

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.05-97

Senate Committee on University Priorities Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: Bill Krane
Acting Chair, SCUP
Acting Vice President,
Academic



RE: Behavioural and Cognitive
Neuroscience Institute (BCNI)
(SCUP 05-049)

DATE: July 28, 2005

Attached is the proposal for the establishment of the Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute (BCNI) submitted for consideration by Dr. Daniel Weeks, Chair, Department of Psychology. This will be a Schedule B Centre reporting to the Vice-President, Research in accordance with Policy R 40.01.

The Senate Committee on University Priorities reviewed the proposal at its July 27, 2005 meeting and the proposal 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 Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute as a Schedule B Centre under Policy R40.01."

Attach.

c. M. Pinto
J. Pierce
D. Weeks
S. Dench

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: Behavioural and Cognitive
Neuroscience Institute (BCNI)

DATE: July 18, 2005

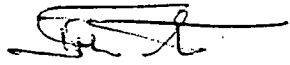
Attached is a proposal from Dr. Daniel Weeks, Chair, Department of Psychology for the establishment of the Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute (BCNI) as a Schedule B Centre.

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:



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



Dr. B. Mario Pinto
Vice-President, Research

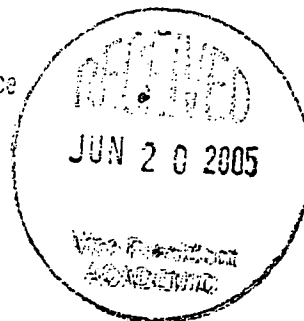
Attachment

C: Dr. John Pierce, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Dr. Daniel Weeks, Chair, Department of Psychology

JUN 21 2005

Vice President Research Office

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
MEMORANDUM



To: John Waterhouse
VP Academic

From: John T. Pierce
Dean, FASS

Subject: Behavioural & Cognitive
Neuroscience Institute

Date: June 17, 2005

During the past six to seven years, I have worked closely with the Department of Psychology to focus hiring and expertise in the area of neuroscience. The awarding of a Leadership Chair, a CRC (Tier II) and the appointment of Mario Liotti are three recent distinguished additions to the Neuroscience side in Psychology.

The attached proposal for the establishment of a Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute (Schedule B) is a natural offshoot of these recruitment successes. It will provide a "matrix" within which scientists from Psychology and other Faculties and universities can work synergistically together to identify and address (both clinically and experimentally) neuroscience from a behavioural and cognitive perspective. Given the development of SFU's Strategic Research Plan, I think the timing is right to move this forward to ensure that we capitalize upon our strengths and our leadership in this emerging field.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John T. Pierce".

JTP/rt

Cc: D. Weeks, Chair, Department of Psychology

JUN 16 2005

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR



June 16, 2005

Dr. John Pierce, Dean
Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC Canada
V5A 1S6

Dear Dean Pierce

Please find attached an application to establish the **Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute (BCNI)** at Simon Fraser University.

The goal and research foci of BCNI would be to contribute to SFU's Strategic Research Plan in the areas of neural imaging, health science, and child health and development. It will also solidify the Faculty of Arts and Social Science at SFU as a major player in this important and emerging research area. Moreover, BCNI will strengthen linkages and interactions with colleagues in the Faculty of Applied Science.

In the province of British Columbia the BCNI is well positioned to emerge as a key player in neuroscience. This proposal brings us one step closer to that end.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Weeks".

Daniel J. Weeks

**Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute
Simon Fraser University**

Statement of Purpose

It is an exciting time to be a neuroscientist. The study of the brain and behaviour is one of the last great frontiers for human investigation. By understanding how the brain works we can come to understand some part of ourselves. Neuroscientists are discovering how billions of neurons and their associated chemical and electrical signals result in the perception of the world around us, memories about our experiences, emotional reactions to the subtle and profound events in our lives, and the dynamics of our behavioural reactions to all these happenings. Knowledge of typical brain functioning provides a foundation for investigating atypical brain functioning and the psychopathological states that trouble human existence. Advances in the behavioural and cognitive neurosciences can therefore point to ways of alleviating these disorders.

The goal of the proposed Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Institute (BCNI) is to foster interdisciplinary research and scholarship concerning the relationship between mind and brain. Building on the strengths of world-renowned researchers who are currently investigating a variety of neural, cognitive, motor, and behavioural phenomena (see Appendix A), the BCNI will focus on a broad range of topics. Our major emphases will be on the study of attention, perception, action, and language. We will approach these issues from the perspectives of the social sciences (psychology, philosophy, linguistics, sociology), the biological sciences (behavioural and cognitive neuroscience, physiology), the applied sciences (electrical engineering, biomedical engineering, kinesiology, computer science), and the medical sciences (neurology, psychiatry, medical imaging).

We will use state-of-the-art tools such as functional neuroimaging, high-density electroencephalography (EEG), event-related potentials (ERP), magnetoencephalography (MEG), and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to study normal populations as well as people with developmental challenges and patients with selective deficits following brain damage. Some of our main objectives are to:

- Understand the relationships between cognitive functions and their neurobiological substrates
- Understand the life-long developmental plasticity of brain and behaviour
- Understand the nature of the deficits and spared capacities that are specific to particular syndromes and developmental disorders
- Develop new measures that can be used in clinical treatment
- Coordinate initiatives to further develop the MEG lab with our partner institution the Down Syndrome Research Foundation and secure additional world-class neuroscience research tools and facilities for SFU

The proposed institute will provide a matrix within which our scientists will work synergistically toward these and related goals.

Funding

The purpose of forming the BCNI is to facilitate expansion of research capacity in behavioural and cognitive neuroscience at SFU. As such, we expect individual members of the BCNI to continue to seek support for their independent research programs. The first collective grant initiative for the BCNI as a whole will be the submission of a grant to CFI for an fMRI system to compliment the MEG system that is already part of SFU's research infrastructure. At the outset we anticipate no significant budget implications for SFU as a result of creation of the BCNI. Should the BCNI become so active as to warrant its own administrative support we would seek federal and provincial sources for funding.

Governance

1. The Institute shall be governed in accordance with University policies including R40.01, CENTRES AND INSTITUTES. If this document and University policy differ on any issue, University policy shall prevail.
2. The Institute will be a Schedule B institute within the administrative purview of the Vice President, Research.
3. The Governance of the Institute will be in the purview of the Institutes's Steering Committee (5 elected faculty members).
4. The policies guiding the affairs of the Institute will be made by simple majority vote of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will have power to include other faculty as members of the Steering Committee by a majority vote.
5. The Steering Committee shall select, by a majority vote, a Director who will be appointed for a 2 year term.

Other Matters

1. The use of the name of the Institute, the administration of the Institute's funds, and the employment of staff shall be the responsibility of the Director and the Steering Committee in keeping with relevant University policies.
2. Contract and grants will be administered in keeping with applicable University policies and procedures. An annual report shall be prepared by the Director and approved by the Steering Committee.
3. The University will be recognized in all publications emanating from the Institute.

Appendix A

Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Preliminary Researcher List ¹

John McDonald (SFU)
Vince Di Lollo (SFU)
Dan Weeks (SFU)
Dave Goodman (SFU)
Ralph Mislberger (SFU)
Neil Watson (SFU)
Allan Thornton (SFU)
Wendy Thornton (SFU)

Doreen Kimura (SFU)
Charles Krieger (SFU)
Parveen Bawa (SFU)
Tom Spalek (SFU)
Ivan Torres (SFU)
Richard Wright (SFU)
Larry Roberts (SFU)
Romeo Chua (UBC)

Mario Liotti (SFU)
Naznin Virji-Babul (DSRF)
Digby Elliott (McMaster)
Matt Heath (Indiana)
Arlene Young (SFU)
Jeff Pelletier (SFU)

Ruth Grunau (BCCWH)
Alfons Schnitzler (Duesseldorf)
Timothy Welsh (Calgary)
Hal Weinberg (SFU)
Grace Iarocci (SFU)
Mark Blair (SFU)

1. I expect this list will grow substantially as SFU researchers become more aware of the research infrastructure that will be available to BCNI members