

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.78-17

MEMORANDUM

To Harry Evans

From Gerald McGuire

Subject Notice of Motion

Date December 15, 1977

I request that SCAR put the following motion onto the Senate Agenda for January's meeting:

"That SCAR be directed to formulate a schedule deadline or other plan that will spread Senate's workload more evenly throughout the year."

Rationale: Most departments start formal action to make minor and major changes of all kinds in September. This results in a crushing workload for Senate and its committees in November and December. This coincides with the period of the semester in which almost everybody involved in the system has the least time available to deal with this workload. The mass of material inundating us at this time, in conjunction with the pressure of the calendar deadline leads both Senate and its committees to approve many things that are in less than perfect form than might be desirable. More serious, though, is the strain on both Senate's committee system and individuals within it. The evidence seems to indicate, not surprisingly, that neither of them can operate optimally under such duress.

A suggested remedy is to arbitrarily select one-half of the departments (or perhaps faculties) and assign them a calendar deadline sometime in the spring or summer. Theoretically, this would result in two tough, instead of one murderous, period during the year. However, the committee may have other ideas and/or plans on how to achieve this goal, and a resolution of this problem by any acceptable means will be very welcome.

Gerald McGuire
Senator

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