

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate

FROM: J. H. Waterhouse, Chair,
Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning

SUBJECT: Admission of Associate Degree Students from BC Colleges and University Colleges

DATE: February 13, 2003

In 1991, Senate approved a policy whereby students who had completed the requirements for an Associate Degree from a BC College or University College and who had an admission GPA of 2.00 or more would be granted admission to SFU.

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SEMP) at its meeting of February 5, 2003 gives rise to the following motion.

Motion 1:

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that commencing in 2004-3, the minimum admission average for Associate Degree students will be allowed to float above 2.00 and will be established each semester at 0.25 GPA points less than that required for regular transfer students.

BACKGROUND

At the time the current Senate policy was approved, it was envisioned that the number of Associate degree students seeking admission would be small in relation to the number of regular transfer students. This is no longer the case. In 2002/03, 490 students transferred to SFU with an Associate Degree, nearly 30% of all transfer students.

Analysis of the incoming transfer students shows that the average admission GPA of Associate Degree students is about 2.64 and for regular transfer students about 3.19. Roughly 15% of the Associate Degree students are admitted with a GPA of 3.00 or more while about 70% of the regular transfer students have a GPA of 3.00 or more.

The disparity in admission grades has the natural consequence that regular transfer students outperform associate degree students academically at each stage of their progress through SFU and graduate with higher grades.

It should be recognized that the academic performance of associate degree students is in fact better than that the regular transfer students, if one controls for admission GPA. Also, it can be argued that the set of college courses taken by associate degree students is harder, more likely to meet W, Q and B criteria, and supply a better grounding for degree completion than those courses taken by regular transfer students. This is manifested in the respectable degree completion rates for Associate degree students. For these reasons we should encourage college students to take associate degrees by allowing for a lower admission GPA than for regular transfer students. A careful analysis of the performance data for both groups was carried out and indicated that a differential of 0.25 was warranted and would result in similar post-transfer performance at SFU.

Analysis of Academic Performance
B.C. College Transfer Students
Associate Degree vs non-Associate Degree Students

Currently at SFU, transfer students from B.C. colleges with an associate degree (BCASD) are admitted with a GPA of 2.00 or higher. For those without an associate degree (BCCOL), specific minimum averages are set depending on intake quotas. The issue is whether this admission policy still makes sense in light of the fact that the number of students admitted as BCASDs is growing at a rapid rate.

In 1999/00, BCASDs made up 10% of all B.C. college transfers. In 2002/03, this proportion has grown to 28%. In raw numbers, the number admitted as BCASD has grown from 145 in 1999/00 to 490 in 2002/03. This is a 240% increase.

The purpose of this report is to compare the academic performance of BCASD and BCCOL students after admission to SFU.

This report splits BCCOLs by those who are admitted with fewer than 30 transfer hours and those who have completed 30 or more transfer hours. Those admitted with fewer than 30 hours are quite small and while the data will be reported separately for this group in the enclosed tables, the analysis will deal mainly with BCCOLs who complete 30 or more transfer hours before coming to SFU.

Table 1 summarizes the admission of BCASDs and BCCOLs over the last 4 years and shows the rapid growth in the admission of BCASDs.

Table 2 provides information on the average number of transfer credits these students come to SFU with. On average, BCASDs are admitted to SFU with approximately 60 transfer credits from a post-secondary institution. BCCOLs are admitted with just under 50 transfer credits.

Table 3 shows that 10-16% of BCASDs are admitted to SFU with an admission GPA of 3.00 or higher each year. For BCCOLs, 61-77% are admitted with a GPA of 3.00 or higher. The average GPA of BCASDs admitted is 2.64 over the last 4 years. For BCCOLs, the average is 3.19.

At graduation from SFU, the CGPA of BCASDs continues to be lower than the CGPA achieved by BCCOLs. On average, the CGPA of BCASDs at time of graduation is 2.88. For BCCOLs, the average CGPA is 3.06.

Table 3 shows that a higher proportion of BCASDs graduate from SFU. 53% of the 1999/00 BCASD cohort has graduated vs 42% of BCCOLs. For the 2000/01 cohort, the graduation rate is 22% vs 15%, respectively. The fact that BCASDs have more credits at time of admission (see Table 2) explains much of this discrepancy.

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Tables 4 and 5 provide information on the academic performance of BCASDs and BCCOLs as they progress through SFU. The average CGPA for these students is shown by number of credit hours completed. This table shows that BCCOLs outperform BCASDs at each stage of their progress through SFU. In this analysis, the graduation CGPA is based on the semester a degree is completed if a student completes both a degree and another credential, such as a certificate or diploma. If a student is pursuing both a degree and a certificate/diploma and the student is awarded the certificate/diploma, the graduation CGPA is based on completion of the certificate or diploma.

Table 6 provides information on students who have not graduated from SFU as of January 11, 2003. An average of 58% of BCASDs who have not yet graduated are in good academic standing at SFU. For BCCOLs, 75% are still in good academic standing.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
NEW BCASD AND BCCOL STUDENTS ADMITTED AND REGISTERED AT SFU
1999-2 TO 2003-1
 source: bcasd.qts

Table 1
Summary by Year of Admission and Basis of Admission Category

Year	BCASD	BCCOL(<30)	BCCOL(>=30)	Total	%BCASD
1999/00	145	16	1,304	1,465	10%
2000/01	245	16	1,466	1,727	14%
2001/02	333	13	1,118	1,464	23%
2002/03	490	6	1,257	1,753	28%

Table 2
Average Transfer Credit Hours by Basis of Admission Category

Boa	Cohort	TfrHrs	Average Tfr Hours	N
BCASD	1999/00	>=30	61.1	145
	2000/01	>=30	61.4	245
	2001/02	>=30	61.8	333
	2002/03	>=30	62.3	490
BCCOL	1999/00	<30	24.4	16
	2000/01	<30	26.0	16
	2001/02	<30	24.6	13
	2002/03	<30	22.7	6
BCCOL	1999/00	>=30	49.5	1,304
	2000/01	>=30	48.6	1,466
	2001/02	>=30	48.7	1,118
	2002/03	>=30	48.3	1,257

Table 3
New BCABD and BCCOL by Year of Admission and Admission GPA

Eoc	Cohort	Tnt-hrs	Admission GPA					n/a	Total	% >= 3.00	Average AdmGPA	Average GradGPA	#Graduate	%Graduate
			<2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	>=3.50							
BCABD	1999/00	>=30		51	74	14	6	145	14%	2.88	2.84	77	53%	
	2000/01	>=30		105	108	22	10	245	13%	2.81	2.82	54	22%	
	2001/02	>=30	1	120	179	27	6	333	10%	2.62	3.29	2	1%	
	2002/03	>=30	1	188	242	88	13	490	16%	2.88			0%	
BCCOL	1999/00	<30			6	4	4	2	16	50%	3.21	2.82	4	25%
	2000/01	<30			8	8	1	1	16	44%	3.03			0%
	2001/02	<30			3	3	4	3	13	54%	3.27			0%
	2002/03	<30			1	3	2		6	83%	3.31			0%
BCCOL	1999/00	>=30		14	323	706	257	4	1,304	74%	3.20	3.05	554	42%
	2000/01	>=30	1	21	543	859	241	1	1,466	61%	3.14	3.08	217	15%
	2001/02	>=30	4	25	225	814	243	7	1,118	77%	3.22	3.40	14	1%
	2002/03	>=30		27	406	538	287	1	1,257	65%	3.20			0%

Table 4
Comparison of Academic Performance
Average CGPA by SFU Hours Completed

Eoc	Cohort	Tnt-hrs	Average CGPA						atGrad	
			30-hrs	45Hrs	60-hrs	70Hrs	90-hrs	105Hrs		>=120-hrs
BCABD	1999/00	>=30	2.88	2.71	2.77	2.80	2.98	2.89	3.15	2.84
	2000/01	>=30	2.63	2.72	2.78	2.80	2.66			2.92
	2001/02	>=30	2.67	2.85	3.03					3.29
	2002/03	>=30	2.90							
BCCOL	1999/00	<30	2.84	2.78	2.88	2.91	3.13	3.53		2.82
	2000/01	<30	2.78	2.83	2.88	3.31				
	2001/02	<30	3.03	3.03						
	2002/03	<30								
BCCOL	1999/00	>=30	2.89	2.93	2.98	2.99	3.14	3.40	3.44	3.05
	2000/01	>=30	2.88	2.92	3.01	3.08	3.29	3.38	2.91	3.08
	2001/02	>=30	2.95	3.08	3.08	2.90				3.40
	2002/03	>=30	2.95							

Table 5
Comparison of Academic Performance
Number of Students by SFU Hours Completed

Eoc	Cohort	Tnt-hrs	Number of Students						atGrad	
			30-hrs	45Hrs	60-hrs	70Hrs	90-hrs	105Hrs		>=120-hrs
BCABD	1999/00	>=30	118	108	100	32	18	7	1	77
	2000/01	>=30	188	183	117	10	3	0	0	54
	2001/02	>=30	162	57	14	0	0	0	0	2
	2002/03	>=30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCCOL	1999/00	<30	14	13	11	8	5	2	0	4
	2000/01	<30	12	11	6	1	0	0	0	0
	2001/02	<30	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2002/03	<30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCCOL	1999/00	>=30	1,099	1,018	928	444	116	48	9	554
	2000/01	>=30	1,153	891	679	188	21	4	1	217
	2001/02	>=30	647	214	41	1	0	0	0	14
	2002/03	>=30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8
Left Academic Standing of Students who Have not Graduated from SFU

Box	Cohort	Title	Number of Students								Total	%GAS	
			GAS	CAP	INF	ING	OAP	PW	RTW	n/a			
SCABD	1999/00	>=30	35	4		5	5		1	10	4	58	57%
	2000/01	>=30	135	6	1	4	6		2	28	9	191	71%
	2001/02	>=30	258	18	1	2	11			25	18	331	78%
	2002/03	>=30	192	1			52			3	242	490	39%
BOOOL	1999/00	<30	11					1				12	92%
	2000/01	<30	13		1					2		18	81%
	2001/02	<30	10			1	2					13	77%
	2002/03	<30	4								2	6	67%
BOOOL	1999/00	>=30	575	17	5	9	42		4	41	57	750	77%
	2000/01	>=30	1,012	24	3	4	44		3	100	59	1,248	81%
	2001/02	>=30	944	21	1	5	38			40	57	1,104	86%
	2002/03	>=30	757	10		8	117			11	358	1,257	60%

GAS = good academic standing.
 CAP = continuing on probation
 INF = ineligible to register (INF grades last 2 semesters).
 ING = ineligible to register (CGPA < 1.00 last 2 semesters)
 OAP = on academic probation.
 PW = extended withdrawal.
 RTW = required to withdraw.

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 NEW BCASD AND BCCOL STUDENTS ADMITTED AND REGISTERED AT SFU
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**Table 2
 Average Transfer Credit Hours by Basis of Admission Category**

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	2001/02	>=30	48.7	1,118
	2002/03	>=30	48.3	1,257

**Table 3
New BCASD and BCCOL by Year of Admission and Admission GPA**

Boa Cohort	Tri/Yrs	Admission GPA						Total	% >= 3.00	Average		# Graduate	% Graduate
		<2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	>=3.50	n/a			Adm GPA	Grad Cgpa		
BCASD	1999/00	>=30	51	74	14	6	145	14%	2.66	2.84	77	53%	
	2000/01	>=30	105	108	22	10	245	13%	2.61	2.92	54	22%	
	2001/02	>=30	1	120	179	27	333	10%	2.62	3.29	2	1%	
	2002/03	>=30	1	168	242	13	490	16%	2.66			0%	
BCCOL	1999/00	<30		6	4	4	16	50%	3.21	2.82	4	25%	
	2000/01	<30		8	6	1	16	44%	3.03			0%	
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	2001/02	>=30	4	25	225	614	1,118	77%	3.22	3.40	14	1%	
	2002/03	>=30	27	406	536	287	1,257	65%	3.20			0%	

Table 6
Last Academic Standing of Students who Have not Graduated from SFU

Campus	Cohort	Trials	Number of Students											Total	%GAS
			GAS	CAP	INF	ING	OAP	PW	RTW	N/A					
BCASD	1999/00	>=30	39	4		5	5	5	1	10	4			68	57%
	2000/01	>=30	135	6	1	4	6	2	28	9			191	71%	
	2001/02	>=30	258	18	1	2	11	16	25	16			331	78%	
	2002/03	>=30	192	1			52	3	242				490	39%	
BCCOL	1999/00	<30	11				1						12	92%	
	2000/01	<30	13		1				2				16	81%	
	2001/02	<30	10			1							13	77%	
	2002/03	<30	4							2			6	67%	
BCCOL	1999/00	>=30	575	17	5	9	42	4	41	57			750	77%	
	2000/01	>=30	1,012	24	3	4	44	3	100	59			1,249	81%	
	2001/02	>=30	944	21	1	5	36		40	57			1,104	86%	
	2002/03	>=30	757	10		6	117		11	356			1,257	60%	

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