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**MEMORANDUM**

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<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate	<b>DATE</b>	December 16, 2009
<b>FROM</b>	Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP	<b>PAGES</b>	1/1
<b>RE:</b>	Annual Report on Fraser International College, 2008/2009 (SCUP 09-62)		

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At its December 16, 2009 meeting SCUP reviewed the attached annual report on Fraser International College from September 2008 to August 2009 and requested it be forwarded to Senate for information.

encl.

c: S. Dench

## **Academic Operations at Fraser International College September 2008 to August 2009**

In September 2008, Fraser International College (FIC) entered its third year of operation. In the first semester of operations (Sept. 2006), FIC offered 5 University Transfer Program courses (UTP II) from Simon Fraser University, and 4 University Transfer Program preparatory courses (UTP I). At the end of the reporting period, FIC was offering 32 UTP II courses and 7 UTP I courses.

### **Enrollment Issues**

FIC is continuing to meet the enrollment projections agreed to with SFU. As of May 2009, FIC had a total of 865 students enrolled. Including the September 2009 intake, the total number of FIC students is now at 1062. Of the FIC students who completed 10 courses as required for transfer, 79 students transferred to SFU for the Fall 2008 semester, 81 students transferred for the Spring 2009 semester, 81 students transferred for the Summer 2009 semester, and another 143 students transferred for the Fall 2009 semester (Table 1 in Appendix A provides the distribution of FIC transfer students across SFU Faculties as of Summer 2009).

The table below indicates the preferred area of interest for FIC students as declared at point of admission to FIC, with the majority of students indicating interest in Business. As with SFU students, areas of interest change as FIC students proceed through their programs, and preferences indicated at admission to FIC do not reflect subsequent admission to SFU programs. The majority of FIC students transferring to SFU enter the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Table 1, Appendix A).

Admission to SFU programs is based on achievement of specific grade point averages published in FIC recruitment materials. Guarantees of admission to students transferring to SFU from FIC are set at 2.5 CGPA for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the School of Computing Science, and 3.0 CGPA for the Faculty of Business Administration. The CGPA for FIC students is calculated on performance on a minimum of ten courses, as determined by the admitting Faculties.

**Total FIC students (as of May 2009, includes new and continuing)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Number</b>
UTP I	76
UTP II Arts	150
UTP II Business	562
UTP II Computing	76
<b>Total (includes 1 study abroad student)</b>	<b>865</b>

Students at FIC now draw from more than 35 countries, as indicated below.

**Students by Country (as of May 2009)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	4
Cambodia	1
Canada (non-res)	12
China	589
France	1
Ghana	1
Hong Kong	66
India	24
Indonesia	2
Iran	1
Japan	18
Jordan	1
Kazakhstan	5
Kenya	3
Korea	29
Lichtenstein	1
Libya	1
Mauritius	3
Mexico	6
Mongolia	1
Nigeria	4
Pakistan	8
Peru	1
Philippines	2
Russia	12
Saudi Arabia	27
Taiwan	19
Thailand	2
Turkey	3
United Kingdom	2
USA	2
Venezuela	3
Vietnam	5
Yemen	4
Zambia	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>865</b>

Students from China continue to form the largest cohort of FIC students, primarily due to two reasons; the relative size of the population in China provides the largest pool of prospective students to Canada, and SFU's continuing excellent reputation in China. However, the geographic distribution of students is broadening over time, and is now better reflecting the geographic diversity SFU is seeking from this flow of international

students. It is expected that the geographic distribution of students admitted to FIC will continue to diversify and, in particular, the number of students from African and Middle Eastern countries and India attending FIC will grow. FIC continues to concentrate recruitment efforts on diversification of countries from which students are drawn.

### **Academic Performance at SFU**

Students transferring from FIC to SFU are being tracked by SFU's Office of Institutional Research and Planning in order to provide semesterly data on academic performance. FIC transfers are being tracked against other international students, and against all other international, undergraduate transfer students.

As indicated in Appendix A, attached, academic performance of students transferring from FIC is equivalent to, or slightly better than, other international undergraduate students, and FIC transfers are carrying an average credit load equivalent to other international, undergraduate students. In recognition of excellent academic performance 18 students transferring from FIC to SFU have received International academic entrance scholarships (for entry to SFU in the Fall 08; Spring 09; and Summer 09 semesters).

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning includes FIC as a college in the range of reports they produce regarding the academic performance at SFU of students transferring from BC colleges. Based on aggregated data collected over academic years, the SFU Profile Reports available through IRP provide a general overview of transfer students, analysis of academic performance at SFU, inter-college comparisons, and comparisons with students admitted directly from B.C. secondary schools. Students transferring to SFU from FIC continue to perform as well as or slightly better than students in comparator groups.

### **FIC Student Life**

Students at FIC are provided with a high level of personal support, both in adjustment to living in Canada and to make the transition to academic studies at SFU.

In addition to receiving pre-arrival information, FIC students are provided with arrival reception services and support finding accommodation. Orientations are held immediately prior to the beginning of every semester. These sessions are both informational and networking, and provide FIC students with the necessary logistical support as they transition to the college. Representatives from SFU Recruitment also participate in FIC orientation processes.

Due to the small college environment, students are known to FIC staff and instructors, which allows for early problem identification and intervention. FIC provides ongoing academic advising to students, and advisors work closely with instructors to address student needs and support retention. Students also access a range of co-curricular workshops throughout the semester in areas such as time management and study skills. Students self-select academic supports, or may be referred to these by their instructors or advisors when a need is identified or suspected.

As part of the supports and academic programming offered to FIC students, a program similar to SFU's English Bridge Program has been established. Preparation in Academic Skills in English (PAS) provides English language training for students who are admitted to FIC but require additional language training to upgrade their facility with English. Upon successful completion of PAS, students then move into the university transfer program at FIC. The PAS program has been developed and supervised by the Director of SFU's English Bridge Program and operates at the same academic level as EBP, in order to ensure the students are adequately prepared for study in English at SFU. There were 101 students in this program in the reporting period.

As students move toward completion of their studies at FIC and prepare applications for admission to SFU, customized information sessions with SFU representatives are conducted for students. In these sessions, students are provided with information about the application process, majors, course selection, and other academic advising as required.

With support from the FIC administration, students at FIC formed a group to provide leadership and social organization for their peers; the FIC Student Committee. The Student Committee meets at least once per semester, with additional meetings as required for event planning. All committee members serve as Students Leaders and volunteers at events such as orientation and graduation. There are currently 5 students on the committee.

The Student Committee provides feedback to the FIC administration on student issues heard from their peers, and the group brainstorms ideas for possible implementation at FIC in the future. With support from the FIC administration, the committee has undertaken planning social activities for FIC students but do find this challenging as they balance these activities with their academic obligations. FIC surveys students regarding college life and academic issues. The summary of the FIC student survey is shared with the Student Committee and, where possible, student recommendations are implemented. Although students have been encouraged to consider involvement in governance and political issues, the student group has not chosen to pursue this as part of their activities.

In Fall 2009, FIC instructors awarded the first FIC Faculty Award presented at the graduation ceremony to one UTP II student, in recognition of the student's academic excellence and significant contributions to college life. The award included a scholarship toward SFU tuition, and was entirely financed by FIC instructors. The recipient of the award was chosen by a committee of FIC instructors and based on a competitive application process. The award will be annual, maintained by FIC instructors, and contribution to the scholarship fund is purely voluntary.

### **Instructional Issues**

Course offerings and number of sections continue to grow at FIC, to keep pace with growth in enrollments. FIC has now added a small number of 200 level courses, in consultation with the SFU departments. Beginning in Fall 2009, BISC 100 was also

added as a new course. Growth in the number of students and courses offered necessitated the addition of classroom space for FIC beyond the MTF building. To accommodate the growth, SFU constructed a modular building of five mid-sized classrooms, a classroom suitable for some limited first-year science courses, additional meeting rooms, and advising space. This space opened for FIC use in June 2009.

**Courses and student headcounts per course (as of June 2009)**

BUS 251 (5 sections)	179
BUS 272	31
CMNS 110 (2 sections)	62
CMNS 130	25
CMPT 120 (2 sections)	74
CMPT 125	31
CMPT 150	30
CRIM 101 (2 sections)	56
CRIM 220	8
ECON 103 (6 sections)	243
ECON 105 (6 sections)	239
ECON 260 (2 sections)	70
ENGL 101 (4 sections)	101
ENGL 105 (5 sections)	129
HIST 102 (2 sections)	71
HIST 204	15
HSCI 160	34
KIN 140 (2 sections)	54
LING 110 (2 sections)	72
MACM 101 (2 sections)	73
MATH 100 (5 sections)	186
MATH 151	32
MATH 152	39
MATH 157 (4 sections)	146
PHIL 001 (6 sections)	236
POL 100 (2 sections)	62
POL 241	18
PSYC 099	22
PSYC 100	24
STAT 203 (3 sections)	119
WL 102 (3 sections)	112
WL 201	20

**Feedback Mechanisms**

FIC instructors are employed by FIC, and have qualifications comparable to SFU sessional instructors. Many of the instructional staff hired by FIC are also teaching at SFU or local public colleges, most have previous experience teaching international students, and instructors have been recommended to FIC and/or approved by the relevant SFU department. In the current fiscal situation, teaching at FIC has provided good sessional instructors an opportunity to maintain a close connection to SFU in circumstances where SFU has not been able to provide employment. SFU departments also benefit from continued connection to these instructors.

FIC regularly collects informal feedback and formal course evaluations from course coordinators (who are SFU faculty members), instructors, and students at the end of every semester in which courses are offered. Instructor feedback focuses on the overall quality of student performance, the degree to which course material was suited and challenging to the students, and any other issues instructors find relevant to course management. FIC instructors have frequently commented in their feedback to SFU course coordinators that student performance at FIC is within reasonable expectations for university level work, and achievement for FIC students is at a level comparable with international students taking university-transferable courses at other BC colleges.

SFU departmental course coordinators provide advice and regular liaison with FIC instructors and administrators in order to ensure academic equivalency of FIC courses. SFU academic units whose courses are taught by FIC appoint a course coordinator at least 4 weeks prior to the beginning of the semester.

Course coordinators are asked to provide comment on any issues relevant to ensure ongoing course equivalency and maintain academic standards, and are specifically asked to comment on instructor-student dynamics and academic comparability of FIC students to SFU students. Overall, course coordinators have stated that FIC students are performing on a level equivalent to other international students admitted directly or transferring to SFU from other colleges, and that the academic standards in the FIC courses are equivalent to those at SFU.

Student feedback on evaluations has indicated that the majority of students find the courses interesting and challenging. Students have also noted their appreciation of the academic supports provided, related to the pedagogy, instructor availability, and the co-curricular offerings at FIC.

#### **Academic Advisory Committee**

Chaired by SFU's Vice President Academic, the AAC has met once a semester since the opening of FIC. The membership and terms of reference of this committee are included in this report. Issues addressed at meetings include regular semesterly reports from FIC on enrollment and academic performance, and discussion of the quality assurance mechanisms in place to maintain academic standards equivalent to SFU's.

#### **SFU-FIC Academic Advisory Committee:**

##### ***Membership***

##### ***Chair***

*Jonathan Driver*

##### ***Three (3) members nominated by the University***

*Tom Grieve*

*Colleen Collins*

*Nancy Johnston*

##### ***Three (3) members nominated by the College***

*Bev Hudson*

*Barbara Davis-Leigh*

*Victoria Heron*  
**Committee management**  
*Sarah Dench or designate*  
*Recording secretary*

***Terms of Reference***

*The Academic Advisory Committee shall be responsible for providing advice to the College and the University regarding the University Transfer Program. It will also decide on:*

- the manner in which reports are referred back to each of the University and the College;*
- the frequency with which it meets, and*
- establishing its terms of reference which shall include provision for regular consultation with students.*

*This Committee will be responsible for tracking and reporting on the following:*

- 1) The academic performance of students who transfer from FIC to SFU;*
- 2) The number of students who transfer to SFU, their country of origin, the programs into which they transfer, and the number who transfer to other institutions;*
- 3) SFU will report annually on activities taken to increase international student recruitment and retention.*
- 4) An analysis of increases to departmental workloads resulting from academic oversight of FIC;*
- 5) Any concerns that FIC instructors have regarding working conditions;*
- 6) FIC will provide statistical information to SFU regarding diversity, including issues such as disability accommodation.*

*In the case of unresolved disputes related to academic matters such as academic dishonesty, academic appeals, disability accommodation, and academic freedom, the AAC will review, and facilitate resolution. In seeking resolution, the AAC will be guided by SFU's policies and regulations.*

*The AAC will meet semesterly.*

Academic Status of Students who Enter SFU from the Fraser International College (FIC):  
Status at the End of the Summer 2009 Term (1094) of Students who Registered in 1094.

Table 1: Students from FIC (see note 1)

	#	Average	% of Students
<b>Number of Students (see note 2)</b>	249		
<b>Average Credit Load (see note 3)</b>	9.9		
<b>Average CGPA (see note 4)</b>	2.54		
<b>Academic Status (see note 5):</b>			
GAS	215		87%
OAP/CAP	25		10%
EAP	8		3%
RTW/PW	0		0%
N/A	1		
<b>Faculty (see note 6):</b>			
APSC	19		8%
ARTS	120		48%
BUS	98		39%
EDUC	0		0%
ENV	0		0%
FCAT	9		4%
HSCI	1		0%
SCI	3		1%
<b>Intake Semester:</b>	<b># Registered This Semester</b>	<b># In Original Cohort</b>	<b>% Still Registered</b>
Fall 2007	15	18	83%
Spring 2008	22	27	81%
Summer 2008	13	16	81%
Fall 2008	60	83	72%
Spring 2009	64	78	82%
Summer 2009	75	77	97%

Notes:

- FIC students are those students who have transferred at least 24 credits to SFU from the FIC.
- Registration numbers are as of the end of week 3 of classes.
- Creditload: Average number of academic credits students are taking this term.
- CGPA: Cumulative Grade Point Average
- GAS: Good Academic Standing  
OAP/CAP: On/Continued Academic Probation  
EAP: Extended Academic Probation - These are students who ought to be RTW (Required to Withdraw), but who have been permitted to stay at SFU by joining the Student Success Program. At present, this program is available to all undergraduate students at SFU, but prior to Summer 2009, it was available to students in the Faculties of Applied Sciences and Science, and to all international students.  
RTW/PW: Required to Withdraw/Permanent Withdrawal  
N/A: Not Applicable - Students with fewer than 9 credits at SFU may not be assigned an academic standing. Also, students who are only taking practicum and certain other types of specialty courses in a given semester will not be assigned an academic standing in that semester. Finally, the total number of enrolled students is taken as of the end of the third week of classes. However, students who subsequently drop all of their classes will not be assigned an academic standing for the semester.
- Students registered in more than one Faculty are included in all applicable Faculties.  
APSC: Applied Sciences  
ARTS: Arts and Social Sciences  
BUS: Business Administration  
EDUC: Education  
ENV: Environment  
FCAT: Communication, Art and Technology  
HSCI: Health Sciences  
SCI: Science
- Note that FIC students have only been admitted to SFU since Fall 2007, whereas international students may have been admitted much further in the past. As such, the average student in Table 1 has had less time to experience certain outcomes (such as CAP and RTW) than the average international student in Table 3. Table 2 includes a closer comparison group, of international BC College admits starting in Fall 2007.
- International status is based on Fee Type. International students have types: INTL, SF05, SF14, SF15, SF22, SF24, or SF25.
- FIC intake semester is defined as the first semester in which the student enrolls in a class at SFU (even if the student subsequently drops all classes), and can be no earlier than the term in which the student transferred their credits from the FIC.
- This report is restricted to undergraduate SFU students only.
- Source: Jessica Tiley, Institutional Research and Planning, S:\Jessica\Fraser Intl College Report\fic\_data.prg
- Date: November 11, 2009

Academic Status of All International Students (excluding FIC), Admitted from a BC College, starting Fall 2007 (1077):

Status at the End of the Summer 2009 Term (1094) of Students who Registered in 1094.

**Table 2: All International Undergraduate Students (excluding FIC, see note 1) Admitted from a BC College, starting Fall 2007**

	# / Average	% of Students
<b>Number of Students</b> (see note 2)	397	
<b>Average Credit Load</b> (see note 3)	9.3	
<b>Average CGPA</b> (see note 4)	2.32	
<b>Academic Status</b> (see note 5):		
GAS	313	80%
OAP/CAP	54	14%
EAP	11	3%
RTW/PW	11	3%
N/A	8	
<b>Faculty</b> (see note 6):		
APSC	29	7%
ARTS	215	54%
BUS	81	20%
EDUC	0	0%
ENV	0	0%
FCAT	39	10%
HSCI	2	1%
SCI	34	9%

**Notes:**

- FIC students are those students who have transferred at least 24 credits to SFU from the FIC.
- Registration numbers are as of the end of week 3 of classes.
- Creditload: Average number of academic credits students are taking this term.
- CGPA: Cumulative Grade Point Average
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- Note that FIC students have only been admitted to SFU since Fall 2007, whereas international students may have been admitted much further in the past. As such, the average student in Table 1 has had less time to experience certain outcomes (such as OAP and RTW) than the average international student in Table 3. Table 2 includes a closer comparison group, of international BC College admits starting in Fall 2007.
- International status is based on Fee Type. International students have types: INTL, SF05, SF14, SF15, SF22, SF24, or SF25.
- FIC intake semester is defined as the first semester in which the student enrolls in a class at SFU (even if the student subsequently drops all classes), and can be no earlier than the term in which the student transferred their credits from the FIC.
- This report is restricted to undergraduate SFU students only.
- Source: Jessica Tilley, Institutional Research and Planning, S:\Jessica\Fraser Intl College Report\fic\_data.prog
- Date: November 11, 2009

**Academic Status of All International Students (excluding FIC):**

Status at the End of the Summer 2009 Term (1094) of Students who Registered in 1094.

**Table 3: All International Undergraduate Students (excluding FIC, see note 1)**

	# / Average	% of Students
<b>Number of Students (see note 2)</b>	1431	
<b>Average Credit Load (see note 3)</b>	9.2	
<b>Average CGPA (see note 4)</b>	2.54	
<b>Academic Status (see note 5):</b>		
<b>GAS</b>	1189	86%
<b>OAP/CAP</b>	130	9%
<b>EAP</b>	35	3%
<b>RTW/PW</b>	32	2%
<b>N/A</b>	46	
<b>Faculty (see note 6):</b>		
<b>APSC</b>	184	13%
<b>ARTS</b>	612	43%
<b>BUS</b>	362	25%
<b>EDUC</b>	2	0%
<b>ENV</b>	4	0%
<b>FCAT</b>	120	8%
<b>HSCI</b>	16	1%
<b>SCI</b>	143	10%

**Notes:**

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- Creditload: Average number of academic credits students are taking this term.
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