

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

MEMORANDUM

February 13, 1998

To: Senate

From: David Gagan, Vice-President, Academic



Subject: Accountability - Institutional Statement of Purpose

In early January 1998, I made available to the University Community a draft Institutional Statement of Purpose which is to become the central document in our accountability negotiations with the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training.

The document has been revised as a result of suggestions from members of the community. Now I am transmitting it to Senate for discussion before final revision.

I anticipate bringing the final version of this document back to Senate for consideration in May before forwarding it to the Board of Governors for approval.

Attachment

Simon Fraser University

Statement of Purpose

Simon Fraser University integrates teaching and research in an environment that promotes and supports the intellectual curiosity and creativity of outstanding students and faculty. Simon Fraser University is:

enhance and consolidate our research position

I. An internationally renowned research institution with the capacity to create, apply and disseminate knowledge as demonstrated through faculty and student activities, and external recognition and support.

maintain and develop our commitment to teach effectively

II. An institution that recognises the importance of ensuring all students have opportunities to maximize their learning experience through relevant curricula, creative programming, interaction with innovative thinkers, interdisciplinary experiences, and effective and innovative instruction employing a variety of teaching methods.

strive for the highest quality graduate programs

III. An institution that values and supports graduate studies by offering a breadth of graduate programs and making available to its graduate students a variety of research and learning opportunities, adequate financial and academic support, and opportunities for workplace experiences.

provide a breadth of student experiences

IV. An institution whose graduates are creative, contributing and well-informed citizens and leaders as defined by their comprehensive academic specializations, co-operative education experiences, involvement in community activities, participation in advanced research activities, and their ability to think critically and analytically and communicate effectively.

enhance student accessibility

V. An institution defined by its ability to respond with innovation and flexibility to the needs of its many communities as demonstrated by a trimester system, unique interdisciplinary opportunities, Harbour Centre and its programs, distance education, a commitment to life-long learning, and the use of educational technology.

maintain effective infrastructures

VI. An institution that facilitates the development and transfer of knowledge and ideas by strengthening and further developing a comprehensive support system that includes an extensive technological infrastructure, advanced research and teaching facilities and equipment, and direct access to information and knowledge.

pursue institutional co-operation and broad community involvement

VII. A major metropolitan institution committed to collaboration with other educational institutions, the public, private and not-for-profit sectors and the communities in which it resides through partnerships that bring mutual benefits, opportunities to share expertise and exchange information, and participation in community activities.

ensure a strong international presence

VIII. An institution committed to maintaining a strong international presence through involvement in international activities, providing opportunities for international students to study in Canada, and providing international experiences for students.

provide a positive environment for all members of our community

IX. An open and accessible institution that values and supports diversity, provides opportunities for participation, and recognizes and supports the achievements of its employees, students and alumni.