

Simon Fraser University

Office of the President

*Memorandum*

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**To:** Members of Senate

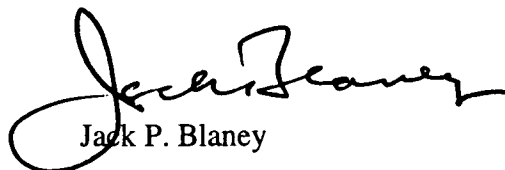
**From:** Jack P. Blaney  
President

**Re:** Values and Commitments Statement

**Date:** December 21, 1999

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I attach two documents, printed back-to-back on a single page, for discussion.

  
Jack P. Blaney

JPB:vr  
attachment  
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# S I M O N F R A S E R U N I V E R S I T Y

Over the past seven months, small groups have been meeting informally at my invitation to offer their personal views about the University and its future directions. Fourteen group sessions brought together well over 150 participants who made up a cross section of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters beyond the campus. Nancy Olewiler, Gregg Macdonald and I listened, took notes and carefully reviewed the discussions. We also read all of the University's main planning documents from the 1970s forward.

We have attempted to distill what we heard and read into one brief statement of *Values and Commitment*. This is not what we set out to do. Our original goal was to consult with our community and draft a statement of mission. But it became clear from those we consulted, at least as a starting point, that it was more important to elucidate the fundamental values and commitments that capture the spirit of our community—an expression about our community from our community.

An earlier form of this statement was discussed with the Board of Governors, Chairs and Academic Directors, and Vice-Presidents and Deans. We now invite comments from all members of our community. You may send them directly to me or present them at the open meetings which we will schedule in January.

As part of the consultative process, I anticipate a discussion at the January meeting of Senate and a presentation of the statement to the Board in March.

From the beginning we attempted to avoid what most universities seem to do when they create mission and other such statements: an avalanche of superlatives; a reliance on "excellence" or "the best" as the definitive characteristics; and a list of every activity and interest in which the University is engaged. Whatever refinements we make will continue to avoid such practice. We want to capture, in one page and in few words, the essence of what you feel defines our University, now and in the future.

While creating this statement, we heard many suggestions about specific initiatives or actions we ought to take over the next three to five years. Early in the new year, for information and discussion, we will send you these suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

  
President

## VALUES AND COMMITMENTS

Intellectual and academic freedom, joined with an open and inclusive community, are the foundations of this university.

Upon these foundations, we promise to engage all our communities in building a robust and ethical society.



Our defining contribution is scholarship: we relish ideas, diversity and discovery.

We champion the liberal arts and sciences and pioneering interdisciplinary and professional programs.

Our students and community can expect teaching that is personal and learning opportunities that are life-long.

We are a university where risks can be taken and bold initiatives embraced; where our spirit challenges the impossible.