SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

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MEMORANDUM

To ..... SENATE

From ..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING

Subject ..... COMPUTING SCIENCE

Date ..... NOVEMBER 17, 1977

At its meeting on 16 November 1977, the following motion was approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning:

"That the status of Computing Science be changed from a Program to a Department."

The rationale for the proposed change is contained in the attached memorandum from Dr. J. Weinkam to Dr. T. W. Calvert dated September 29, 1977.

To   SENATE   From   SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the
          Board of Governors that the status of Computing
          Science be changed from a Program to a Department."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To	Dr. T. W. Calvert Dean, Interdisciplinary Studies	**From**	Dr. Jay Weinkam
Subject	Departmental Status	**Date**	September 29, 1977.

At the Program Council Meeting of September 20th a motion that the Computing Science Program change its status from Program to a Department was passed without dissenting vote. The rationale for wishing to make this change include the following:

1. The Computing Science Program has now reached a level of maturity which warrants the change to Departmental status. The introduction of the Undergraduate Program is now complete and we are about to introduce a Graduate Program. Unlike other Programs in the university, Computing Science has faculty members with full time appointments in the Program. The number of full time and joint appointments has grown to the point where there are ample faculty members to manage the affairs of the Program without need of a separate Steering Committee.

2. The designation Computing Science Program leads to a certain amount of confusion in those outside the university. Usually, such a designation is applied to a coherent group of courses within some other department. It is not uncommon to see Computing Science Programs within Department of Mathematics or Schools of Electrical Engineering. As well, in many universities the designation program is applied when course of study in a new discipline is first introduced. As a Program grows and develops it eventually achieves Departmental status. Thus, the designation Computing Science Program tends to mislead outsiders as to the nature and scope of Computing Science at Simon Fraser University.

3. For all intents and purposes, the Computing Science Program already functions as a department. The role of the Steering Committee has diminished to the point where it has not met in approximately a year.

In accordance with our recent telephone conversation, I would like to arrange a meeting of the Steering Committee to seek its endorsement of this proposal.

JJW/dc

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To................ SENATE

From........ D. R. BIRCH

ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

Subject......... DEPARTMENTAL STATUS

Date........ NOVEMBER 17, 1977

Most programs within the university differ from departments in that they have very few courses, very few faculty members (chiefly joint appointments with a "home department" other than the program), and their curricula consist chiefly of courses drawn from existing departments. Typically, a program has a steering committee with membership drawn from related departments.

In addition, the Faculty of Education operates with faculty members appointed to the Faculty but exercising assigned teaching responsibilities in one or more of three program areas (undergraduate, graduate or professional). Budget and personnel are allocated to the Faculty and are under jurisdiction of the Dean rather than Program Directors. Other programs such as the MBA and MPM are contained within a Department and, although such programs have a designated Director, they are not financed or staffed like departments.

The Computing Science Program has a substantial core curriculum although it draws more heavily than many departments on courses developed and offered in other departments. Computing Science has about ten faculty members with regular appointments and five faculty members with joint appointments between Computing Science and a department in Arts, Science or Interdisciplinary Studies. It has graduate and undergraduate curriculum committees and a Departmental Tenure Committee. Its Director has all the responsibilities of a Departmental Chairman. In short, it is funded and staffed on the same basis as any regular department.

By contrast programs in the Faculty of Education, Area Studies programs, the MBA program, the MPM program have less autonomy and operate almost entirely with faculty members whose appointments are not to the Program per se.