

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.71-57

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From B. G. WILSON, VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC
AND CHAIRMAN, SENATE UNDERGRADUATE
ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject COURSE CHALLENGE, S.71-57

Date APRIL 16, 1971

MOTION: "That Senate approve the proposal contained in Paper S.71-57 for Course Challenge for a one-year trial period, and for the courses indicated."

Note: The attached paper is a revision of Paper S.71-37, previously considered by Senate and referred back to the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board.

S. 71-57

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF SENATE FROM: DR. B.G. WILSON, ACADEMIC
VICE-PRESIDENT, AND CHAIRMAN,
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 1971
REVISED: APRIL 8, 1971

SUBJECT: COURSE CHALLENGE

During its consideration of the Ellis Report, Senate approved in principle a programme of Course Challenge. The Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board were directed to develop, with interested Departments, a detailed proposal which would be submitted to Senate for approval. It was suggested in the Ellis Report that it be implemented initially for a one-year trial period.

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings developed a proposal which was forwarded to Departments for their comments. The Departments were asked if they would participate, what courses would be available for Course Challenge, and what assessment procedures would be used. Only a limited number of replies were received, and not all supported the idea of Course Challenge.

MOTION: That Senate approve the attached proposal for Course Challenge for a one-year trial period, and for the courses indicated.

MOTION

Other Departments wishing to participate could do so by submitting details to the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board.

The attached proposal was approved unanimously by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board.

If this proposal is approved at the May meeting of Senate, in order that it may be implemented during Summer Semester, 1971, S.U.A.B. approved an extension of the Course Challenge registration period to May 21st, 1971.

The following comments, which do not form a part of the motion, are given for the information of Senators.

1. Restriction of number of credits that may be taken by Course Challenge is recognition that university experience involves more than accumulation of credit.

2. The freedom to elect to offer or not to offer the opportunity for Course Challenge should be left entirely to the department involved. There is no indication in the Ellis Report that Course Challenge is to be forced on all departments in the University.
3. Revoking a student's Course Challenge privilege after he has had two unsuccessful challenges is to prevent frivolous abuse of the Course Challenge procedure.
4. An examination fee appears to be in order. It is proposed that this be equal in magnitude to the regular per unit fee for registration. If this is not done, Course Challenge may be abused for the purpose of avoiding fees.
5. Course Challenge credit should not be involved in semester load, or semester or cumulative grade point average. This would cloud scholarship, Canada Student Loan and other matters related to semester load.

Encl.

COURSE CHALLENGE

Course Challenge is a method by which a student may obtain credit for course material which he has learned elsewhere (i.e. outside the University). Course Challenge credit is not normally available for courses which a student audits and subsequently decides to take for credit.

IMPLEMENTATION

Immediately on approval by Senate.

COURSES AVAILABLE

Course Challenge is available on any course so designated by a Department and approved by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board. The following courses are available initially:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Availability</u>
Biology	All courses, except research courses.	Every semester.
Chemistry	104, 105.	Summer, 1971.
Geography	All courses.	Every semester.
Mathematics	141, 151, 152.	Any semester in which they are offered. (Currently, every semester).
Modern Languages	French 151, 152) 201, 202) German 102, 103) 201, 202) Russian 102, 103) 201, 202) Spanish 102, 103) 201, 202)	Every semester.

Notes on Modern Language Challenges:-

1. A student is allowed a maximum of 8 semester hours of course challenge credit in each of the above languages.
2. A student would be given full credit for the language course successfully challenged, plus the course immediately preceding it in sequence, assuming that this has not already been taken for credit in the regular manner.

N.B. A student who is excluded from language courses below the 300 level because of his native, or near native fluency in a language (see Calendar, Page 132) will automatically be given 8 hours of unassigned credit in that language.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The student is subject to an assessment equivalent to the final examination for the course, plus an interview which may include an oral and/or a practical examination, all to be arranged and approved by the Chairman of the Department involved.

RULES

1. A maximum of 60 semester hours of credit may be obtained by the combined mechanisms of Course Challenge and Transfer Credit.
2. A student is not entitled to register for Course Challenge credit if he has previously applied unsuccessfully for Course Challenge credit in two courses.
3. A student must register for Course Challenge credit during the period allowed for addition of courses in the particular semester (but see note above concerning extension for Summer Semester, 1971).
4. The statement of the final disposition of the Course Challenge attempt must be submitted to the Registrar on or before the last day for submission of regular grades in the same semester.

PROCEDURE

1. Student obtains Course Challenge Registration Form (CCR) from Registrar's Office.
2. Student seeks approval of Department Chairman to register for a course challenge in that Department. Approval indicates willingness of the Department to administer the necessary examinations and interview for that student.
3. Student returns CCR to Registrar's Office. Fees will be assessed as if he were registering in the course in the normal way (that is, on the total number of hours for which he is registered in that semester, both normally and for course challenge).

4. If the student fails to achieve the minimum satisfactory standard, a notation to that effect is conveyed to the Registrar for inclusion in his dossier. No notation appears on the student's transcript. If he fails to undertake the assessment, that information is conveyed to the Registrar, also for inclusion in his dossier, but not in his transcript.

5. If the student performs successfully, the department forwards a notation to that effect to the Registrar for inclusion in normal fashion in his transcript entry for that semester. The grade should be signed by the examiner and the Department Chairman. The entry "CC" goes into the grade column, with an explanatory note on the transcript. Grade points are not calculated, nor are units used in the computation of grade point averages.