SFU OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	**DATE**	December 12, 2012
FROM	Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP	**PAGES**	1/1
RE:	Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE) (SCUP 12-49)		

At its December 5, 2012 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE).

Motion:

That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement as an Institute for a five year term.

encl.

c: J. Busumtwi-Sam
    S. Nanji

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Sarah Dench, Secretary Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)	**DATE**	November 20, 2012
FROM	Norbert H. Haunerland	**PAGES**	1/1
RE:	Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE)		

Attached is a proposal from Dr. James Busumtwi-Sam, Chair Department of Political Science for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE).

I recommend approval as a research Institute according to Policy 40.01. Once approved by SCUP the proposal should be sent to Senate and the Board of Governors for information.

Motion:
That SCUP approves the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE) as an Institute for a 5 year term.

Dr. Norbert Haunerland
Associate Vice-President, Research

Attachment

C: Dr. James Busumtwi-Sam, Chair, Department of Political Science

INSTITUTE FOR DIASPORA RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT (IDRE)

Proposal (December 2012)

PREAMBLE

Simon Fraser University's current Strategic Research Plan guides the University "in responding effectively to the changing environment in research opportunities… and promotes SFU's research strengths to government, community partners, and funding organizations". SFU's Strategic Vision is "to be the leading engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement." This commitment to responding to new research opportunities, promoting research to wider audiences, and linking research, community engagement and education provides a platform for the proposed Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement.

CONTEXT

Diaspora literally means a dispersal of peoples. The Institute's working understanding of the concept includes individuals and groups whose attachment to two or more locations within and across national boundaries is expressed through organized activities, connections and networks.

The past decade or so has witnessed a burgeoning of interest in diaspora in academia and in public policy, philanthropy, and business. Within the academy, research into diaspora has become truly multidisciplinary. Once almost exclusively the purview of anthropologists and historians, today scholars from a wide range of disciplines at SFU and elsewhere are conducting research into diaspora. Policymakers and practitioners in government and major international organizations, as well as some of the major national and international NGOs and corporations, are paying increased attention to diaspora, and establishing programs and offices dedicated to engaging diaspora. Several universities in Canada and abroad have established programs, centres and institutes devoted to the study of diaspora including the University of Toronto and Carleton University in Canada, and Oxford University in the UK.

1. PURPOSE

1.1   The Institute's core purpose is to be an internationally recognized institute that combines leading-edge interdisciplinary scholarly research on diaspora with applied/community-based research, and engages in innovative, responsive programming and collaborative dialogue, exchange and partnership with the wider community. These activities build on existing relationships and linakges with diasporic communuties outside the University forged over the past seven years.[1]

To achieve this core purpose the institute will forge closer links among SFU researchers and between SFU researchers and those outside the university; collect, exchange, and distribute information; and conduct research in four key thematic areas. These areas include: the nature and sources of diaspora formation; the scope and impact of diaspora activities across a range of issue-areas; strategies for disapora engagement; and research on the relationship between diasporism and multiculturalism, pluralism, national identity, citizenship, and cosmopolitianism. (Appendix 1 provides more detail on these research activities).

1.2   The Institute is affiliated with Simon Fraser University and conducts its activities in such a way as to enhance the reputation and the programs of the University.

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[1] Since 2005, SFU has successfully engaged a critical mass of diaspora communities most notably through the CIDA-funded *Engaging Diaspora in Development* project, SFU's India Advisory Council, the *Afghanistan Dialogues*, and the *Focus on Africa* series of symposia.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1   The Institute's activities are primarily intended to forge closer links between scholarly research and policy/practice – such that the knowledge gained from research helps inform policy and practice, and the latter helps inform research. The premise is that university-based researchers have as much to learn from practitioners and policymakers as the latter have to learn from researchers; and that these exchanges could in turn inform the work of future actors. The Institute will serve as a node where academic researchers, students, diasporic community leaders and groups, government officials, leaders in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and others exchange knowledge and resources.

3. FUNCTIONS

The Institute will carry out three main functions:

3.1   *Conduct and coordinate interdisciplinary scholarly and community-based research* on diaspora, and provide research-related and research-informed services to diasporic communities and others interested in diaspora. Research will be structured around four thematic areas listed in appendix 1.

3.2   *Incubate diaspora-driven projects* by offering two core services to external partners: capacity-building programs to develop skills and sustainable project concepts/proposals, and channeling funding to seed or scale-up diaspora-driven projects. International projects selected for support by the Institute will be fully consistent with the University's mission, institutional values and practices, as per SFU Policy on International Activities (GP 23). [Appendix 2 provides examples of these incubation activities]

3.3   *Serve as a hub to connect diaspora individuals, communities, organizations and researchers and to exchange knowledge and research* with one another, the Canadian public, and organizations; and to link diaspora to funding and project opportunities, to research and expertise, and to innovation in diaspora-driven initiatives.

4. GOVERNANCE:

4.1   The Institute is constituted as a research institute at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01, comes under the authority of the Vice President Research, and conducts its affairs in accordance with all other University policies. The term of the Institute is five years as per SFU Policy R 40.01.

4.2   An annual report on the Institute's activities and financial status from April 1 to March 31, including the current membership of the Institute, *Steering Committee and Advisory Board,* will be submitted to the Vice President Research by June 30th of each year.

4.3   <u>Membership</u>: The Institute has two types of members:

Full members: Full members are SFU faculty members, staff, and graduate students from various disciplines/academic units actively involved in diaspora-related research and engagement. Full membership will also include at least one representative from the office of the Vice-President, External Relations.

Associate Members: These are representatives of various diaspora-related community organizations and associations, as well as representatives of organizational partners.

Prospective members (full and associate) will apply directly to the Institute's steering committee, which will determine and approve eligibility for membership.

4.4   The Institute is governed by a Steering Committee and headed by a Director. There is also an Advisory Board.

4.5 <u>The Director </u>of the Institute is an SFU faculty member nominated by the Steering Committee and appointed by the Vice President Research. The Director serves a renewable three-year term.

4.6 The Director's tasks include the following responsibility, which he/she may delegate but not abrogate.

- Chair the steering committee
- Oversee Institute activities and meetings
- Oversee finances and approve contracts
- Recruit members
- Hire requisite personnel, including support staff and research assistants
- Prepare annual reports to the VP Research.

4.7 <u>Steering Committee</u>

- Consists of at least 6 faculty members, one graduate student, one staff member, and a representative of the VP External Relations office.

- Members of the Steering Committee serve three-year renewable terms. The graduate student member serves a two-year renewable term.

- The steering committee will be responsible for setting overall priorities, direction and strategic planning for the Institute and oversee the management of its operations. It will support the development of linkages between community stakeholders and funders of the Institute. It is also responsible for approving membership in the Institute. Decisions made by the steering committee are binding on the Director. While it will normally operate by consensus, when necessary it can make decisions by majority vote, including appointment of new members of the steering committee.

- The steering committee may choose to establish various ad hoc committees consisting of the members of the Institute, members of diaspora communities, and partner organizations in order to carry out specific functions of the Institute. These committees will be advisory in nature.

- Initial Steering Committee members are listed in appendix 2.

4.8 <u>Advisory Board</u>

- Consists of 8-10 representatives of diaspora-related community organizations and associations and NGO/business organizational partners who are associate Institute members. Specific criteria for selection of advisory board membership will be developed. The Institute's Director and at least one member of the steering committee sit on the advisory committee.

- Membership is from diverse sectors including: business and finance, health, arts/culture, education, technology, green economy/sustainability, governance/public policy, information and communications, indigenous affairs.

- Its main functions are to serve as the principal liaison between the Institute and the wider communities it serves, and provide advice and information to the Director and Steering Committee on important diaspora-related issues. It may make (non-binding) recommendations to the Director and steering committee.

5. FUNDING

5.1 Initial funding for the establishment of the Institute will be provided by External Relations and other sources.

5.2 Additional and ongoing funding will be secured from sources external to the university.

PARTNERS

Partners of the Institute will include representatives of faculties engaged in diaspora research at SFU, national and international academic institutional partners, diaspora organizations, non-governmental organizations, funders, and public/government agencies. A list of potential partners is outlined in Appendix 3.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

James Busumtwi-Sam, Political Science – 778.782.3729 or jbusumtw@sfu.ca

Shaheen Nanji, External Relations – 778.782.5576 or nanji@sfu.ca

APPENDIX I: PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

1.   Interdisciplinary Research

The Institute will undertake two broad types of research: The first will be the more 'traditional' scholarly research geared primarily towards academic and/or policy audiences.   The second will be 'non-traditional' community-based or 'action' research geared towards serving diaspora communities and other stakeholders.   The Institute will seek to develop innovative ways to tie the two types of research closer together.

The Institute will bring together researchers and graduate students from various academic units and faculties within SFU, as well as link SFU researchers with researchers in other academic institutions, research organizations and think tanks.

The institute will also serve as a centre for the collection, collation and exchange of information on diaspora.   Research findings will be distributed and exchanged through established scholarly avenues (peer reviewed books, journals, etc) and newer avenues including social media via the 'diaspora hub'.

Institute research will be structured around four thematic areas:[2]
* Research on the nature of diaspora and the conditions that affect diaspora formation in Canada and around the world.
* Research on diaspora activities across a range of substantive issue-areas at various scales (local to global) of concern to public and private agencies, and on the impact of diaspora on processes and outcomes in these issue-areas. A non-exhaustive list of these issues include: peace and security; development (poverty, inequality, growth, etc.); environment and sustainability; public health; food and nutrition; human/civil rights and gender equality; indigenous rights; arts and culture; technology and energy; trade, investment, and entrepreneurship.
* Research on the challenges to, opportunities for, and strategies of enhanced engagement of diaspora by public and private agencies.
* Research on the relationship between 'diasporism' and other important normative-ideational and policy frameworks of importance to Canada and many other countries around the world, including the relationship between diasporism and multiculturalism; diasporism and pluralism; diasporism and national identity/cohesion; diasporism and democratic citizenship; and diasporism and cosmopolitanism.

2.   Project Incubator

The purpose of the incubator is to provide support services to projects initiated by diaspora outside SFU, including research, mentoring, project design, planning, implementation and evaluation, as well as financing to seed new ideas or scale-up existing projects. The incubator focuses on diaspora-driven international development initiatives consistent with current development priorities and practices, and offers two core services: a) capacity-building programs to develop skills and sustainable project concepts/proposals, through knowledge exchange, mentorship, and advisory services to selected projects; and b) an investment fund to seed or scale-up diaspora-driven projects. Projects that meet the Institute criteria would be provided with access to the resources of the university – the library, a workspace, and student research assistants in accordance with SFU Policy GP 36: Use of University Space. Selected projects would be supported technically and financially to the point in their development when

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[2]These research areas are relevant to several of the integrative research themes identified in SFU's current Strategic Research Plan including, but not limited to, 'Culture, Society and Human Behaviour'; 'Economic Organization, Public Policy and Global Community'; ' and 'Environment, Resources and Conservation'

they can operate independently and sustainably. The incubator will be operated using external funds raised in accordance with SFU Policy GP 03: Donations, and managed in accordance with SFU Policy GP 20: Service Contracts.

Strategies for funding this component might include:

- Create and manage a fund that supports diaspora programming at SFU through a partnership agreement with a donor (private or public sector). Conceivably, such a partnership might have benefit to an organization that is either charged with serving diaspora populations or relies on diaspora clientele, thus creating an opportunity for mutual benefit from such a fund. In addition to financing start-up projects, the funding would support the capacity-building programming component of the Institute.
- Develop an angel investment network[3] in partnership with a donor and other investors to incubate diaspora-driven development initiatives, social enterprises, and innovations.
- Work collaboratively with other organizations or institutions to develop and support diaspora-based development initiatives that meet the Institute's core mandate.

3.   Diaspora Hub

The diaspora hub will connect diaspora individuals, communities, organizations and researchers with one another; and distribute and exchange knowledge and research to stakeholders and the general public. The hub will develop networks and exchange information through the use of databases, social media, a website, listservs, and public engagement activities, such as a community-based dialogue series.

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[3] Angel investors often make investments in people rather than the viability of the initiative. In many cases they contribute their expertise to the venture to help ensure success. Angel investment networks generally pool their investments to help absorb the risk. For the purpose of the institute the network would be focussed on development initiatives and social ventures.

APPENDIX 2: STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<u>Steering Committee</u>
Robert Anderson, DEVS Program (FENV) & School of Communications (FCAT)
James Busumtwi-Sam, Political Science (FASS)
Alexander Dawson, Latin American Studies & History (FASS)
June Francis, Beedie School of Business
Huamei Han, Faculty of Education
Shaheen Nanji, International Development, External Relations
Ash Parmeswaran, Engineering Science (FAS)
Paul Crowe, David Lam Centre International Communication (FASS)
Joanna Ashworth, Centre for Sustainable Community Development (FENV)
Habiba Zaman, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (FASS)

APPENDIX 2: SFU PARTNERS (Centres, Institutes & Programs)

Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures
Centre for Global Political Economy
Centre for Public Opinion and Political Representation
Centre for Sustainable Community Development
David Lam Centre for International Education
Development and Sustainability Program
Hellenic Studies Program
Institute of Governance Studies
Latin American Studies Program
Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs

APPENDIX 3: POTENTIAL EXTERNAL PARTNERS

<u>Academic Institutions/Research Institutes</u>
Carleton University, Diaspora and Migration Studies
International Diaspora Engagement Agency (IDEA), USAID
Mosaic Institute, Toronto
Oxford University, Oxford Diaspora Programme
University of Ottawa, School for International Development and Global Studies, Dr. Carlo Dade
University of Toronto, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies

<u>Non-Governmental Organizations</u>
British Columbia Council for International Cooperation
CUSO International
Engineers Without Borders
Free the Children
International Centre for Sustainable Cities
MOSAIC
Oxfam Canada
Save the Children
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
UNICEF Canada
World Vision

WUSC
YMCA Canada

Diaspora Organizations/NGOs
African Canadian Social Development Council
BC Young Afghans
Dr. Njenga Foundation for Sustainable HIV/AIDS Projects (Kenya)
Education without Borders (South Africa)
Enspire Foundation (Philippines)
LatinCouver
Maria-Helena Foundation (Pakistan)
Nepal Cultural Society (Nepal)
Peace It Together Society (Israel/Middle East)
Point Youth Media (East Africa)
Ugandan Cultural Association of BC (Uganda)
Umoja Compassion Society (Africa)
Youth Initiative Canada (Kenya)

Government (Canada)
BC Ministry for Jobs, Tourism and Innovation (includes immigration)
BC Advance Education (includes multiculturalism)
Canadian International Development Agency
Human Resources and Development Canada
Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Government (International)
International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, US State Department
USAID
Diaspora ministries in various countries

Private Sector
MentorCloud

Funding Partners
International Development Research Council
Maytree Foundation
S-Vox
This Global Village/Love Global
UN Family of Agencies
Vancouver Foundation
World Bank
(Other foundations, individual and corporate donors to be identified)

Thanks, Valerie.

We will get back to you and Norbert shortly.

Shaheen
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Shaheen Nanji, MA
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On 2012-11-02, at 10:34 AM, Valerie Murdoch wrote:

> Hi Shaheen,
>
> As a follow-up to our telephone conversation yesterday, attached is a copy of your proposal with my comments - See Section 4. Governance.
>
> Once you revise the proposal, please send it to Norbert Haunerland (sfuavpr@sfu.ca) and myself.
>
> Many thanks,
> Valerie
>
>
>
>
> <REVISED - IDRE Proposal_Oct 23 2012.pdf>
>
> On 2012-10-26, at 2:04 PM, Mario Pinto wrote:
>
>>
>>
>> -------- Original Message --------
>> Subject:IDRE proposal for submission to SCUP
>>   Date:Fri, 26 Oct 2012 14:03:53 -0700 (PDT)
>>   From:James Busumtwi-sam <jbusumtw@sfu.ca>
>>   To:Mario Pinto <bpinto@sfu.ca>
>>   CC:Norbert Haunerland <sfu_avpr@sfu.ca>
>>
>>
>> Dear Dr Pinto,
>>
>> Please find attached a memo to you and a copy of a proposal for an Instutute for Diaspora Research and

Library Course Assessments

The Library participates in the course approval process for new courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. By Senate motion (S.93-11) "no new course should be approved by Senate until funding has been committed for necessary library materials." A Library review should be conducted after new course proposals have been approved by the department or school curriculum committee, before being considered by the Faculty curriculum committee. New courses will not be approved at the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) or Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) until a Library review has been completed. Even if the department states that no new library resources are required, a report from the Library is required to confirm this view.

To submit course proposals for review by the Library, forward the following materials to Megan Crouch.

- course proposal forms
- complete course outline
- reading list created for the course, if any
- date of Faculty curriculum committee meeting (or other deadline for library report)

Please send the above materials at least two weeks prior to your deadline.

An assessment will be done to evaluate whether the Library's holdings and present collection development activities are adequate to support the new course. If no new library resources are required, the course will be added to the appropriate list below indicating the library is adequately resourced to support the course.

If additional library resources are required, a full report will be created and linked below, and the associated costs will be identified. The costs may be one-time, to fill gaps in holdings, or ongoing, for example, to start new journal subscriptions, or sustain book collecting in areas not now included in the Library's collection scope. If costs are attached, the department or school is asked to transfer the required funds to the Library's materials budget. Questions about the process can be directed to Megan Crouch.

No Additional Library Resources Required

- Unless otherwise indicated, these courses require no additional library resources based on a course location of SFU Burnaby. In many cases, if the courses were to be offered at SFU Surrey or Vancouver or as off-campus courses, additional Library costs might be involved. Please contact Megan Crouch for details.

Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE)

BUS 719, 723, 724, 725, 726, 729

EASC 311, 609

ENV 400

FNST 353

FPA 184

HIST 463, 476, [358 / IS 358]

HSCI 843

IAT 854, 856

IS [358 / HIST 358]; [845, 855, 865 / HS 845, 855, 865]

KIN 482

PHYS 802

PUB 101, 131, 332, 431

SA 474

URB 615

Completed Library Course Assessments

FPA 186

MA in Comparative Media Arts

Mediterranean and Southeastern European Studies Minor (International Studies & Hellenic Studies)

Senate Approved Library Course Assessments
Senate document numbers appear in brackets where available, e.g. (S.11-7)