

S.72-147

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Subject A PROPOSAL FOR AN INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

Date NOVEMBER 23, 1972

MOTION: "That Senate accept the Proposal for an Institute of Public Policy Analysis, as set forth in Paper S.72-147."

A PROPOSAL FOR AN INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

I. The purpose of an Institute of Public Policy Analysis at Simon Fraser University may be briefly stated as that of providing a forum for the examination of selected problems of Canadian public policy both at the federal and provincial levels, and alternative approaches to their solution. It is intended to provide a situation in which creative minds from the community, government and universities can come together to review and analyze current problems and systems and to make projections and assess the value of alternative approaches to future policy.

In order to attain these objectives, the Institute should have a number of features. First, the Institute will endeavour to place the examination of public policy questions within the main stream of intellectual endeavour, both in Canada and in British Columbia. In providing a centre for the short-term examination of public policy questions, the Institute will marshal the necessary information and assess solutions to these problems. It will also avoid the tendency of permanent problem-oriented centres and institutes to freeze conceptions of social problems and thus to institutionalize social policy around permanent and perhaps outdated perceptions. Second, the Institute will attempt to provide a window to the public on decision-making processes in this country. Thus, it may invite the participation of members of the local community with specific expertise in the areas under discussion in the Institute; and it will also provide, from time to time, public lectures and discussions at which members of the Institute will lay out their problems and their conclusions. Third, the Institute, in pursuing the objectives outlined, will remain independent of government at all levels in pursuing its investigation. It will not undertake contract research or accept direct government funding except under special circumstances, to be determined by the Vice-President, Academic. Thus, funded partly by Simon Fraser University but principally by independent foundations,

the Institute will be enabled to pursue its work unfettered by any kind of outside control. Fourth, it will conduct short-term examination of the problems which it decides to pursue. Thus, these problems will normally be treated within a single academic year and the papers and conclusions emerging from the discussions within the Institute will be collected and published at that time. While it should be obvious that this will not bring to an end all research on a particular topic conducted by those people who have been members of the Institute during a given year, this continuing work will be carried on by the individuals themselves and will not be the responsibility of the Institute.

II. Organization of the Institute

1. Staff -

The staff of the Institute will be divided into continuing and visiting categories. It is anticipated that the continuing staff will be supported by the University while the visiting staff will be supported by external grants. Continuing staff will consist of:

- a. the Director, Research and Planning, who will have final responsibility under the Vice-President, Academic, or his designate, for the overall policy of the Institute and in particular for planning and executing research. As well as conducting a regular University course and continuing his own research the Director of Research and Planning will be responsible for negotiating for funds, encouraging other members of the University to participate in the work of the Institute, advising students and editing the research papers;
- b. the Associate Director, Symposia and Visiting Fellowship Program, who will, independent of his work in the Institute, conduct a regular University course and pursue his own research interests. He will have responsibility for the symposia and visiting fellowship program, outlined

below; will recommend on the selection of the visiting fellows and will, in cooperation with the director, attempt to involve in the work of the Institute interested and qualified members of the local community, both from inside and outside the University. He will also be responsible for the dissemination of the work of the Institute, both through local and national media and other outlets and through the annual publication of the results of its investigations;

- c. a research associate who will be a resource person both for those participating in the annual Institute and for other members of the University wishing to take advantage of his research expertise. Under the Director, Research and Planning, he will conduct the research workshops; and
- d. the remainder of the permanent staff of the Institute, viz., a secretary and a limited amount of secretarial assistance.

The visiting staff of the Institute will generally consist of a number of senior fellows, annual fellows, short-term fellows, and honorary fellows. The exact number will be dictated each year by the requirements of the program and the availability of funding.

2. Research and Teaching -

The research and teaching functions of the Institute will be organized along the following lines. Each year, research and teaching will be conducted around an annual theme, selected by an advisory committee to be established by the Vice-President, Academic in consultation with the director and associate director of the Institute. Projections of these themes and planning for their investigation will be made two years in advance.

Around this theme, the following activities will be organized:

- a. A visiting lecturer program -

Each year public lectures will be given by the short-term fellows, visiting the Institute for one

semester. These fellows will be expected to make a major commitment to prepare their papers for publication and be asked to participate in a course or seminar given in the University as well as being required to lead a research workshop in the Institute. They will also participate, together with the annual fellows, in the symposia.

b. Research workshops -

A small number of research workshops led by Institute fellows in cooperation with the Director of Research and Planning and the research associate will be conducted. Invited participants will include Faculty and graduate students with interests in the area under investigation. The workshops will be related to the research being conducted in this area in the University.

c. Faculty-Graduate seminar -

The director and associate director of the Institute will conduct one faculty-graduate seminar around the annual theme. Invited participants will include faculty members and graduate students with specific interests in the area under consideration.

d. Symposia -

The major formal activities of the Institute will be concentrated every year in two annual symposia, lasting approximately ten days each. These will be organized by the associate director and a senior visiting fellow; and the participants will include, in addition to the permanent and visiting staff of the Institute, a number of honorary fellows from British Columbia, a small number of known leaders in the field and those members of the university community

involved in the Institute's research program. In selecting the participants a balance will be struck between professional and non-professional people representing the community, government and the universities.

The first symposium each year will be regarded as a highly speculative enterprise restricted to acknowledged leaders in the field under investigation, while the second will involve a larger group of people who are affected by or can affect public policy. The symposia will include plenary sessions and workshops and a record of the deliberations will be kept. The final papers produced by each symposium will be edited by the director with a view to publication; and an attempt will be made to inform the general public of the ongoing work of each symposium through the appropriate media.

Academic Planning Committee
November 24, 1972

:ams