

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

S.92-79

Amended by
Senate Dec 7/92

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Senate
From: Judith Osborne, Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Holiday Scheduling
Date: November 23, 1992
Subject: Report of Ad Hoc Committee

Committee Membership: Jon Driver
Ron Heath
Judith Osborne
Evelyn Palmer
Shawn Smith
Bill Yule

The committee met on Thursday Nov. 19th to consider the motion referred to it at the November meeting of Senate:

"that future semester schedules should elect Friday for holiday observance instead of Monday whenever a nominal holiday date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, except in the case that the Friday is also the last day of lectures for that semester, in which case the succeeding Monday should be elected"

The committee acknowledged that the problem for courses which met on Monday was a significant one where holiday observances resulted in three classes being missed in any given semester. Relocating the holiday to a Friday, however, would simply shift the burden to another group of students, albeit a smaller one. It would also create serious problems for faculty, students and support staff where family members had Monday as a holiday. Not only would they lose family time, but there would be difficulties in making daycare arrangements. The change to a Friday holiday would also have to be negotiated with employee groups on campus.

The committee considered other ways of dealing with this problem. The first was the possibility of starting fall classes the week before Labour Day with the semester ending on the Monday of what is currently the final week of classes. It was felt that this was an option which would be highly unpopular with both

faculty and students. In particular, students' availability for paid employment during the summer months would be curtailed by a week. (It would also only address the problem where it occurred in the fall semester.)

The second alternative is the one which found favour with the majority of the committee but not with the mover of the referred motion:

"in those semesters where there are three Monday holidays, the semester will end on the Monday of week 14. However, in order to accommodate the minimum requirements for the examination schedule (10 days for exams, 4 days for submission of grades, 2 days to complete semester-end evaluations and mailing of grades) it would sometimes be necessary to have only one day between the end of classes on the Monday and the start of exams."

or those semesters where classes start on Tuesday

It was felt that this was the most satisfactory way to address the problem.