

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC
MEMORANDUM

S.92 - 44
*As amended by
Senate July 6/92*

To: Senate
From: J.M. Munro, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning
Subject: Proposed Policy on International Activities
Date: 17 June, 1992

At the March meeting of Senate, there was discussion about the need for the University to have a policy to govern the establishment of relationships with overseas governments and institutions. The Chair indicated that a policy would be prepared for consideration by Senate.

Gregg Macdonald, Director, International Cooperation has prepared the proposed policy which includes assessment guidelines and human rights considerations. The proposal calls for the establishment of a new standing committee of Senate: the Senate Committee on International Activities. This Committee would review proposals to ensure compliance with the policy and would make recommendations to the President.

The policy has been reviewed by the Deans and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning has recommended the following action:

Motion: "that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set out in **S.92-44** the proposed policy on International Activities, and that when the Board has approved the policy, the Senate Committee on International Activities shall be established."

J. M. Munro

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
MEMORANDUM

To: J.M. Munro, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning

From: Gregg Macdonald, Director, International Cooperation

Subject: Draft Policy on International Activities

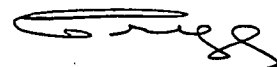
Date: June 8, 1992

The University is becoming increasingly active in international programming through a growing number of academic exchange relationships, development research initiatives and aid projects. In 1985, the Office of International Cooperation was established to provide support services and the President's Advisory Committee on International Cooperation (PACIC) was created to ensure that institutionally-based international programmes properly reflected the University's academic interests. PACIC drew its membership from all Faculties and was responsible for making "recommendations to the President concerning the desirability of entering or not entering into specific contracts and agreements."

During 1987, several specialized program committees were set up with their members chosen to reflect area expertise relevant to individual projects. These included the the Certificate in Chinese Studies Program Steering Committee and the Indonesia Project Advisory Committee. In the same year, PACIC was disbanded and its responsibilities were assumed by the Committee of Deans, chaired by the Vice President, Academic.

Between 1986 and the end of the current calendar year, it is anticipated that the University will have received approximately \$60 million in externally-funded contracts and contribution agreements to support Official Development Assistance projects. Additional funds are committed to support student and faculty exchange activities and to undertake development research projects. Given the magnitude of international activities within the University, their effect on academic planning, and concerns linking development to human rights, it is appropriate that Senate should play a role in ensuring that institutionally-sanctioned international activities are consistent with the University's academic and other institutional values.

The draft Policy on International Activities which I have attached has been reviewed by the Deans and amended on their advice. I propose that it be placed before the Senate Committee on Academic Planning for consideration.



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, academic exchange agreements with foreign institutions, and initiatives taken by individual faculty members as part of their regular research, teaching and service responsibilities. The University also engages in development assistance projects that contribute to an improved quality of life in developing 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 international activities 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.

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 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.
- 3.2 International activities not requiring the signature of the President 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. Where such activities involve credit instruction, they shall require the approval of the Faculty involved and Senate.

- 3.3 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)	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)	Elected by and from Senate	2 years
Secretary (Non-voting)	Director of International Cooperation	

The Committee shall meet once each semester or at the call of the Chair.
Quorum shall be a simple majority of the voting members.

6.3 Terms of Reference

6.3.1 To ensure that proposals for international activities requiring presidential signature meet the conditions and criteria established by the University Policy on International Activities.

6.3.2 To advise the 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 or letter of understanding signed by the President or requiring approval by Senate or the Board of Governors.*

6.3.3 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.

6.3.4 To report annually to Senate.

* Amendments approved by
Senate Sept 21/92 (see pg.2 of Mins)

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, Director 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 President, and/or to the Senate, as may be required.
- 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.
- 6.4.7 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 President regarding any violations that may be discovered.
- 6.4.8 Copies of international activity contracts or other agreements shall be kept on file in the Office of International Cooperation and shall 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.

As approved by Senate July 6, 1992