

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.83-58

MEMORANDUM

To..... Senate
.....
Subject..... Institute for the Humanities...

From..... Senate Committee on.....
..... Academic Planning.....
Date..... June 27, 1983.....

Action taken at the June 8, 1983 meeting of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

"That Senate approve, and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Institute for the Humanities."

The proposed activities of the Institute are described in the attached papers. Among other responsibilities, the Institute would administer the existing Humanities Minor Program. The attached papers also explain the decision to bring this proposal through Senate rather than have it proceed to the Board of Governors under Policy AC 35 (Research and Study Groups).

Discussion at the SCAP meeting identified the need to provide a focus for integrated study of the humanities, to encourage interaction among faculty and students with interests in the humanities and to give additional co-ordination to teaching endeavours in the humanities, including the Humanities Minor Program. While some Committee members questioned whether a real need existed for the Institute, most felt that the importance of humanities thought to the University warranted this effort to make the humanities more prominent and to encourage humanities scholars to work together.

Note: The title approved by SCAP was "Humanities Institute". The change to "Institute for the Humanities" is stylistic, not substantive.

att.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Senate Committee on
Academic Planning

From J.M. Munro
Vice-President, Academic

Subject Humanities Institute

Date May 31, 1983

Attached is a copy of a proposal for the establishment of a Humanities Institute at Simon Fraser University. The proposal is recommended by the Dean of Arts and has been widely discussed within the Faculty of Arts and at the Dean's Advisory Committee. The objectives of the proposed Institute are set out in sections 4. and 5. of the attached document.

The Institute's activities would be across departments and its suggested mandate is broader than that intended for Institutes established under Policy AC 35 (Research and Study Groups). Also, it is intended that it be responsible for the existing Humanities Minor Program. For these reasons, it is my view that the proposal should receive SCAP and Senate approval as well as Board of Governors approval.



J.M. Munro

:jeh

cc. J. Zaslove

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Dr. J.M. Munro
..... Vice-President, Academic
.....
Subject..... HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

From..... R.C. Brown
..... Dean of Arts
.....
Date..... January 10, 1983

I recommend that the University establish a Humanities Institute within the Faculty of Arts. The Institute would have the responsibility for the Humanities Program and for the following activities:

1. To provide for SFU a specific role in advancing the study of the Humanities,
2. To serve as the link between the Humanities Minor Program and other University concerns,
3. To coordinate and support research activities of faculty members and graduate students,
4. To advise on Departmental development of further academic course work in Humanities,
5. To link teaching and research to an organizational unit that places Humanistic knowledge and concern at the disposal of the community, and,
6. To plan colloquia, symposia and conferences in the Humanities.

This is a broader responsibility than is intended for units established under Policy AC 35 (Research and Study Groups) and, for this reason, I suggest that this proposal not be brought forward under that policy.

The justification for the establishment of the Institute and its objectives and organization are articulated in the attached proposal from the Humanities Committee. I strongly support the proposal and recommend its approval.


R.C. Brown

RCB/bjr

attach.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... R. C. BROWN,..... DEAN OF ARTS..... Subject.....	From..... J. ZASLOVE, CHAIRMAN,..... DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH..... Date..... 17 January, 1983.....
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1. HUMANITIES

The Humanities disciplines are traditionally defined as the subjects of History, Philosophy, Literature, Languages and the Fine Arts, in short the study of culture, values, expression and the unique knowledge which can be gained from such study. Sometimes referred to as the humanistic sciences, or the liberal arts, the Humanities look beyond the boundaries of disciplines to the forms of knowledge and subject matter that can be related to each other and can create new insights into human problems and the limitations of the human. Thus the Humanities not only describe particular disciplines, each with an own history and methods: the Humanities are a discipline with a history of learning and theory. Most significantly, the Humanities are understood to be the cornerstone of university education, because the underlying principle of humanistic knowledge is the generation of critical citizens who create values as well as understand them, who tolerate, and can perform within the conflicts of modern culture.

2. HUMANITIES INSTITUTES

Humanities Institutes (or centres) foster the goals of the Humanities and disseminate the results of humanistic enquiry. In times of social change the centering of humanistic concepts in institutes enables teachers, scholars and artists to meet free of institutional constraints to plan programs and develop initiatives that are responsive to the needs of the whole academic and non-academic community. By 1979 The Rockefeller Foundation identified over 100 Humanities Institutes. The model of an institute is flexible and enables cooperation to exist among departments, professional and lay groups, business and science interests. The high academic profile provided by an Institute creates an environment for grants, for establishing links to other universities and institutes, for sponsoring programs, and for stimulating the interest in the community for the humanities, and, not least, for finding ways to encourage employment for graduates in the Humanities.

3. THE ACADEMIC RATIONALE FOR S.F.U.

Simon Fraser University is an appropriate site for an Institute to fill the pressing need for a focus in Humanities in B.C. This University is more suited to such an Institute than UBC or U.Vic. It has no dominant professional faculties. It has a flexible curriculum; a trimester calendar; an innovative faculty; proximity to the present and future population

center of B.C.; the fastest-growing student body, one noted for its diversity; an existing, well-received downtown facility; a rising percentage of mature students--traditional enrollees in Humanities; a history of inter-disciplinary approaches to research and teaching.

It also has a newly-established Humanities Minor program which shows every sign of high success and rapid growth. The long-standing emphasis on interdisciplinary study here has attracted a faculty and a student body easily capable of utilizing to the utmost a facility such as the proposed Institute. The University has for some time increasingly developed social-science, inter-disciplinary programs with a scattering of many humanities courses into diverse locations. Combined with the over-specialization of many Humanities departments this has led to the fragmentation of a humanities concept itself and confusion about what the Humanities are as a subject area. In developing the Humanities Minor, the Committee identified some 60 courses, with several more added since. These reside in some dozen departments, so that students wishing to concentrate in Humanities face a formidable task in locating existing offerings. The Institute's capacity for advice would serve students well, and its ability to coordinate the multiplicity of courses into programs of study would promote a coherence presently lacking in the separate disciplines of the Humanities Departments.

The Institute would provide a visible and lasting structure to the academic Humanities Minor degree program. By sponsoring projects of faculty associates in the humanities, by infusing a Humanities' perspective into range of university work, and by identifying individuals in departments who have a Humanities orientation the Institute will give the Humanities minor students an intellectual identity. Equally important, the Institute's research projects, programs, conferences and social concerns will demonstrate to faculty and students the concrete manifestations of work in the Humanities. As a force for integration, this will give students a sense of how to integrate their own studies. The Institute will relate the Humanities Minor Program to the program of Humanities in Continuing Studies and Downtown Programs. In the long run the coordination of academic pursuits with administrative structures will use resources more intelligently and will make programs visible and accessible to students and the community.

4. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE

- 1) Without disturbing the autonomy of humanities departments the Institute would articulate the activities of faculty members engaged in various aspects of the Humanities.
- 2) Link the Humanities Minor Program with other University Faculties, Continuing Studies, and departments.
- 3) Provide a mechanism that will enable researchers to apply for funds and to receive funds from various agencies.

- 4) To plan symposiums, conferences, workshops in the Humanities.
- 5) And in general promote activities and initiate programs that do not conveniently fall within academic departments, for example, classics and religious studies.

5. SPECIFIC IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Development of an M.A. program in the Humanities.
- 2) Promote the establishment of research and teaching fellowships in the Humanities.
- 3) Determine effective means for Humanities internships for graduate students.
- 4) Determine ways to situate specialized inquiry into larger intellectual contexts.
- 5) Recommend and advise on new course offerings in the Humanities.
- 6) Locate and develop financial support for undergraduate and graduate students.
- 7) Assist in facilitating the publication of research and the dissemination of research.
- 8) Assist the Director of Humanities, Continuing Studies, in evaluating program recommendations, and in initiating programs. To assist the Director of Humanities, Continuing Studies in locating faculty for such programs, and in determining a consensus about the kinds of programs, visitors, and activities that are urgent, transient, or those which might be renewable or repeatable. Possible public programs already mentioned:
 - Humanistic Perspectives in the Profession.
 - Asian Perspectives, The Impact of Canadian Involvement in Pacific Rim Affairs on Modern Conceptions of the Humanities.
 - In-house seminars for faculty and graduate students in the humanities and social sciences.
 - Programs related to SSHRC's Human Context of Science and Technology.
 - Explorations of ways to link the humanities and the media.

6. ORGANIZATION

Minimally, a Director and Deputy or Associate Director and an Advisory Council drawn from faculty and representatives of the community. Responsible to the Dean of Arts. Compensation and status of the Director and Associate Director to be determined. Secretarial support to be located within already existing organizations. Responsibilities of the Council will be to advise on the Institute's work. A smaller, faculty committee drawn from members of the Council will oversee the Humanities Minor Program which is a credit program. Non-credit activities will be discussed with faculty associated with the Institute.

7. SPACE

One office.

8. FINANCING

As outlined in this proposal, the Institute requires no funding from the University beyond that allocated to the Humanities Minor Program and the Humanities Program in the office of Continuing Studies. Once established, the Institute will seek funds from external granting agencies, research grants and endowments. Various projects already in existence are examples of the kinds of funding that would be "housed" in the Institute. Egyptian Archaeology under the direction of Professor Richard Sullivan received \$60,000 from SSHRC (total budget \$105,000). Dr. Steve Duguid's Prison Education Humanities Project received a substantial grant from the Solicitor General's office and the SSHRC has contributed money to numerous conferences and symposia, including \$13,000 to a National Symposium on the Humanities which would be administered from within the Institute.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... R.C. Brown, Dean,.....
..... Faculty of Arts.....
Subject.....

From..... J. Zaslove, Chairman,.....
..... Department of English.....
Date..... 10 June, 1983.....

The following is a list of names of faculty members who have expressed strong interest and support for the Humanities Institute. This list is composed of faculty from the Humanities Steering Committee and faculty who have attended meetings about the institute.

John Tietz, Philosophy
Mike Steig, English
Bill Cleveland, History
Grazia Merler, DLLL
Anand Paranjpe, Psychology
David MacIntyre, FPA

John Whitworth, Sociology and Anthropology

Gail Martin, Communication
Peter Buitenhuis, English
Robert Anderson, Communication
Alberto Ciria, Political Science
Richard Sullivan, History
Kieran Egan, Education

Many more faculty members have expressed strong support for the concept and have given me much encouragement but have been unable to attend meetings on the subject. I have not included their names. There is no doubt in my mind that we will be able to draw on a large number of faculty members for support in this project.

JZ:ds

JZ SLV

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

JUN 13 1983

FACULTY OF ARTS