




S.10-4

OFFICE OF THE
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST

MEMO

ATTENTION	Senate
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies 
RE	Aboriginal Bridge Program (SCUS 09-54)
DATE	December 7, 2009

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 3, 2009, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve the Aboriginal Bridge Program.



MEMO

Registrar & Enrollment Services

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ATTENTION : Jo Hinchliffe

FROM : Kate Ross

RE : Aboriginal Bridge Program

DATE November 25, 2009 | **TIME 5:12:37 PM**

Dear Jo,

Please place the attached proposal for the Aboriginal Bridge Program on the next SCUS agenda.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Ross".

1.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Kate Ross	DATE	November 25, 2009
FROM	Sarah Dench	PAGES	
RE:	Proposal for an SFU Aboriginal Bridge Program		

Please find attached a proposal for the establishment of an Aboriginal Bridge program for admission to SFU. This proposed program would provide a formal pathway SFU credit studies for students enrolled in Continuing Studies Aboriginal University Preparation and Aboriginal Pre-health programs. These programs are currently non-credit, despite the fact that students do take some credit courses. The proposal is modeled after the conditional admissions process utilized for the English Bridge Program.

The individuals involved in the development of this proposal were:

Natalie Woods-Wiens, Continuing Studies
Michal Fedeles, Continuing Studies
Ken Wong, Admissions
Jennie Blankinship, Student Recruitment
Jenny Fiorini, Records and Registration
Susan Rhodes, Office of the VP Academic
Sarah Dench, Office of the VP Academic

We would appreciate it if you could forward this proposal to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for consideration.

2.

Proposal for the establishment of an Aboriginal Bridge Program for admission to SFU

Preamble

The SFU First Nations Strategic Plan articulated a new vision for SFU of meaningful community engagement with First Nations people and the establishment of an office for First Nations at SFU. A key element of the related action plan was to continue to recruit and retain aboriginal students at SFU:

Enhanced strategies for attracting First Nations students and developing supported pathways into the University will be developed and implemented to support our recruitment and retention goals.

In the time since the approval at Senate of the First Nations Strategic Plan (February, 2007), the Aboriginal University Preparation Program has been offered as part of the Continuing Studies Community Education programming. A one year Memorandum of Understanding with Kwantlen University College (now Kwantlen Polytechnic University) was signed in 2007, with the work of the program done primarily by SFU at the Surrey campus. The MOU has since expired, but the program has continued consisting of three credit-bearing SFU courses, and one Kwantlen preparatory course (non-credit at the university level). The AUPP program has been offered since Spring 2007, and provides basic elements of a supported pathway as envisioned in the FN Strategic Plan.

Continuing Health Education has recently partnered with Community Education and the Faculty of Health Sciences in developing a two-semester Aboriginal Pre-Health Program, offered for the first time in Fall 2009. This program consists of four credit-bearing SFU courses (HSCI 130, FNST 101, MATH 198, BISC 100) and four preparatory courses (non-credit at the university level). The Aboriginal Pre-Health program was developed with support from Health Canada through the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative. This cohort-based program, offered through SFU Surrey, has attracted qualified students from all around of BC, with the interest significantly exceeding the program's capacity.

As specified in the FN Strategic Plan, partnering with Continuing Studies and First Nations peoples and communities to develop university preparation programs for First Nations students is a useful step in providing greater access to post-secondary opportunities at SFU. Following the successful establishment of the programming in Continuing Studies, it is a logical next step to now recognize the programs formally as "Bridging Programs" so as to provide improved access and encouragement in SFU Admissions policy and procedures. Doing so will ensure that aboriginal students now benefitting from the programs will have every incentive and opportunity to continue their studies with SFU, and will enhance the appeal of these programs to other prospective aboriginal students.

Proposed:

That the Aboriginal University Preparation Program and the Aboriginal Pre-Health Program now established in Continuing Studies be recognized as the SFU Aboriginal Bridge Program(s), and that students entering these programs be granted conditional admission to SFU. Any related and subsequent programs developed in Continuing Studies for aboriginal students based on the AUPP core and delivery model will be similarly recognized as part of the SFU Aboriginal Bridge Program.

Students undertaking these programs will be assigned student numbers and offered conditional admission to SFU. Successful completion of these programs will be given careful consideration as evidence of readiness for university level studies, as part of the admissions process. Admissions will determine the appropriate final basis of admission, for example, mature student entry. Wherever possible, students will be granted admission to an undergraduate program and all credits earned through the bridging programs will be fully recognized on the student record. Those students who have previously completed the AUPP or the credit-bearing courses that form part of this program will be offered the opportunity to be admitted to SFU and/or awarded appropriate credit for courses completed.

Background

Aboriginal University Preparation Program

This is a one-semester program that provides students with a solid foundation of academic and personal success skills in preparation for transition to university. The Aboriginal University Prep program includes foundation courses in university-level reading and writing, mathematics, and indigenous knowledge in the modern world. The courses in the program are:

Credit:
Foundations of Academic Literacy (FAL X99, SFU)
Foundations of Analytic and Quantitative Reasoning (FAN X99, SFU)
Culture, Languages and Origins of Canada's First Peoples (First Nations Studies 101, SFU)
Non-credit:
Introduction to Higher Education for the Aboriginal Student (LCOM 1102, Kwantlen)

The program also covers study skills, managing stress, motivation, wellness, careers in a global environment, and the use of computers in university study. Participants also become familiarized with the university and its support services.

The program is for all Aboriginal persons (First Nation, Métis, Inuit) who want to pursue a post-secondary education. The first intake of this program was Spring 2007, and the program has run five times. The next intake is January, 2010. So far, 35 students have completed this program. Some students who have completed this

program have gone on to register at Kwantlen, which offers credit for the LCOM 1102 course taken in the AUPP.

Aboriginal Pre-Health Program

The Aboriginal Pre-Health Program is a two-semester program that provides an opportunity to explore various health career options while building the necessary academic pre-requisites for a health science program such as nursing, midwifery, or dental hygienist. The first intake for this program was Fall 2009, with a class of 24 students admitted (39 applicants).

The courses in this program are:

Credit:
Health Sciences 130 (SFU)
First Nations Studies 101 (SFU)
Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning (MATH 198, SFU)
Foundations of Literacy (equivalent to FAL X99, SFU)
Non-credit:
Selected Topics in Indigenous People's Health
2 foundational courses equivalent to (or higher than) Chemistry 11 and Biology 12
Health Seminar

As the structure of the above programs develops further, an option would be to provide the current AUPP as the first semester "core". Health Sciences and other health-related courses would continue to form the Pre-health option, and additional disciplinary options would be developed. Development of pathways to other Faculties will also be possible, based on this model. The Aboriginal Bridge Program would continue to operate at the Surrey campus.

Nearing completion of the Program, students would be assisted to apply to SFU utilizing a diverse qualifications-like process, such as the admissions process in place for the Integrated Studies Program. Students who successfully complete the courses listed and meet the university's stated minimum admissions standard would be admitted to SFU.

Other post-secondary institutions in BC offer various admissions processes or programs designed to facilitate the recruitment of aboriginal students. Examples include the following:

UBC: Aboriginal Admission Policy

Diverse qualifications-like assessment for applicants who meet UBC's published minimum standard

UBC Okanagan: Aboriginal Access Studies

Aboriginal students access a specific set of courses without going through the standard admission process or registering in a degree program. Completion of up to 24 credits of university-level courses is available, which may then be later applied to other programs of study.

UVIC: Special Access Category admissions

Diverse qualifications option for aboriginal applicants without high school completion

UNBC: Northern Advancement Program

Transition and support program, applicants meet standard admission requirements and then can access two academic preparation courses incorporating culturally relevant learning approaches.

Vancouver Island University: Aboriginal University Bridging Program Certificate

Adult education bridging program including personal development and academic preparation courses, and various learner supports. Subsequent semesters include discipline specific courses and programs.

North Island College: Aboriginal Education

Transition program similar to AUPP described above.

Camosun College: Certificate in First Nations College Prep

Eight-month preparatory program including credit and non-credit courses.