their families. Current research projects focus on young children from infancy to eight years of age and the communities in which they live and grow. We also have a special interest in advancing knowledge about the interplay between biology and environmental experiences that influence child health and in turn, psychosocial development and learning. Through community outreach in real world settings, we strive to promote effective change that favors children in early education and public policy at local, national and international levels.

We believe that effective research focuses on the child and the child's rights, advances theory, and defines the learning environments that promote child and family well-being. An important part of this process is ongoing collaboration among researchers and the creation of partnerships with the families, educators, administrators, child advocacy groups, and policy makers who will potentially benefit from our research.

Our research interests are linked by the following inter-connected themes:

- Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Education Policy in Canada and Internationally
- Child Health and Psycho-Social Development
- Parent, Family, and Community Support
- Equity, Access & Inclusion
- Early Literacy and Numeracy
- Early Identification and Intervention

We are committed to strong community-university partnerships, the beneficiaries of which first and foremost, are children and families. We have several strategies to meet this aim:

- establishing relations with other research institutes, child advocacy groups, universities and early childhood centres.
- actively supporting international research centres that share our goal of improving children's lives through advocacy (e.g., Unicef Issanti Research centre)

- supporting a child-study centre at SFU that serves as an active centre of child study and research and provides model training experiences for pre-service teachers of young children at-risk for learning difficulties.
- establishing a family support centre at SFU Surrey that includes counselling, literacy, and preschool education services for high-risk families.
- enhancing professional development through conferences, symposiums, lectures and the institute's newsletter and website.
- creation of a MA program in Early Childhood Education and Health.

The research and outreach goals of the Institute for Early Education and Child Health are aligned with several of the recommendations presented in the federally funded, OCED-Canada Early Childhood Education and Childcare Policy Report (October, 2004): (1) "Build bridges between child care and kindergarten education, with the aim of integrating ECEC both at ground level and at policy and management levels" (2) "Review ECEC professional profiles, improve recruitment levels and strengthen the initial and in-service training of staff", (3) Provide publicly-funded, high quality interventions in all disadvantaged areas, (4) Provide attractive indoor and outdoor learning environments, (5) Co-ordinate Canadian research and through funding, orient it further toward important policy issues (see <http://www11.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/socpol/publications/reports/2004-002619/page07.shtml> for more details).

Current Research and Outreach Projects:

SFU Child Study Institute

Early Literacy Project

Romanian Adoption Project

HIPPY Project

Early Education Environmental Assessment

SFU Annual Conference on Early Childhood Education

2. Internal Governance Process

The name of the institute, administration of institute funds and employment of staff will be in keeping with relevant University policies. These functions will be overseen by an executive director elected by and from the members of the institute. The executive director will be advised by a committee of institute members elected by and from members of the institute.

Contracts and grants will be administered in keeping with the applicable policies and procedures of Simon Fraser University. An annual report shall be prepared by the committee and submitted by the director.

Simon Fraser University will be recognized in all publications of the institute.

3. Identification of Schedule: *The Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health* is a Schedule A institute (R 40.01, page 2) and comes under the direct authority of the Dean of Education.

4. Obligations of the Institute:

The Institute for Research on Early Education and Child Health recognizes the obligation it has to conduct its activities in accordance with University governing policies, including R 40.01, CENTRES AND INSTITUTES. If this document and University policy differ on any issue, University policy shall prevail.

5. Sources of Funding:

The institute will substantially finance its activities and initiatives by means of external funding. Susan Street, the Faculty of Education advancement officer has been working with us to secure funds for operating our research and outreach activities. Office space and use of a telephone will be provided through the SFU Faculty of Education.

6. Library resources:

Not applicable.

Membership Information:

The founding members of the Institute for Research in Early Education and Child Health include are faculty members within the Faculty of Education at SFU whose research programs emphasize health and education of children primarily from birth to age eight years. Of course we recognize the importance of situating the education, health and development of young children within a lifespan framework; therefore, some research projects may extend beyond investigating the lives of children in the early years.

Lucy Lemare

Research interests: Psychosocial development of infants and young children at high-risk for health, communication and educational difficulties.

Paul Neufeld

Research interests: Policy research, socio-historical approaches to understanding young children with social and academic learning difficulties in Canada and internationally. Paul has a more lifespan development approach than other researchers in the group.

Margaret McDonald

Research interests: Social attachments of infants and young children with their parents/caregivers/educators. Margaret has a strong early childhood education background.

Rosamund Stooke

Research interests: Literacy environments and development of young children.

Maureen Hoskyn

Research interests: Language and memory development of infants and young children at risk for health, communication and educational difficulties.

Contacts within the SFU community:

Arlene Young (SFU, Psychology, CACH contact). Arlene coordinates the activities of an informal research group (i.e, not SFU approved) in Psychology: CACH - Consortium for the Advancement of Child Health. Through my contact with Arlene, I have been invited to attend a CACH meeting and a conference on the relations between executive function and socialization that was sponsored by the group. Arlene and I recognize that the aims of the proposed institute are complimentary to those of CACH; the distinction between the two groups is that CACH activities are limited to the domain of psychology, whereas our proposed research institute has a broad based, interdisciplinary focus.

Diane Dagenais (Education Domain Leader, Metropolis, SFU). Diane is a co-investigator with me on a grant (Official Languages Dissemination Program) from SSHRC to investigate the health and linguistic outcomes of young multilingual children of immigrant families in Vancouver. Certainly, the goals of Metropolis and the proposed institute are complimentary; however, our focus is on research to improve the lives of young children generally and Metropolis has a focus on immigrant children (and adults). I offer this case to exemplify the types of collaborations we hope to forge with other research institutes/centres at SFU.