

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Vice-President, Academic

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Vice-President, Academic

RE: Faculty Structure Review

DATE: October 20, 2005

Attached for the information of Senate is a discussion document which outlines a process strategy for proceeding with the consideration of academic unit realignment. Preliminary discussions with the President, Vice-Presidents, Deans and SCUP indicate a general agreement to proceed as outlined.

Attachment (1)

JHW:js

Faculty Structure Review

This discussion document outlines a process for proceeding with the consideration of academic unit realignment. This process assumes completion of initial discussion and agreement amongst the President, VPs and Deans. It is anticipated that the process will conclude by June 2007.

Step 1: Community Notification

- advise SFUFA and other employee groups
- announcement to university community (communication would announce initiative, identify the proposed membership of the task force, its terms of reference, and the overall timeline envisioned)
- inform Senate/Board

Step 2: Establish Task Force

- development of terms of reference by VPA
- Title – Faculty Structure Task Force
- VPA appointment of members (on advice of Deans, SCUP and appropriate others depending on area member will represent)

Step 3: Creation of Discussion Document by Task Force

- discussion document would (i) examine SFU's academic organizational structure, its history, and its suitability to reflect and advance our strategic direction; (ii) provide information on faculty structures elsewhere; (iii) examine realignment initiatives at other institutions, and (iv) develop the principles and parameters that would govern any realignment strategy should there be support to proceed

Step 4: University Consultation Process

- university community will be invited to comment by written submissions, at open discussion meetings, and by presentation from interested units
- this is a first step; process can be terminated at this point if there is insufficient support to proceed

Step 5: Development of Recommended Realignment Strategy

- (if consultation process provides support for continuation of initiative) conduct a detailed examination of the financial and programmatic implications of alternative structures

Step 6: University Consultation Process

Step 7: Final Recommendation and University Approval Processes

Step 8: Implementation

- identify, if necessary given the anticipated magnitude of implications of the realignment strategy, a working group to implement the realignment strategy

The composition of the task force would be as follows:

- Chair (Vice President, Academic)
- Six faculty members (appointed by the VPA on the advice of the Deans and SCUP – based on disciplinary orientation)
- Director, Academic Relations
- Director, University Secretariat
- Two students, one undergraduate and one graduate
- Secretarial support from the VPA office

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