

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.89-27
*As amended by
Senate 10/7/89*

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: R. Saunders, Chair
SCAP
Subject: Enrolment Limitations -
Department of Economics
Date: June 22, 1989

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning at its meeting of June 21, 1989 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.89 - 27 , the proposed enrolment management plan for admission to the Major, Honors and Minor Programs in the Department of Economics and that for 1989/90, a target of 200 new admissions to Major and Honors Programs in Economics be established and that to achieve this target a minimum CGPA of 2.4 be required for admission to Major, Honors and Minors Programs in 1989/90."

ADMISSION TO MAJOR/HONORS/MINOR*

1. The Department of Economics limits admission to its major/honors/minor programs. Entry into the major/honors/minor programs in the Department of Economics will be on the basis of a formal application made to the department. To be considered students must have completed the following specific required courses with at least a C- grade:
 - a) Math 110, or Math 100 if BC High School Algebra 12 or equivalent has not been completed with at least a C+
 - b) Any 100 division ECON course
 - c) MATH 157 or equivalent
 - d) ECON 200 and 205
 - e) BUEC 232 (MATH 101 is strongly recommended prior to taking BUEC 232).
 - f) One: 000 level or 100 level ENGL or PHIL (not ENGL 099 or ENGL 010)
And one: 100 level HIST or POL
And one: 100 level S.A. or PSYC
And one: 000 level or 100 level BISC, CHEM or PHYS

2. On the recommendation of the Department of Economics and the Office of the Dean of Arts, the University will establish a yearly quota - the number of students to be admitted into major/honors/minor programs. This quota will be established on the basis of projected available course space and department resources. In advance of each competition, the department will announce the minimum cumulative grade point average below which students will not be normally considered for admission.

* This includes joint honours and joint majors.

Students may apply for admission to the major/minor/honors program after completing 45 semester hours. Students will be selected on the basis of their cumulative grade point average (CGPA) and performance in specifically required courses.

All applications for program entry (including joint majors) should be filed with the Departmental Assistant. Students are required to provide the appropriate documentation.

Application dates:

(Note: Application dates for each semester consistent with the schedule for advance course selection, will be established for all limited enrolment programs.)

There will be the right to appeal non-approval of application with the department's Undergraduate Program Chairman. Students not accepted upon initial application may re-apply.

3. REGISTRATION FOR NON-MAIORS

Students are permitted to undertake lower division economics courses without program entry. Students other than those accepted into the major, honors or minor programs in Economics may take ^{upper division} Economics courses as long as they meet the CGPA entrance requirements.

Entry into Upper Division BUEC courses will be limited to Business and Economics honors, majors and minor students, and to other students meeting the continuance standards for Business majors.

4. COURSE DROP POLICY

Students who receive WD withdrawals from courses where the demand exceeds course enrolment limitations may lose priority in that course for the next semester.

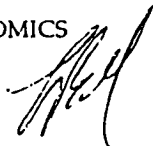
5. TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring to Simon Fraser University will be considered on the basis of their entrance cumulative grade point average (calculated on the basis of grades received in courses transferable to the University). Transfer students must be admitted to the University before they may apply for admission to the Department's major/honors/minor programs. Students who meet these requirements will be admitted to the program under a "provisional" status and will retain the provisional status until 15 credit hours have been completed at SFU. To continue, their CGPA for these 15 credit hours must equal or exceed the CGPA entrance requirement for non-transfer students.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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Robert Brown, Dean
Faculty of Arts

13 December 1988

re: minimum GPA for Economics Majors

Prior to proposing the imposition of a GPA minimum for majors we made some rough calculations which should give an idea of why we saw no alternative. Consider two questions: (1) what capacity does our department have on the basis of existing size of the faculty complement? And (2) what effect would a reasonable GPA minimum have on the demand for our capacity?

Current Capacity:

Number of upper level classes per year: Today on the books we have 23 CFLs (not counting joint appointments with home departments elsewhere). Since in any year there is at least 3 people on sabbatical, we have in effect only 20 people. Furthermore, if we subtract 1.5 for administrative release, 2 for Grauer and Herzog who do not teach any economics courses, and 1 for the retirement of Copes, then we will have effectively 15.5 people. At best this means that we can provide 62 courses per year. If we now subtract 15 for the number of lower level courses offered each year and a minimum 17 for the required number of courses offered in the graduate program each year, then we are left with the ability to provide only 30 upper level economics courses per year. Of course, this is a *conservative* calculation since in both our graduate and undergraduate programs students need and expect more than the bare minimum number in order to be able to have some reasonable minimum range for choice.

Number of upper level classroom seats: If we say that the 30 courses are evenly split between 300 and 400 level courses, and we recognize that we currently limit 300 level courses at 65 and 400 level courses at 40 (in an effort to provide an absolute minimum degree of quality), then we have a capacity of 1575 classroom seats for upper level classes.

Number of majors we can accommodate: Since each major would have to take at least 2 upper level courses per semester (or 4 per year), then these 1575 seats could be occupied by 394 majors. But, currently we have about 60 minors who have to take at least two upper level courses per year so the 394 will be reduced to 364 available slots for economics majors, joint majors and honors. Of course, this is also very *conservative* since it makes no allowance for non-majors such as business finance majors who are required to take econ 445, 310 or 301. In our upper division courses, econ honors/majors/minors/joints are often outnumbered by non-economics students. If we are to continue to allow general access to any student who has the prerequisites, then a more realistic capacity is about 250 majors, joint-majors and honors.

Current Number of Majors:

We examined the registrar's 88-3 data concerning majors. The total number of honors, majors and joint majors is currently 457! This means we have 83% more majors than we have capacity for. This figure, too, is conservative since I need to include the 87 intended majors which gives us a total of 544 -- or *over twice our capacity!* This is reflected in the 600-700 requests on our waiting lists *every* semester.

Effect of the Proposed Minimum GPA:

Before proposing the minimum, Clyde made some rough calculations to illustrate the effect of limiting by GPA. If we were to impose a minimum 2.33 GPA, then the total number of majors and intended majors would fall by 194 or by about 35%. This would leave us with 350 majors/honors/joint majors which is still 40% over capacity.

You might ask how we have been able to service such an excess. Obviously we have been relying heavily on sessionals and visitors. If we are to continue to be concerned about the quality of education provided our majors, then the reliance on sessionals and visitors must eventually stop. Even the reduction to 350 will have to be phased-in over several years by gradually raising the minimum continuance GPA as well as continuing to rely the use of visitors and sessionals. But again, in terms of regaining the quality of education here at SFU that we promise students, at some point this excess of majors must stop. Even to be able to give a quality education to the 350 majors remaining after the GPA minimum is fully implemented, it will not be possible without either our receiving permission to hire more full-time faculty, or someone devising an additional way to limit the number of majors.

CC: P. Kennedy

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Larry Boland, Chair
Economics

FROM: Walter J. Wattamaniuk,
Director, Analytical Studies

RE: Intake Targets for Economics

DATE: May 10, 1989

I'm responding to a request from Sherrill Ellis to model the flow of majors through your undergraduate program given specific minimum GPA entry criteria.

Historically, your department has been approving about 100 to 120 new majors in each of Fall and Spring as well as 50 to 80 in Summer. Your yearly intake of new majors has therefore been stable at about 250-300 new majors with a total of 450-500 majors registered for courses in Fall and again in Spring.

In 1988/89, the pattern changed . . . 87 students declared in 88-2, 84 in 88-3, and 200 in 89-1 for a total intake of 371 new majors. This spring saw a total of 560 Economics majors registered for courses!

When I looked at the entry GPA distribution of all 371 new majors in 1988/89, I discovered that

- 80% had an entry GPA of 2.1 or more
- 74% had an entry GPA of 2.2 or more
- 66% had an entry GPA of 2.3 or more
- 57% had an entry GPA of 2.4 or more
- 45% had an entry GPA of 2.5 or more
- 38% had an entry GPA of 2.6 or more
- 30% had an entry GPA of 2.7 or more

Using this data, I put together the attached table which should allow you to set your GPA cutoff depending on the number of majors you want to see registered in your department. The table assumes several different intake targets of new majors, provides the GPA cutoff that is estimated to achieve the targets and then provides an estimate of the steady state headcount population of Economics majors registered in courses in each semester. Keep in mind that it will take you several years to reach steady state as the population of majors currently registered fulfills their degree requirements.

... 2/

I hope this helps you expedite the decision-making process! Call me at 3600 if you have any questions.

I'm attaching the set of data I used to arrive at the numbers in the table. Projections of student headcount are carried out using a standard cohort survival model which I will be glad to show you if you are interested.

WJW/acs

Enclosures

Copy: Sherrill Ellis

DECISION MODEL: DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

	<u>INTAKE OF NEW MAJORS</u>		SUMM	FALL	SPRING	TOTAL	<u>MINIMUM GPA ENTRY REQUIRED</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF MAJORS REGISTERED BY SEMESTER</u>		
	SUMM	FALL						SPRING	SUMM	FALL
1988/89 ACTUAL	87	84	200	371				347	457	560
STEADY STATE	150	150	75	375		none	380	650	660	
	120	120	60	300		2.1	300	515	525	
	100	100	50	250		2.3	250	430	440	
	80	80	40	200		2.4	200	340	350	
	60	60	30	150		2.6	150	255	260	