

S.91-47

*As amended by
Senate Oct 7/91*

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

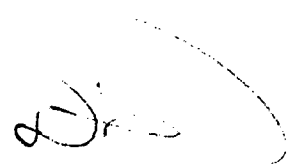
MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: Nick Heath, Secretary
Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board
Date: 1991 09 19

Subject: Procedure for entry of International Students to the
Business Administration Program

As a result of action taken at today's meeting, the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board recommends that Senate give consideration and approval to the following motion:

"That approval be given to the proposal to change the procedure for entry of International Students to major, minor and honors programs in the Faculty of Business Administration, as set out in the enclosed document, SUAB 220, and approved by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board."



/sp

MEMORANDUM

September 19, 1991

TO: Nick Heath, Secretary, SUAB
 FROM: Robert Rogow, Undergraduate Program Director,
 Faculty of Business Administration
 SUBJECT: Requested change in procedure for entry of International
 Students to program

The Faculty of Business Administration requests Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board approval of the procedure for admitting visa students as Business majors, minors or honors students.

The proposed change would eliminate the present pre-clearance by the Admissions office at the time of initial application to SFU. Based on their pre-SFU academic performance, the number of visa students estimated to yield about ten percent of Business's total admissions are accepted into the Faculty by Admissions, conditional upon their subsequently meeting the same standards (CGPA, specific courses, etc.) as resident students. There is no provision for subsequent admission of any other visa students.

All visa students who express an interest in Business upon applying to SFU would be informed in writing of the existence of the ten percent Business quota, the procedure to be followed in selecting students to fill that quota, the recent semesters' minimum CGPA for acceptance of visa students, and any other information necessary to give them an honest and realistic assessment of their chances of securing admission to the Faculty.

Visa students, like resident students, would apply after 30 hours (typically, at between 50 and 55 hours). Qualified applicants would be selected in the same fashion as resident students, but ^{might} require a higher SFU CGPA (one high enough to yield ten percent of all admissions), but not lower than the resident.

Rationale:

- [1] There is some unavoidable unfairness in early selection. Some students with excellent admission GPAs (who received provisional admission to Business) will subsequently perform poorly at SFU. (For example, 2 of the 17 applying for September 91 admission had under 2.7 CGPAs; there may have been others who didn't bother to apply. Some students with weaker admission GPAs will perform well at SFU. (For example, in May 91 there was one student lacking pre-clearance who had a 3.9 CGPA; in September one who had a 3.8).
- [2] Performance in SFU courses--especially those listed as prerequisites for entry into Business--provides a better predictor of success in Business than performance earlier and elsewhere.

- [3] Senate's understandable objective of avoiding misleading visa students into believing that admission to SFU meant admission into Business could be met by the procedures mentioned above.
- [4] At present a high degree of ambiguity and anxiety exists among the large majority of Business-desiring visa students who didn't receive provisional admission. In the past the ten per cent maximum was exceeded; varying numbers of the academically superior students among them were admitted from semester to semester. Varying advice and folklore was disseminated at SFU and the private and public colleges. If admission were to be done by Business after the student had met all prerequisite requirements, the CGPA cut-off would probably be fairly stable and predictable from semester to semester for visa students. (For example, in May 1991, when Canadian residents had a 2.8 cut-off, the top 10 percent of all visa students would have had a 3.3 cut-off. In September 1991, when Canadian residents will have a 2.7 cut-off, the top 10 percent of all visa students would have a 3.1 cut-off.)

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Memorandum

To: Senate
From: Nick Heath,
Secretary, Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board

Date: 1991 09 25

Subject: SUAB 220: Further Rationale

This supplements the rationale provided by Dr. R. Rogow in SUAB 220 and has been provided at the suggestion of SCAR.

The procedures for admitting international students to limited enrollment programs were approved by Senate in 1984 (S.84.33). Renewal must be sought and obtained every three years, otherwise the policy will lapse. Senate approved renewal at SUAB's request in 1987 and 1990.

The attached proposal would have the following effect:

Activity	Existing	Proposed
Application for admission	Student must specify if intended major is BUS. Student must state whether an alternate program is acceptable if entry to BUS is not granted.	Student not req'd to specify (same as domestic students).
Admission decision	Students are carefully selected in Admissions if BUS chosen. Small size of quota make academic criteria very high. (Typically 4.0 for BC12 and 3.50 for transfers.)	Students will be selected as for all other programs, with no regard for citizenship/visa status. (Admission gpa typically 2.75 for BC12 and 2.50 for transfers.)
Offer of Admission	Letter specifies if admitted to limited program, must complete lower division requirements and maintain current domestic student entry gpa to guarantee approval of major (typically 2.8). If not admitted to BUS, may not transfer to that program later (regardless of gpa). Academic record changed to show alternate major.	Letter will specify admission to general program, without guarantee of entry to BUS major. Student advised of int'l quota and recent gpa required by int'l students to receive approval of major.
Notification to Dept.	List of selected students sent to Faculty	Notification unnecessary.
Approval of Major	BUS approves majors for domestic students according to demand (gpa may fluctuate - typically 2.8).	Unchanged

BUS approves majors for int'l students previously selected by Admissions (gpa fixed at time of admission - typically 2.8).

Competition among int'l students for approval of entry to major. Process exactly parallels domestic student competition for entry (gpa may fluctuate - 3.3 likely).

BUS approves majors for int'l students not previously selected by Admissions only if space remains (gpa - typically 3.5+).

Not necessary

The main reason for the change in procedure is to create a fairer competition for the limited spaces available, which amount to only some 45 per year. Although admission gpa is a reasonable measure for predicting academic performance, it is especially imperfect when used to make fine distinctions between students of widely varying backgrounds. For example, we frequently have to select one candidate from a group such as

- degree holder from a prestigious U.S. or Canadian university,
- transfer student from a U.S. college with questionable academic standards,
- secondary school graduate with no post-secondary experience from Norway,
- B.C. secondary school graduate with no post-secondary experience.

These will all be in the same competition, making direct comparisons highly problematical. Adjudication of such diverse cases, looking for near-scholarship levels of achievement, give rise to unfair decisions.

One year later, when the students have completed their lower division courses required for approval of the major in BUS, the students selected by Admissions, who had received a guarantee of program approval if a 2.80 gpa were achieved on the lower division required courses, might have a significantly lower gpa, based on comparable course work, than other students who were not pre-selected by Admissions for the BUS major.

The respective administrators in the Faculty of Business Administration and in the Office of the Registrar perceive that the current procedure is unfair. We believe that most international students share this view.

nh Sep 91

