

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

**S.98-44**

*As amended  
by Senate  
11/5/98*

## Memorandum

**To:** Senate

**From:**

David Gagan   
Vice-President, Academic

**Subject:** Proposed Amendments to the  
University Policy on International  
Activities (GP 23)

**Date:** April 23, 1998

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Attached is the proposed revision of GP 23 University Policy on International Activities which has been reviewed and approved by the Senate Committee on International Activities.

### **Motion:**

That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set out in S.98-44 the proposed revised University Policy on International Activities.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 1.0 GENERAL

International activities at Simon Fraser University include: study-abroad programmes for domestic students; an international student presence on campus; student and faculty academic exchanges with foreign institutions; and initiatives taken by individual faculty members as part of their regular research, teaching and service responsibilities; credit and non-credit instructional program delivery; and customized education programs for international clients, delivered either in Canada or abroad. The University also engages in development assistance projects that contribute to an improved quality of life in developing <sup>host</sup> countries, complement the University's academic mission and support the University's role as a responsible and responsive international centre of higher learning.

These activities impose on the University and its members the responsibility to ensure that international activities are consistent with institutional values, especially when the policies and practices of a host government overseas may be subject to criticism.

### 2.0 POLICY PURPOSE

~~Whether~~ Where international activities require approval ~~are sponsored by individuals or~~ by the institution, policy guidance is required to: safeguard the University's reputation; ensure the proper disposition of University resources; ~~and assist in making informed judgements about the desirability of specific international agreements; and ensure that these activities support the~~ University's mission.

This Policy provides conditions, assessment principles and procedures to guide decisions affecting University participation in cases where the institution's name or resources are associated with an international activity.

### 3.0 POLICY APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This Policy applies to all international activities that ~~are to be conducted in whole or in part outside Canada and that are to be undertaken by the University on the basis of a contract, contribution agreement or letter of understanding signed by the President or which require approval by Senate or the Board of Governors~~ are undertaken in the name of the

University and delivered either in Canada or abroad. All international activities undertaken by the University on the basis of a contract, contribution agreement, letter of understanding or similar document require the approval of the Vice-President, Academic, regardless of the delegated signing authority. Where Senate or Board of Governors approval is required, such approval must also be obtained.

3.2 ~~International activities not requiring the signature of the President or approval by Senate or the Board of Governors that are entered into by academic or administrative units shall be compatible with the spirit of this Policy and shall be reported for information to the Senate Committee on International Activities. Where such activities involve credit instruction, they shall require the approval of the Faculty involved and the Senate~~

3.2 Appendix A provides an illustrative list of international activities to which the Policy applies.

~~3.43.3~~ International activities undertaken by individual faculty, staff or students on their own behalf are not covered by this Policy.

#### **4.0 ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES**

The following conditions shall be taken into account when assessing the desirability of entering into an international agreement:

- 4.1 the activity complements the University's academic mission and meets its academic standards;
- 4.2 the activity conforms to all current University policies with particular attention to those policies governing academic freedom, research and ethics;
- 4.3 the activity conforms to the legal rights and obligations enshrined in international laws, covenants and declarations to which Canada is a signatory;
- 4.4 the activity mitigates rather than abets the violation of human rights;
- 4.5 the activity has either a neutral or a beneficial effect on the environment;
- 4.6 the activity supports the equitable participation of women;
- 4.7 the activity supports the participation of minority peoples;

- 4.8 the activity, in both its planning and its implementation, embodies practices that advance partnership with the people most affected by the undertaking;
- 4.9 the activity is designed to protect the safety of University personnel on overseas assignment;
- 4.10 the activity guarantees University control over student access to its study programs; and
- 4.11 the activity acknowledges University authority to select and administer its own personnel.

## **5.0 HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

From time to time, international activities will be proposed in countries where there may be ethical concerns about the possible denial of human rights. It is the University's responsibility to determine to the best of its ability that the activities it engages in contribute to the dignity and well being of its foreign partners and do not act as instruments of abuse.

When assessing the human rights implications of any international activity, the following principles shall apply:

- 5.1 The practices of an international activity taking place within a country governed by an abusive political regime should be assessed on their own merits.
- 5.2 The closer the connection between an international activity and a foreign agency that is known to abuse human rights, or the closer the connection to the offending practices themselves, the less acceptable the University's participation.
- 5.3 Individuals who live under an abusive regime should not be additionally penalized by being denied access to assistance through international cooperation.
- 5.4 The desirability of University involvement in an international activity should increase in proportion to the benefits bestowed locally on individuals and communities as a consequence of the activity.
- 5.5 Without abrogating the University's academic values, the culture of a host country should be taken into account and treated with sensitivity when assessing the human rights implications of an international activity.

- 5.6 While respecting cultural differences, the principle of academic freedom must be upheld in all international activities involving the University and a foreign partner.
- 5.7 International activities should assist local recipients of assistance to make informed judgements about human rights.

## 6.0 THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (SCIA)

### 6.1 Designation

The Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA) is a Standing Committee (Reporting Category "B".)

### 6.2 Membership

<u>Members</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Term</u>
Vice President, Academic (or designate)	Chair	
Senator (Faculty Member)	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Senator (Faculty Member) <sup>4</sup>	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Senator (Faculty Member)	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Senator (At-large)	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Senator (Student) <i>(Undergraduate)</i>	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Graduate Student (at-large)	Elected by Senate	2 years
Secretary (Non-voting)	<u>Executive Director, External Relations</u> <u>Director, Office of International Cooperation</u>	

The Committee shall meet at least once each semester <sup>and</sup> or at the call of the Chair.

Quorum shall be a simple majority of the voting members.

The Committee may strike sub-committees as required, such as the International Student Exchange Committee.

### 6.3 Terms of Reference

- 6.3.1 To ensure that proposals for international activities requiring ~~presidential signature or approval by Senate or the Board of Governors~~ meet the conditions and criteria established by the

*6.3.2 To ensure broad community consultation prior to the final approval of any proposal covered by this policy for which human rights considerations are likely to be a concern.*

University Policy on International Activities, and by the University Policy on Service Contracts.

- 6.3.23 To advise the Vice-President, Academic President with respect to the desirability of entering into international activities ~~that are to be conducted in whole or in part outside Canada and that are proposed to be undertaken by the University on the basis of a contract, contribution agreement, letter of understanding, or similar document signed by the President or requiring approval by Senate or the Board of Governors.~~
- 6.3.34 To maintain an overview and familiarity with international agreements ~~not requiring the signature of the President~~ that are entered into by academic or administrative units.
- 6.3.45 To report annually to Senate.

6.4 Procedures

- 6.4.1 The Committee shall be provided with copies of international activity proposals and whatever other information is needed to administer this Policy, based on procedures to be determined by the Committee.
- 6.4.2 Every proposal shall indicate that it has the approval of the appropriate Chair or Director, and or Faculty Dean and shall contain a statement of goals and objectives, a clear disclosure of the proposed activities and a budget.
- 6.4.3 Proposals shall be accompanied by verification that the prospective parties to the activity have been given a copy of the University Policy on International Activities.
- 6.4.4 Proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary of SCIA for distribution to the Committee.
- 6.4.5 The Committee shall review each proposal to ensure compliance with the University Policy on International Activities and shall recommend acceptance, modification or rejection to the Vice-President, Academic President and/or to the Senate, as may be required. Where approval of the Senate or the Board of Governors is required, the Vice-President, Academic shall inform the appropriate body(ies) of the Committee's recommendation.
- 6.4.6 ~~International agreements not requiring the President's signature that have been entered into by academic or administrative units shall be reported for information to the Senate Committee on~~

~~International Activities by the Secretary of SCIA. For this purpose, it is the responsibility of the signatories to such agreements to provide the Secretary with appropriate documentation.~~

6.4.67 Where there is concern on the part of SCIA that any international activity which uses the University's name or resources may be in non-compliance with this Policy, the Committee shall be entitled to receive further information and shall report to the Vice-President, Academic, President regarding any violations that may be discovered.

6.4.78 Copies of international activity contracts or other agreements shall be ~~provided to kept on file in~~ the Office of International Cooperation ~~and where they shall be kept on file and be open for~~ inspection by members of the University community.

## **7.0 INTERPRETATION**

Questions of Policy interpretation or application shall be referred to the President whose decision shall be final.

## APPENDIX A

### Illustrative List of International Activities to Which the Policy Applies

The Policy applies to all international activities undertaken in the University's name except where explicitly excepted, such as research activities requiring the approval of the Vice-President, Research.

Examples of international activities to which the Policy applies, include:

- cooperation agreements between institutions
- university arrangements governing graduate and undergraduate student exchanges, study abroad opportunities for domestic students, and non-credit international study tours
- education and training programs for international clients
- arrangements for the delivery, sale or licensing outside Canada of the University's credit and non-credit courses, and degree completion programs
- international service contracts.
- international development assistance projects
- international development projects funded by the International Development Research Centre
- commercial, joint-venture partnerships that use the University's resources or that trade on the University's name and reputation

International research projects undertaken in the name of the institution shall adhere to the spirit of this Policy and shall be submitted for review, or reported for information to the Senate Committee on International Activities, at the discretion of the Vice-President, Research.