

MEMO

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**ATTENTION:** Senate

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**FROM:** Jonathan Driver, Vice-President, Academic & Provost, and Chair, SCUP

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**RE:** Centre for Research on Sexual Violence (SCUP 09-23)

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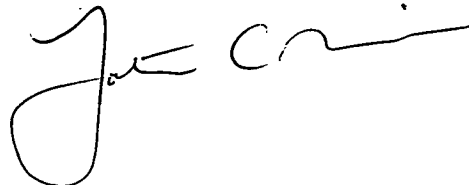
**DATE:** July 20, 2009

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At its May 20, 2009 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the creation of the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence. This Centre will be a Schedule A Centre based in the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

#### Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence as a Schedule A Centre based in the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.



encl.

c: E. Beauregard, P. Lussier

**Proposal: CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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Proposers: Eric Beauregard, Patrick Lussier (School of Criminology, SFU)

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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# CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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## Constitution

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The main objective of the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence is to provide a focal point for research and training for Faculty, scholars, students and practitioners, locally and internationally, on a broad range of sexual violence issues. In association with the School of Criminology, the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence will promote the advancement of knowledge on both the origins and the causes of sexual violence, analyse the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence, and facilitate both the development and the evaluation of programs and methods to prevent the occurrence of sexual violence.

The Centre's key objectives will be:

- a. Initiating, promoting and conducting research on both the understanding and the prevention of sexual violence;
- b. Providing criminal justice intervention program development and evaluation services in the area of sexual violence;
- c. Developing and providing educational and training services such as seminars and workshops on sexual violence topics;
- d. Coordinating and organizing special lectures, seminars and workshops on sexual violence topics delivered by key speakers, scholars, researchers and practitioners;
- e. Developing partnerships with other community and government agencies, institutes or research centres whose aims are similar to those of the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence;
- f. Facilitating the exchange of information between scholars, researchers and practitioners in order to promote research on sexual violence.

## THE NEED FOR THE CENTRE

Canada is one of the world leaders in research on, and the treatment of, sexually violent offenders. Several key developments in the areas of treatment programming and risk assessment originated with researchers working in association with and/or for Canadian non-academic institutions (e.g., the Correctional Service of Canada). Major contributions to an understanding of the causes of sexual violence as well as policy developments and legal responses to sexual violence originated with Canadian scholars working independently across the country. Despite this active Canadian research community, members of which are working on several key sexual violence issues, there is no focal point allowing organizations and academics to share their knowledge and expertise.

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence would play an important role as both a research clearinghouse and a partner for facilitating and sharing knowledge of sexual violence. The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence wishes to maintain Canada's status at the leading edge of research on, and the prevention of, sexual violence.

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence will be the only international, university-based organization in Canada dedicated specifically to research on sexual violence issues. Traditionally, research on sexual violence issues has been primarily conducted in the field of psychology. In recent years, however, a general consensus has emerged amongst academics and practitioners that there is a need to approach sexual violence issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The School of Criminology reflects this multi-disciplinary perspective and is an ideal place to house the Centre.

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence will be committed to providing educational services to inform the community about sexual violence issues and topics. For example, an undergraduate course (Sexual Offenders and Sexual Offences – CRIM.316) has been developed and introduces students to key issues related to an understanding of sexual violence, as well as ways of preventing such violence. Also, a graduate course (Sexual Violence – CRIM.871) has been developed and was offered for the first time as a special topics course during the 2009 Spring Term. The course helps students develop their critical thinking about sexual violence issues, specifically in terms of the challenges and constraints associated with the prevention of sexual violence. It is hoped that this course will be of interest to not only criminology graduate students, but also those in health sciences, psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

## STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN FOR SFU

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence has links with four of the five thematic areas in the Strategic Research Plan for SFU.

### 1. Communication, computation and technology

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence links to the communication, computation and technology theme. The Centre will create a laboratory with leading edge technologies to assess the sexual interests of those who engage in sexual violence. The laboratory will examine and develop new methods of assessing such sexual interests, using several instruments and media, including virtual reality. The Centre will work in collaboration with the Philippe Pinel Institute (a leading psychiatric facility) in Montreal to develop these methodologies many of which have been shown to be of the utmost importance in the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders. Also, the Centre

will work in collaboration with the International Cyber Crime Research Centre at SFU on sexual violence issues, such as child pornography and online sexual predation.

2. Culture, Society, and Human Behaviour

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence also ties in with the culture, society and human behaviour theme. More specifically the purpose of the Centre is tightly linked to social justice, ethics and forensic studies. The Centre will establish a close collaboration with the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies (ICURS) to examine the relationship between the environment and the occurrence of sexual violence and the offending patterns of sexual offenders. Designing and evaluating situational crime prevention programs will be part of this collaboration. The Centre will also work closely with the Centre for Forensic Studies at SFU in developing partnerships to improve the police response to, and the investigation of, sexual violence cases. The Centre will provide its expertise on geographic and psychological profiling to assist law enforcement agencies in solving criminal cases.

3. Economic organization, public policy and the global community

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence will address the economic organization, public policy and global community theme. Examining criminal justice responses to the problem of sexual violence will be an important feature of the Centre. Examining the impact of community risk management and public notification strategies affecting sexual offenders will be amongst the key projects conducted by the Centre, in collaboration with government departments, notably the Correctional Service of Canada, and the B.C. Corrections Branch. Also, the Centre will explore the international problem of human trafficking, specifically for sexual exploitation purposes.

4. Health

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence's activities will have a strong health component. Among the key areas of research for the Centre will be an understanding of both the origins and the development of sexual violence over the life-course of offenders. Members of the proposed Centre are already conducting a large scale longitudinal study in British Columbia looking at the risk factors of childhood sexual abuse and the risk factors of sexual violence perpetration. The study is being conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Social Responsibility and represents a unique opportunity to understand the etiology of this phenomenon.

## GOVERNANCE

- a. The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence shall conduct its activities in accordance with Simon Fraser University policies (R.40.01, Centres and Institutes). If the Constitution of the Centre and University policies differ on any issue, University policy shall prevail.
- b. The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence is a Schedule A Centre (R.40.01) and comes under the direct authority of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. The Dean shall be the administrative Officer responsible for the governance and budgetary accounts of the Centre.

## APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

The Director of the Centre for Research on Sexual Violence shall be appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences under advisement from the Centre's Steering Committee. The term of office for the Director shall normally be three years.

## INTERNAL GOVERNING PROCEDURE

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence will be housed in the School of Criminology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, at Simon Fraser University. The Centre will be governed by a Steering Committee made up of three Simon Fraser University faculty members and two representatives from the community. Members will be appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences on the recommendation of the Centre's Director. Appointments shall be for a three year term with the possibility of renewal. Members of the Steering Committee will include, but not be limited to the following:

- The Director of the Centre
- The co-Director of the Centre
- Two Faculty members representing the School of Criminology
- An individual representing the field of Corrections (e.g., from the BC Corrections Branch, or the Correctional Service of Canada)
- An individual representing the field of law enforcement (e.g., from the Vancouver Police Department or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
- An individual representing victim advocacy programs (e.g., VISAC – Vancouver Incest and Sexual Abuse Centre).

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRE OR RESEARCH ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Centre for Research on Sexual Violence consists of a body of associates not limited to the university community including individuals linked to the Centre through projects and other activities that the Centre both supports and sponsors. Associate members status will be proposed by the Director of the Centre and approved by the Steering Committee. Associate members will be invited to attend the Centre's annual meetings and may work with its members on projects undertaken by the Centre. Below is a list of potential members:

### SFU

- Dr. Eric Beauregard, Criminology
- Dr. Ray Corrado, Psychology
- Dr. Kevin Douglas, Psychology
- Dr. Bill Glackman, Criminology
- Dr. Stephen Hart, Psychology
- Dr. Patrick Lussier, Criminology
- Dr. Sarah Smythe, Criminology
- Dr. Simon Verdun-Jones, Criminology

- Dr. Jodi Viljoen, Psychology
- Dr. Jennifer Wong, Criminology

#### CANADA

- Dr. Howard Barbaree, University of Toronto
- Jesse Cale, Assistant professor, University of the Fraser Valley
- Dr. Franca Cortoni, University of Montreal
- Dr. Jean-Pierre Guay, University of Montreal
- Dr. Martin Lalumiere, University of Lethbridge
- Dr. Kevin Nunes, Carleton University
- Dr. Jean Proulx, University of Montreal
- Dr. Michael Seto, University of Toronto

#### INTERNATIONAL

- Dr. Anthony Beech, University of Birmingham, UK
- Dr. Arjan Blockland, Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, Netherlands
- Dr. Catrien Bijleveld, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Dr. David Burton, Smith College School for Social Work, USA
- Dr. Matt Delisi, Iowa State University, USA
- Dr. David Finkelhor, University of New Hampshire, USA
- Dr. Damielle Harris, San Jose State University, USA
- Dr. Niklas Langstrom, Karoliska Institute, Sweden
- Dr. Benoit Leclerc, Griffith University, Australia
- Dr. Roxanne Lieb, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, USA
- Dr. Tom Mieczkowski, University of South Florida, USA
- Dr. Michael Miner, University of Minnesota, USA
- Dr. Wade Myers, Brown University, USA
- Dr. Thierry Pham, University of Mons Hainaut, Belgium
- Dr. Stephen Smallbone, Griffith University, Australia
- Dr. Tony Ward, Victoria University of Wellington, Australia
- Dr. Franklin Zimring, University of California, Berkeley, USA